

BUDGET PANEL

Tuesday, 29th November, 2016

7.00 pm

Town Hall, Watford

Publication date: 21 November 2016

Contact

If you require further information or you would like a copy of this agenda in another format, e.g. large print, please contact Ishbel Morren in Democracy and Governance on 01923 278375 or by email to <u>legalanddemocratic@watford.gov.uk</u>.

Welcome to this meeting. We hope you find these notes useful.

Access

Access to the Town Hall after 5.15 pm is via the entrance to the Customer Service Centre from the visitors' car park.

Visitors may park in the staff car park after 4.00 p.m. This is a Pay and Display car park. From 1 April 2016 the flat rate charge is £2.00.

The Committee Rooms are on the first floor of the Town Hall and a lift is available. Induction loops are available in the Committee Rooms and the Council Chamber.

Fire / Emergency Instructions

In the event of a fire alarm sounding, vacate the building immediately following the instructions given by the Democratic Services Officer.

- Do not use the lifts
- Do not stop to collect personal belongings
- Go to the assembly point at the Pond and wait for further instructions
- Do not re-enter the building until authorised to do so.

Mobile Phones

Please ensure that mobile phones are switched off or on silent before the start of the meeting.

Filming / Photography / Recording / Reporting

Please note: this meeting might be filmed / photographed / recorded / reported by a party other than Watford Borough Council for subsequent broadcast or publication.

If you do not wish to have your image / voice captured you should let the Chair or Democratic Services Officer know before the start of the meeting.

An audio recording may be taken at this meeting for administrative purposes only.

Committee Membership

Councillor Asif Khan (Chair) Councillor M Hofman (Vice-Chair) Councillors D Barks, N Bell, P Kent, Ahsan Khan, R Laird, R Martins and G Saffery

Agenda

Part A - Open to the Public

- 1. Apologies for Absence/Committee Membership
- 2. Disclosure of Interests (if any)
- 3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 06 September 2016 to be submitted and signed.

Copies of the minutes of this meeting are usually available seven working days following the meeting. *(All minutes are available on the Council's <u>website</u>.)*

4. Finance Digest 2016/17 Quarter 2 (Pages 5 - 36)

The Finance Digest 2016/17 Q2 is attached for councillors to review.

Discussions to include a review of:

- Capital scheme progress
- Council reserves and their utilisation.

5. Dates of Next Meetings

10 January 2017

- Draft fees and charges
- Draft Revenue and Capital Estimates 2017/20
- Finance Digest 2016/17: Period 8

21 February 2017

• Finance Digest 2016/17 Q3

Agenda Item 4



FINANCE DIGEST 2016/17

BUDGET MONITORING



Quarter 2 (30 September)



Watford Borough Council · TOWN HALL · WATFORD, HERTS WD17 3EX

A table of contents is shown below together with the appropriate page number.

| SECTION | CONTENTS | PAGE | |
|---------|---------------------|------|--|
| | Executive Summary | 2 | |
| 1 | Revenue Budget | 5 | |
| 2 | Capital Programme | 9 | |
| 3 | Council Income | 11 | |
| 4 | Treasury Management | 14 | |
| 5 | Key Risks | 14 | |

Executive Summary

This Finance Digest shows the expected financial position (forecast outturn) for the current financial year based on the Council's actual financial performance at the end of Quarter 2 (September) 2016. It also includes trend analysis for comparisons with previous years.

The 2016/17 revenue forecast of expected outturn shows an unfavourable variance of **£0.807 million** when compared to the latest budget. The variance is mainly due to an additional pressure on temporary accommodation of £0.450 million, loss of planning application fee income of £0.150 million, £0.217 million relating to the timing of the dividend payable to the Council for the Health Campus project. The variance of £0.807 million will be met from the Programme Management Board reserve (£0.105 million), LA Business Growth Incentive reserve (£0.054 million), High Street Innovation reserve (£0.032 million), Car Parking Zone reserve (£0.048 million) and the balance from earmarked Economic Impact reserve.

