

## **MONITORING REPORT FROM DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

**DATE:** 26 Nov 2009

### **1. PURPOSE**

To update members on activity within the Children's Services Directorate during the period to 31 October 2009.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

The Children's Services Directorate budget is projected to overspend by £1.443m: details attached. This represents a predicted increase of £134k on the £1.309m reported last month.

### **3. SPECIFIC AREAS FOR ATTENTION**

#### **LA funded Children's Services**

3.1 The reported increase of £134k is largely due to the additional cost of two brothers in residential care who have turned 16, will continue at FE college and are now fully funded by Safeguarding Services at a cost of £4000 per week. Prior to September 2009 they were joint funded. Direct payments to service users have increased by a relatively small amount (£7k).

3.2 Further work is in hand on refining the costs of employing agency social workers (reported at the end of the past two months as £330k over). An alternative employment package for direct employees will be presented to Employment Panel. This will form the basis of negotiation with individual agency staff with the intention of moving them to direct employee contracts.

3.3 Discussions have begun about shared services between various combinations of the Berkshire unitary authorities in order to reduce overheads, improve sustainability and the value-added of specialist services.

#### **DSG funded Children's Services**

3.4 The DSG funded expected outturn has increased by a further £236k from £615k to £878k over budget due to an increase of £178k in additional support for named pupils at Holyport Manor School. A new formula for funding Holyport Manor, anticipating the move to the new building, is the subject of consultation at present. £85k of the increase is attributed to one particular young person whose high-cost placement is now joint funded as we are unable to provide education locally, rather than being funded entirely by Safeguarding, as was previously the case.

Work to reduce the demand for out of Borough placements is progressing. A discussion paper was presented to the secondary headteachers on November 12<sup>th</sup> making the case for enhanced local provision.

#### **Capital programme**

3.5 A variation of £137k from the 14-19 Strategic Partnership grant to be allocated to Windsor Boys' to enable essential Health and Safety work to be done, including electrical supply and fire safety work which is currently preventing us from carrying out other schemes such as the kitchen refurbishment and new Food Technology room. This will be funded from unallocated 14-19 grant.

## **MONITORING REPORT FROM DIRECTORS OF ADULT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**DATE:** 26th November 2009

### **PURPOSE**

To update members on activity within the Adult and Community Services Directorates during the period to 31st October 2009.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Adult and Community Services Directorate budget is projected to be underspent by £110k. This is £24k less than reported last month, following the transfer of £250k allocation for demographic growth to the economic contingency reserve.

There are a number of minor adjustments this month covering many of the Adult Social Care and Housing budgets, no changes are reported in the Leisure Services or LIHA budgets.

### **SPECIFIC AREAS FOR ATTENTION**

#### **Revenue Budget**

The main change this month is the additional income forecast from residential & homecare charges to the elderly, totalling £107k. This arises due to a small increase in the number of higher value residential placements and an increase in projected income from a higher volume of homecare service users. Income has also risen due to a change in the DWP tariff income rules. The estimates of annual income from these sources have increased following the mid year review of this income.

There are no other significant issues to report this month.

## **MONITORING REPORT FROM DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

**DATE:** 26<sup>th</sup> November 2009

### **PURPOSE**

To update members on activity within the Environmental Services Directorate during the period to October 2009.

### **BACKGROUND**

The main changes in the key issues identified in this month's Budget Monitoring Report are the cost of emergency tree works, and additional highway licensing income. Other issues already reported include:

- Effect of property costs previously reported.
- Increase in Licensing Income

### **SPECIFIC AREAS FOR ATTENTION**

#### **Revenue**

1. The budget pressure of £30k shown on the statement represents the residual costs following the successful transfer of the lease of an empty property, as reported to the last meeting.
2. Licensing Income is remaining steady and above the target despite the economic climate with a current estimated surplus of £50k.
3. There is a budget pressure of £25k for emergency works on Highway Trees. This can be offset by a potential £25k additional income from Highway Licences.
4. Overall the Directorate remains at a projected £20k under target and is continuing to monitor all areas of spend.

### **KEY ACHIEVEMENTS**

Windsor & Eton Relief Road and Windsor Parking & Transport Strategy grant funding of £10m from DfT received.

Gloucester Place – Historic Street in Windsor completely refurbished.

Road Resurfacing Programme completed – over 80 sites have been treated.

Haddon Road Drainage – extensive drainage completed to reduce the risk of domestic flooding.

Following the successful launch of the Recycle Bank scheme 74% of residents have now activated accounts for rewards from green waste and 55% of residents have signed up for rewards from the co-mingled scheme.



## **MONITORING REPORT FOR RESOURCES DIRECTORATE**

**DATE:** 26<sup>th</sup> November 2009

### **PURPOSE**

To update members on activity within the Resource's Directorate during the period to October 2009.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Resources Directorate reports an overspend against approved estimate of £89k, an reduction of £25k on that previously reported.

The approved estimate has increased since September from £11,862k to £12,420k.

The majority of this movement (£504k) is as a result of the transfer of Facilities Management and Public Halls from the Policy, Performance and Planning Directorate.

The Customer Service Centre received a transfer of £25k from the economic contingency fund to enable them to meet increased demand from customers as a result of the current economic climate.

A supplementary budget of £10k was allocated to the Strategic Director of Resources to fund the consultancy costs of assessing project reporting and governance arrangements.

Finally a transfer of £19k was made from the Development Fund to Procurement to cover Lean Concept course costs.

### **SPECIFIC AREAS FOR ATTENTION**

#### **Revenue**

- The Customer Service Centre is currently reporting an overspend of severance costs of £9k, which were incurred whilst dealing with staffing performance issues in April and May. It is also facing potential pressures due to a spate of short-term and long-term sickness, which is being actively managed.
- Local Land Charges are currently reporting an overspend of £80k. The continued impact of the downturn in the housing market means that it is anticipated that the budgeted income levels will not be achieved.

## **MONITORING REPORT FOR POLICY, PERFORMANCE & PLANNING**

**DATE:** 26th November 2009

### **PURPOSE**

To update members on activity within Policy, Performance and Planning during the period to *October* 2009.

### **BACKGROUND**

There is a projected overspend of £40k (last month: £60k overspend) in Policy, Performance and Planning.

The approved estimate has decreased since September, from £6,705k to £6,201k.

This movement is the result of the transfer of Facilities Management and Public Halls to the Resources Directorate.

### **SPECIFIC AREAS FOR ATTENTION**

#### **Revenue**

Financial control regarding the Policy and Performance budget remains robust and there are no items of expenditure or underspends to report this month.

Planning services are reporting that careful management has resulted in a reduction in the overspend from £60k to £40k.

The additional savings are from Highways Development Control Income (£10k) and further savings of £10k by managing staff vacancies in Planning Development Control.