

POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 2ND MARCH 2010

SUBJECT: BUDGET MONITORING 2009/10 – PERFORMANCE AND POLICY

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide information to Members relating to the budget for 2009/10 for Performance and Policy Services Division.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report projects the anticipated final outturn for these Services based upon expenditure and income trends for the first nine months of the year. The report will highlight any variances from the original estimates and tables showing the variances for each of the services are included as appendices.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The contents in this report are in accordance with the Budget Strategy agreed by Council at its meeting on 5th March 2009.
- 3.2 The service areas within Performance & Policy Services Division assist clients in meeting the Corporate themes of Education for Life, Regeneration, Health and Social Care and The Environment, and all areas seek to meet the Council's aim to:
- 'carry out all services effectively and ensure value for money in service provision'.*
- 3.3 Budget management itself is in accordance with the Corporate theme of 'Delivering the Strategies'.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The original budget for Performance & Policy anticipated the use of some £208k from reserves in order to deal with budget constraints facing the service area. The current projection indicates a reduction in that requirement to some £113k after taking account of the transfer to the Election Reserve referred to in 4.5 below. Procedures are being implemented to provide a balanced budget in 2010/11.
- 4.2 The underspend of £24k on Committee Services relates mainly to salary savings due to the retirement of the Committee Services Manager.
- 4.3 The anticipated overspend on Members Services relates to the payment of pension costs arising from early retirements.

- 4.4 The savings of £13k relate to the fact that Members who have more than one Special Responsibility only receive an allowance for one of the positions. The saving in respect of the 0% increase in Members allowances of £30,000 has been ringfenced and is not included in the forecast underspend.
- 4.5 Electoral services are currently projected to underspend £78k. This relates partly to the provision included in the base budget of some £53k to equalise the cost of elections together with salary savings (£5k), underspends on Supplies & Services (£10k) and additional income (£7k). Any balance remaining at the year-end relating to the provision of £53k will be transferred to the earmarked reserve that specifically exists for this purpose.
- 4.6 The underspend of £22k in Performance Management relates to salary savings due to the secondment of staff.
- 4.7 The underspend of £42k on the Policy Unit relates to salary savings arising from early retirement.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report deals with financial issues.

6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no personnel implications.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Members are requested to note the contents of the report.

8. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 To acquaint Members with the financial position of the Performance & Policy Division.

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Consultees: S. Rosser - Chief Executive
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Cllr. C. Mann – Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources & Sustainability
Cllr. J. Taylor – Chairman, Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee
Cllr. M. E. Sargent – Vice-Chairman, Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee
Service Managers

Background Papers:
Budget Monitoring Reports 2009/10
Estimates Working Papers 2009/10

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Performance & Policy Report P7