The table below shows a summary of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), highlighting how the variances increase the funding gap to **£2.622 million** by 2018/19. Some of the variances reported are 'one off' in 2016/17 and do not reoccur in future years.

| Medium Term Financial Strategy | 2016/17 | <u>2017/18</u> | <u>2018/19</u> |
|--|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| Latest Budget | 17,225,060 | 14,006,810 | 15,197,210 |
| Variances previously reported | 847,570 | 180,100 | 394,525 |
| Variances this period (Appendix 1A) | (40,812) | (119,710) | (119,710) |
| Forecast Outturn | 18,031,818 | 14,067,200 | 15,472,025 |
| Funding (income from business rates, grants and council tax) | (15,293,070) | (13,171,904) | (12,860,923) |
| Budgeted use of reserves | (761,500) | (50,000) | 11,500 |
| Brought forward budget 2015/16 | (1,190,000) | | |
| Total | 787,248 | 845,296 | 2,622,602 |
| | | | |
| (Use)/Contribution to reserves as per original MTFS | (19,510) | 784,906 | 2,347,787 |
| Additional Funding Gap | 806,758 | 60,390 | 274,815 |
| Revised use/contribution to reserves | 787,248 | 845,296 | 2,622,602 |

The 2016/17 capital budget shows a decrease of **£2.010 million** when compared to the latest budget. The variance is primarily due to the rephasing of the Watford Business Park project to 2018/19 of £2.400 million, increase of £1.100 million on the Health Campus and a rephasing of £0.750 million to 2017/18 for the Colosseum roof.

In April 2015, the Council set up its internal Property Investment Board (PIB) to review the Council's property portfolio, with the remit of disposing of uneconomical assets and reinvesting in property that creates regeneration and delivers a rate of return greater than 5%. PIB have purchased an investment property costing **£4.286 million** using its ring-fenced receipts from previous disposals.

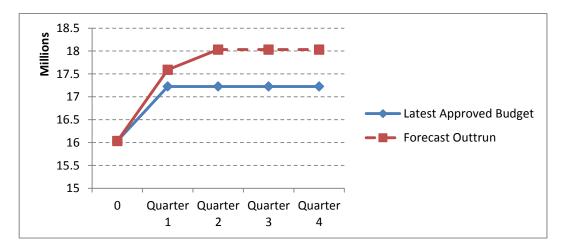
The effect of both the revenue and capital variances upon on each reserve is shown in the table below. A full list of reserve balances is shown at **Appendix 9**.

| Description | Balance at 1 April | Agreed use of Reserves | Previously reported Movement | Reported Movement this time | Total | Balance at 31 March 2017 |
|--------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Capital Financing | (6,235) | 509 | 74 | (75) | 508 | (5,727) |
| Earmarked Reserves | (17,547) | 1,932 | 847 | (40) | 2,739 | (14,808) |
| General Fund | (1,350) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | (1,350) |
| Total | (25,132) | 2,440 | 921 | (115) | 3,247 | (21,886) |

| <u>REVENUE</u> | <u>CAPITAL</u> |
|--|--|
| Services are forecasting an outturn pressure of £0.807 million. Additional cost of temporary accommodation is estimated at £0.450 million Reduction in planning fees of £0.150 million | There is a rephasing of £2.400 million to later years for the Watford Business Park scheme. To date just over a third of the planned budget has been spent. |
| Increase in rental income of £265,000 from the purchase of an investment property and new lettings Collection rates for business rates and council tax are on target | The annual funding gap at the end of the medium term (2018/19) is forecasted to be £2.62 million Total gap over medium-term has increased by £1.1 million Use of reserves to close the gap is not sustainable in the longer term |
| <u>INCOME</u> | <u>FUNDING GAP</u> |

1.0 Revenue Budget

- 1.1 Budget monitoring report is a key tool in scrutinising the Council's financial performance and is designed to provide an overview to all relevant stakeholders. It is essential that the council monitors its budgets throughout the year to ensure that it is meeting its strategic objectives within its resource limits and, where necessary, corrective action is taken. A key principle of budgetary control is to align the budget holders' financial responsibilities and their management responsibilities.
- 1.2 The latest budget is **£17.225 million** .The forecast outturn is now estimated to be **£18.032 million** which results in an unfavourable variance of **£0.807 million**.
- 1.3 The latest budget and forecast outturn for the current financial year (2016/17) at Quarter 2 are plotted on the graph below;



1.4

The table below compares the latest budget to the forecast outturn and shows the variance against each service. The figures in the table relate to direct costs and incomes for each service. The 'Adjustment under Statute' figure in the table represents the accounting treatment of indirect service costs such as internal recharges and capital financing charges that do not impact on service provision.

