

GRA FINANCIAL OUTTURN POSITION 2016/17

Budget area	Net Budget £000	Variance from Budget £000	Variance %
Leisure and Wellbeing	4,417	-116	-2.6%
Housing and Inclusion excl. Transformation	204	-37	See note
Transformation	1,493	-51	-3.4%
Development & Regeneration	1,030	-166	-16.1%
Street Scene	5,067	-89	-1.8%
Legal and Democracy	1,091	-70	-6.4%
Finance and HR	1,698	-64	-3.8%
Employee Savings target	-280	280	See note
Central Budget Items	-1,837	-78	-4.2%
TOTAL	12,883	-391	-3.0%

NOTES

The budget figures for each Service have been updated to include year-end capital accounting adjustments and the allocation of central budget items to services. These are technical accounting adjustments that do not affect the bottom line resource position.

Housing and Inclusion has a relatively small net budget requirement because it contains Property Services which is a support service that recharges most of its costs to other services.

The employee savings target is a corporate budget heading that is held centrally. The actual savings that are made in relation to this item are contained within services. Consequently savings made elsewhere will offset the apparent variance on this budget item.

CARRY FORWARD PROPOSALS OF £81,000 FROM HEADS OF SERVICE

TRANSFORMATION

[1] Community Chest - increase in grants available to applicants £2,500

There were monies left unspent at the end of the year and this proposal would allow this funding to be carried forward into the next financial year (the annual budget is £20,250).

LEISURE AND WELLBEING

[2] Green Fayre - £12,000

In 2016/17 the Green Fayre at Beacon Country Park was cancelled due to adverse ground and weather conditions. After unavoidable costs the underspend on the event budget was £12,000. To carry forward this budget will allow the ranger service to undertake additional publicity and promotion to re-establish the event in the regional event calendar. It will also allow us to provide additional attractions at the show to help bring back the large number of visitors that the show can command (up to 10,000 in the weekend). This funding, combined with other existing Leisure and Wellbeing budgets, will also allow site improvements to be carried out to improve access in particular. Total spending on this project will then be around £20,000.

DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION

[3] Strategic Planning Consultancy Budget £15,600

This request is to carry forward the unspent element of this budget into the new financial year (the annual budget is £30,000). Without this rolled over budget we will not have sufficient funds for key evidence base studies and without that evidence the Local Plan will not be able to progress as planned.

FINANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES

[4] HR Additional Resources £31,900

A 2 year temporary HR Officer post has previously been agreed which is due to end in October 2017. This bid seeks to extend this post for a further 12 months to provide increased capacity to address sickness management issues, to provide enhanced support to managers in dealing with sickness absence cases, and to deal with other workload issues. Excellent performance is currently being achieved on sickness absence targets and this is due to a range of factors including concentrated management action on this issue as well as the support provided by this additional resource. If this post is not extended it could lead to an adverse impact on future performance.

LEGAL AND DEMOCRACY

[5] Additional costs of Maternity Cover £13,000

An Assistant Solicitor is currently on maternity leave whose role includes providing essential legal advice and representation in respect of planning (e.g. enforcement, appeals and application advice) and housing matters (including drug and ASB possession/injunctions), prosecution and civil court/inquiry work, data protection, information governance and freedom of information. Despite undertaking 2 recruitment exercises it was not possible to make a suitable appointment. Consideration has been given to other measures, e.g. reprioritisation of matters, use of overtime/additional time arrangements but they do not provide sufficient resource to provide a viable option for cover on current workloads. Consequently a temporary agency appointment has been made of an experienced local government solicitor with over 25 years post qualification experience through Matrix (after achieving a substantial discount on the published hourly rate).

To continue with agency cover for the full period of the anticipated maternity leave would require additional funding of £13,000 over and above existing budgets. Given the importance of continuing with the above work, in particular continuing to provide a service in matters such as prosecutions for fly-tipping, noise, dog offences and littering and tackling ASB and drug related matters (all of which are key priorities in the Council Plan) it is proposed that part of the Legal Services' underspends for 16/17 are applied to meet this shortfall in provision.

STREET SCENE

[6] Digitalisation of Street Cleansing & Ground Maintenance records - £6,000

Officer time is required to transfer the current paper records onto GIS to enable work to be quantified and managed more efficiently within available resource. It is estimated that this will take up to six months (2 days per week) and cost approximately £4,500. It will also be necessary to purchase map layers for the GIS software system to enable this work to be completed at an estimated cost of £1,500.