| Revenue Account 2016/17 | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|--|--|--|
| Service Area | Latest Budget £000 | Forecast Outturn £000 | Variance £000 | | | |
| Corporate Strategy & Client Services | 7,511 | 7,428 | (83) | | | |
| Community & Customer Services | 4,516 | 5,001 | 485 | | | |
| Democracy & Governance | 3,414 | 3,414 | 0 | | | |
| Regeneration & Development | (4,742) | (4,554) | 188 | | | |
| Managing Director | 660 | 660 | 0 | | | |
| Human Resources | 576 | 576 | 0 | | | |
| Strategic Finance | 5,667 | 5,884 | 217 | | | |
| Adjustment Under Statute | (377) | (377) | 0 | | | |
| Net Expenditure | 17,225 | 18,032 | 807 | | | |

The detail of comparing the forecast outturn to the latest budget, together with an explanation for the variance by service is shown at **Appendix 1.** Services with significant variances have provided the narratives below:

Corporate Strategy & Client Services

1.5

1.5.1 There is a saving of £25,000 in Clinical Waste service due to the rationalisation of the service. A £40,000 saving on leased vehicles as the Council has ceased this arrangement having completed a successful procurement exercise. There is also additional income from waste and recycling of £15,000.

Community & Customer Services

1.5.2 A £450,000 pressure remains on temporary accommodation as previously reported. Similarly, expenditure of £25,000 is still required to complete the temporary accommodation project; this will be met from allocating funds from the Programme Management Board (PMB) reserve. There is a reduction in income from the printing service of £35,000; however additional income of £15,000 has been obtained from taking over Three Rivers District Council's pest control service.

Regeneration & Development

- 1.5.3 There is an increase in rental income of £197,000 from the purchase of an investment property. It should be noted that £129,000 of investment income was removed from the original 2016/17 budget due to the disposal of piecemeal properties as part of the Property Investment Board's agreed rationalisation of the Council's property portfolio. The increased revenue stream from the new purchase more than offsets this reduction.
- 1.5.4 A net additional cost of £39,340 has been identified for the Watford Business Park project as a result of the outsourcing of the property management services (£92,000) offset by increased rental income of £52,660.
- 1.5.5 Further expenditure of £80,000 is required to complete the project relating to the review of the Council's property services. This will be met from allocating funds from Programme Management Board (PMB) reserve.
- 1.5.6 There is a positive variance in the building control inspection fee of £60,000; however there is an unfavourable variance in planning fee income of £150,000. There is also a predicted reduction in pre-application advice income of £20,000.
- 1.5.7 Additional contributions of £45,000 and £9,000 are to be made to the Chamber of Commerce and to Skillmakers respectively from the LABGI reserve.
- 1.5.8 There is the use of £32,400 from the High Street Innovation Fund reserve to fund the monitoring of the town centres' footfall.
- 1.5.9 There is a predicted reduction in the land charges search fee of £20,000 due to the slowdown in the housing market.

1.5.10 Additional expenditure of £48,000 was approved by Cabinet on 12 September 2016 for implementation of new parking bays, which will be funded from the CPZ reserve.

Strategic Finance

1.5.11. There is an unfavourable variance of £0.217 million relating to the timing of the dividend payable to the Council for the Health Campus project. This will be paid in 2017/18.

Spend to Date and Profiles

- 1.6 To enable further scrutiny of the Council's financial position, budgets are profiled to allow comparisons to be made between the actual spend/income against expected spend/income to date. This helps to inform if the Council's spending plans are on track. Budget profiling spreads the latest budget across the months of the year where income/expenditure is anticipated.
- 1.7 The table below compares the profiled budget to date to the actual net expenditure to date and the variance between the two for each service for Quarter 2.

| Service Area | Profiled Budget | Actual | Variance |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|---------|----------|
| Service Area | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Corporate Strategy & Client Services | 3,600 | 3,613 | 13 |
| Community & Customer Services | 2,213 | 2,409 | 196 |
| Democracy & Governance | 1,791 | 1,576 | (215) |
| Regeneration & Development | (1,519) | (1,384) | 135 |
| Managing Director | 222 | 220 | (2) |
| Human Resources | 394 | 411 | 17 |
| Strategic Finance | 3,504 | 4,089 | 585 |
| Net Expenditure | 10,205 | 10,934 | 729 |

1.8 As the table above shows, the Council overspent against its profiled budget by **£0.729** million at Quarter 2. The significant reasons for the variance are shown below.

Corporate Strategy & Client Services

1.8.1 Higher spend on grants compared to profile of £100,000; however this is not expected to increase the forecast outturn. Underspend on employees of £30,000 which will be taken into account in revising the Council's staffing budgets in period 7. There is a lower spend on projects of £40,000 at this stage, however it is anticipated that this will be spent by the year end.

Community & Customer Services

1.8.2 Additional cost of £339,000 for temporary accommodation.

Grant monies of £30,000 received from Herts County Council in advance of spending on public health. Additional income of £15,000 from taking over the Three Rivers District Council pest control service. There is also income received in advance for licensing totalling approx. £30,000 which relates to 2017/18.Underspend on salaries of £70,000 due in a large part, to a long term sick vacancy. This underspend is off-set by a spend on agency staff and

together these will be taken into account in revising the Council's staffing budgets in period 7.

Democracy & Governance

1.8.3 Government grant of £102,000 received for EU referendum still awaiting supplier's invoices to spend against this income, the majority of this is expected to be cleared in October.

Underspend of £85,000 on property maintenance. This is expected to be spent later in the year.

Regeneration & Development

1.8.4 Lower planning application fees of £101,000. Increase in building control fees of £42,000.

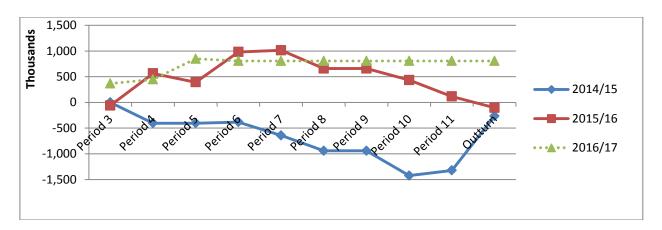
Increase rent of $\pm 65,000$ primarily from new lettings at Watford Business Park and a receipt of back rent.

Payments of grant monies to organisations (Skill makers, Chamber of Commerce) of £54,000 which are being funded from earmarked reserves. There is the use of £32,400 from the High Street Innovation Fund reserve to fund the monitoring of the town centres' footfall and £48,000 for implementing new parking bays, which is funded from the CPZ reserve.

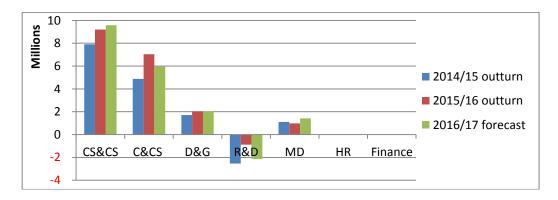
Strategic Finance

1.8.5 Higher ICT costs have been incurred in the first half of the year. A variance of £0.217 million has occurred due to the timing of the dividend payable to the Council for the Health Campus project, which will now be paid in 2017/18. There is also a timing difference between the amount of housing benefit grant received from the government and payments made to claimants.

1.9 The graph below shows a trend analysis of the forecast outturn variance by period including approved carry forwards for the last two years and the current financial year.



1.10 The chart below compares the actual outturn position by service area for 2014/15 and 2015/16 and the current forecast outturn.



2.0 Capital Investment Programme

2.1 The Council has an approved capital investment programme that is designed to support the core services. The original investment programme for 2016/17 (as approved by Council in January 2016) was **£13.280 million**. The latest budget is **£22.900 million** which includes re-phasing of **£9.125 million** from the 2015/16 programme and portfolio approval for an increase of **£0.495 million** to complete the refurbishment of the Gaelic football club facility.

2.2 The forecast outturn is estimated to be £20.890 million which is £2.010 million lower than the latest budget. Variances previously reported total £1.879 million the main contributors to this variance are the rephasing of the Watford Business Park project to 2018/19 of £2.400 million, increase of £1.100 million on the Health Campus and a rephasing of £0.750 million to 2017/18 for the Colosseum roof. This period the 2017/18 forecast has changed by £0.243 million due to the rephasing of CSL Project (£0.75 million). Clarendon Road improvements (£0.018 million). Watford

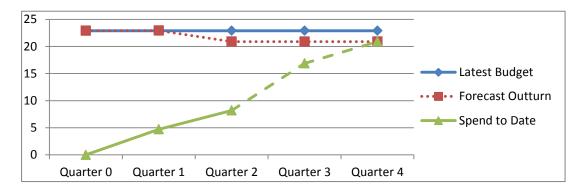
of CSI Project (£0.75million), Clarendon Road improvements (£0.018 million), Watford Museum (£0.100 million) and match funded capital projects (£0.050 million). There are no forecast changes to the 2018/19 latest budget this period.

2.3 The table below summarises the change to the Council's approved capital programme over the medium term.

| Approved Capital Programme | 2016/17 £000 | 2017/18 £000 | 2018/19 £000 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Latest Budget | 22,900 | 6,661 | 5,155 |
| Variances previously reported | (1767) | 13 | 2,940 |
| Variances this period | (243) | 243 | 0 |
| Forecast Outturn | 20,890 | 6,917 | 8,095 |

- 2.4 The Council's medium term capital investment programme for 2016-2019 is shown at summary level in **Appendix 2** and by each scheme at **Appendix 3**, together with an update on each scheme.
- 2.5 As at end of quarter 2 (30 September) services have spent **£8.187 million** against the latest budget of £22.900 million, which represents **35%** of the annual budget. Of the total spend to date, £3.553 million relates to the Health Campus project and £2.015 million relates to the Cassiobury Park restoration project.

The graph below shows the Council's latest budget, forecast outturn and the actual spend to date for the current financial year (2016/17). The expenditure to date has been extrapolated (dashed line) to show it meeting the forecast position.



Funding the Approved Capital Programme

- 2.7 The approved capital programme is mainly supported by three income streams; capital receipts (derived from the sales of assets), grants and contributions, and the use of reserves. Services can also make a contribution to capital from surplus revenue funds if needed.
- 2.8 The largest source of funding is from the capital receipts reserve which has accumulated over the years by the disposal of the Council's surplus assets including the receipt received from the sale of ex-council dwellings to Watford Community Housing Trust under the stock transfer agreement.
- 2.9 The table below shows the forecasted position of the capital receipts reserve over the medium term as it supports the capital spending plans, details of each funding stream shown at **Appendix 4**.

| Capital Receipts Reserve | 2016/17 £000 | 2017/18 £000 | 2018/19 £000 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Balance at 1 April 2016 | (13,444) | (4,411) | (4,140) |
| In Year Receipts | (4,873) | (2,800) | (12,450) |
| Used to Finance Capital Spend | 13,906 | 3,071 | 7,300 |
| Balance at 31 March 2017 | (4,411) | (4,140) | (9,290) |

2.10 It should be noted that the large receipt in 2018/19 is primarily due to the estimated return on the sale of the Council's interest in Watford Business Park.

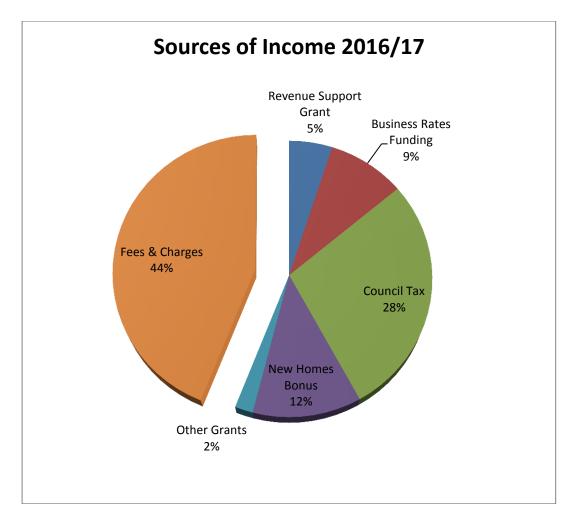
Property Investment Board (PIB)

- 2.11 In June, under its delegated authority the PIB approved the purchase of an investment property for a total of £4.286 million (including tax and costs). This acquisition was funded from receipts already achieved from the rationalisation of the investment portfolio and represents a net increase in rental income of £33,000 over that lost from the disposals.
- 2.12 The table below summarises the ring-fenced funds available to the PIB portfolio for the current year after accounting for disposal costs.

| Property Investment Board | 2016/17 £000 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Balance Carried forward at 1 April | (4,042) |
| Receipts received in year | (1,085) |
| Forecast Spend in year | 4,303 |
| Balance to spend | (824) |

3.0 Council Income

- 3.1 In providing its services to the public, the Council receives income from the Government, its Council tax payers and customers who pay a fee or charge for using a particular Council service.
- 3.2 The total of all these sources of income for 2016/17 is £28.269 million. The biggest source of income is fees and charges which includes commercial property rents, car parking charges and planning fees. It should be noted that although the Council will receive £1.310 million in Revenue Support Grant for 2016/17 although this will reduce to zero by 2019/20.
- 3.3 The chart below shows the percentage of the total amount of income for each source of income.



| Department | Income Stream | Latest Budget 2016/17 | Forecast 2016/17 | Actuals to date | Income Description |
|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---|
| | Rent | £6,774,930 | £7,036,640 | £3,381,475 | Rents form commercial property including Intu as well as rental income from multi storey car parks. |
| Regeneration & Development | Car Parking | £1,008,950 | £1,009,450 | £591,583 | Income largely from Avenue, Town Hall & Longspring car parks as well as the Parking Shop |
| | Development Section | £1,038,850 | £923,350 | £460,130 | Income from planning applications, building control and land charges |
| Community & Customer Service | Environmental Health & Licensing | £338,620 | £442,297 | £287,372 | Income from all Licensing activities including Hackney Carriage (taxis), pest control and fixed penalty notices for environmental crime |

Debtors (invoicing)

- 3.5 The Council charges its customers for various services by raising a debtor invoice. The customer is given 21 days to pay and unless there is a dispute, a reminder is issued. If the debt remains outstanding, then a variety of recovery methods are employed including: rearranging the payment terms; stopping the provision of the service or pursuing the debt through legal recovery processes. A debt will only be subject to write-off if it becomes uneconomical to pursue it further and there is no further legal recourse.
- 3.6 As at the 30 September 2016 the total outstanding value of debt was **£1.384 million** of which £0.596 million (43%) is less than one month old and therefore it is anticipated that this will be recovered. Outstanding debt over a year old is £0.206 million and equates to fifteen per cent of the total. The table below shows a summary of the outstanding debt by the three main aged categories and further detail can be found at **Appendix 5.**

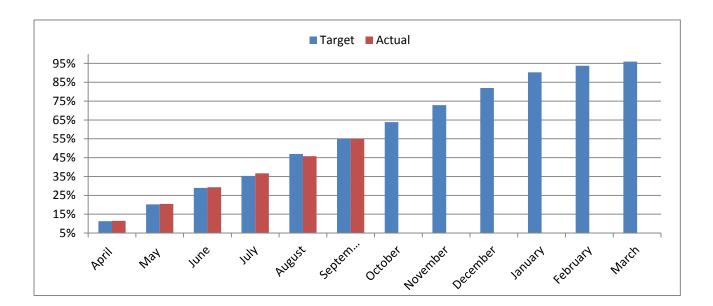
| Aged Debtors Summary at Quarter 2 | Under 1 Month | Over 1 month to Year | Over a Year | Total |
|---|------------------|----------------------------|----------------|-----------|
| Service | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Community & Customer Service | 270,281 | 99,549 | 31,868 | 401,698 |
| Democracy & Governance | 2,117 | 1,000 | 3,176 | 6,293 |
| Regeneration & Development | 286,711 | 173,234 | 170,417 | 630,362 |
| Managing Director | 2,604 | 1,296 | 0 | 3,900 |
| Human Resources | 6,905 | 8,131 | 0 | 15,036 |
| Finance | 27,509 | 298,801 | 127 | 326,437 |
| Recovery Charges / Unallocated Items | 0 | 600 | 480 | 1,080 |
| Total | 596,127 | 582,611 | 206,068 | 1,384,806 |

Council Tax and Business Rates Collection

3.7 The revenue and benefits section play a key part in determining the outcome of the Council's performance by measuring its targets against actual data during the year. The key areas of financial focus are the level of outstanding debt owed to the Council and the collection rates for both council tax and business rates. The Council's collection rates for council tax and business rates is reported monthly to senior management as part of the Key Performance Indictors (KPI's).

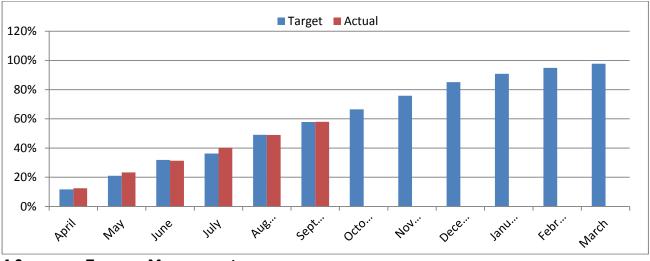
Council Tax Collection

3.8 The Council's performance in the collection of **Council Tax** can be seen in the following chart. It shows the collection % to date along with the target for the year. The actual income collected as at 30 September 2016 is 54.97 % of the annual target which is above the profiled target of 54.93%. Further information can be found at **Appendix 6**.



Business Rates Collection

3.9 The Council's performance for **business rates** collection is shown in the following chart. The actual income collected as at 30 September 2016 is 57.99% of the annual target which is just above the profiled target of 57.90%. Further information can also be found at **Appendix 6.**



4.0 Treasury Management

- 4.1 The Treasury Management Strategy is an important part of the overall financial management of the Council's affairs. The purpose is monitor its cash flows and to earn interest on its surplus cash by investing it over the short term (3-12 months).
- 4.2 Watford Borough Council does potentially have indirect exposure to funding from the EU structural fund through the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), although EU funds only form a part of the LEP funding streams. The LEP has loaned £7.5 million to the Council.
- 4.3 The interest earned on the investments made by the Council supports the funding of the services it provides. The target rate of earning interest rate was previously 0.62%, however since the reduction in the bank base rate in August to 0.25% the target has been revised to 0.37%. Up to Quarter 2 (30 September), the average annualised interest rate earned on investments was 0.76%.
- 4.4 The Council set a budget of **£220,000** on investment interest. The amount earned up to Quarter 2 was **£176,300**. This is high due to the Council having higher cash balances than estimated at this stage of the year; however this is unlikely to continue as large sums will be released to support the Councils major capital projects. Furthermore with the bank base rate falling it will mean that any sums invested now will be at the lower rates; it is therefore considered prudent not to revise the forecast at this stage.

5.0 Key Risk Areas

5.1 Resources are allocated in the revenue and capital budgets to support the achievement of the Council's corporate plan. The Council's budget is exposed to risks that can potentially impact on service level provision. The key financial risks are shown at **Appendix 7** together with a risk matrix that shows the likelihood and impact of each risk if they were to materialise.

- 5.2 Particular service areas of risk are monitored monthly; these are predominantly income generating budgets where demand for a particular service can fluctuate depending on the economic climate, popularity and affordability i.e. planning fees.
- 5.3 The main 3 risks that are considered the most critical are shown in the table below. It compares the latest budget to the forecast outturn and explains the variance. The latest position of all the key risks is shown in **Appendix 8**.

| Risk Area | Latest | Forecast | Variance | |
|---------------|---------|------------------|----------|----------------------------|
| | Budget | Outturn | | Comment |
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | |
| Temporary | 410 | 860 | 450 | Increased demand has |
| Accommodation | | | | resulted in an additional |
| | | | | budget pressure |
| Development | (708) | (542) | 166 | Reduction in planning fees |
| Control Fees | | | | due to uncertainty in the |
| | | | | housing market |
| Commercial | (6,836) | (7 <i>,</i> 090) | (254) | Increase from acquisition |
| Rent | | | | of investment property |
| | | | | and new lettings at WBP |

Report prepared by: Nigel Pollard – Section Head (Accountancy) Pritesh Shah – Finance Manager

Background Papers

2015/16 Outturn report Budget returns from Heads of Service Quarter 1 Finance Digest Period 4 & 5 budget monitoring reports

APPENDICES

- Appendix 1 Revenue Summary By Service and explanations
- Appendix 1A Variances Reported Period 6, September 2016
- Appendix 2 Capital Programme (2016 2019) Summary
- Appendix 3 Capital Programme (2016 2019) Detail
- Appendix 4 Capital Funding
- Appendix 5 Aged Debtor Analysis
- Appendix 6 Collection Rates for Council Tax & Business Rates
- Appendix 7 Key Financial & Budgetary Risks
- Appendix 8 Key Service Budget Risks
- Appendix 9 Reserves

APPENDIX 1

REVENUE SERVICES – FINANCIAL POSITION AT QUARTER 1

| | Budgets & | Forecast at 30 Se | ptember Q2 | Actuals compared to profiled budget at 30 September Q2 | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------|------------|--|-----------|-----------|--|
| Service Area | Latest Forecast Approved Outturn | | Variance | Latest budget profiled | Actual | Variance | |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | |
| Corp Strategy & Client Service | | | | | | | |
| Management & Support | 112,890 | 112,890 | 0 | 56,445 | 50,044 | (6,401) | |
| Contract Monitoring | 318,160 | 318,160 | 0 | 2,027,302 | 2,022,174 | (5,128) | |
| Parks And Open Spaces | 1,181,050 | 1,141,050 | (40,000) | 86,522 | 87,288 | 766 | |
| Leisure | 445,890 | 445,890 | 0 | 300,232 | 296,430 | (3,802) | |
| Grants | 750,870 | 750,870 | 0 | 370,050 | 486,358 | 116,308 | |
| Street Cleansing | 1,866,850 | 1,866,850 | 0 | 158,925 | 148,944 | (9,981) | |
| Waste And Recycling | 2,165,670 | 2,122,180 | (43,490) | 290,533 | 281,468 | (9,065) | |
| Partnerships & Performance | 669,900 | 669,900 | 0 | 309,950 | 240,866 | (69,084) | |
| Totals - Corp Strategy & Client Service | 7,511,280 | 7,427,790 | (83,490) | 3,599,959 | 3,613,573 | 13,614 | |
| Community & Customer Service | | | | | | | |
| Customer Services | 900,120 | 935,120 | 35,000 | 450,060 | 386,507 | (63,553) | |
| Housing | 1,196,030 | 1,670,800 | 474,770 | 666,331 | 1,005,608 | 339,277 | |
| Environmental HIth & Licensing | 1,339,560 | 1,314,883 | (24,677) | 530,513 | 447,149 | (83,364) | |
| Culture & Play | 1,079,980 | 1,079,980 | 0 | 565,623 | 568,086 | 2,463 | |
| Totals - Community & Customer Service | 4,515,690 | 5,000,783 | 485,093 | 2,212,527 | 2,408,849 | 196,322 | |
| Democracy & Governance | | | | | | | |
| Legal And Democratic | 1,880,050 | 1,880,050 | 0 | 944,310 | 818,724 | (125,586) | |
| Buildings And Projects | 1,507,470 | 1,507,470 | 0 | 853,126 | 762,146 | (90,980) | |
| Procurement | 26,990 | 26,990 | 0 | (6,505) | (5,091) | 1,414 | |
| Totals - Democracy & Governance | 3,414,510 | 3,414,510 | 0 | 1,790,931 | 1,575,778 | (215,153) | |

| | Budgets & | Forecast at 30 Se | ptember Q2 | Actuals compared to profiled budget at 30 September Q2 | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|------------|--|-------------|----------|--|
| Service Area | Latest Forecast Approved Outturn | | Variance | Latest budget profiled | Actual | Variance | |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | |
| Regeneration & Development | | | | | | | |
| Property Management | 711,070 | 798,390 | 87,320 | 329,800 | 322,693 | (7,107) | |
| Investment Assets Outsourced | (6,324,225) | (6,479,755) | (155,530) | (2,758,959) | (2,607,478) | 151,481 | |
| Operational Assets - Owner Occupie | (186,600) | (194,310) | (7,710) | (68,717) | (64,302) | 4,415 | |
| Community Assets | (18,300) | (18,300) | 0 | (9,150) | (9,368) | (218) | |
| Development Section | 141,050 | 255,550 | 114,500 | 70,275 | 32,891 | (37,384) | |
| Transport And Infrastructure | 299,815 | 362,990 | 63,175 | 493,823 | 518,237 | 24,414 | |
| Policy Team | 509,990 | 509,990 | 0 | 250,480 | 228,210 | (22,270) | |
| Economic Development | 125,300 | 211,700 | 86,400 | 173,650 | 194,494 | 20,844 | |
| Totals - Regeneration & Development | (4,741,900) | (4,553,745) | 188,155 | (1,518,798) | (1,384,624) | 134,174 | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Managing Director | | | | | | | |
| Corporate Management | 659,800 | 659,800 | 0 | 222,400 | 220,176 | (2,224) | |
| Totals - Managing Director | 659,800 | 659,800 | 0 | 222,400 | 220,176 | (2,224) | |
| Human Resources | | | | | | | |
| Human Resources Client | 149,360 | 149,360 | 0 | 98,680 | 102,559 | 3,879 | |
| HR Shared Service | 426,290 | 426,290 | 0 | 295,645 | 309,332 | 13,687 | |
| Totals - Human Resources | 575,650 | 575,650 | 0 | 394,325 | 411,891 | 17,566 | |
| Strategic Finance | | | | | | | |
| Finance & Resources | 225,390 | 225,390 | 0 | 62,128 | 53,680 | (8,448) | |
| Finance Services Client | 879,750 | 879,750 | 0 | 506,715 | 483,350 | (23,365) | |
| Revenues And Benefits Client | 1,083,820 | 1,083,820 | 0 | 224,910 | 388,404 | 163,494 | |
| ICT Service | 870,190 | 870,190 | 0 | 588,175 | 824,673 | 236,498 | |
| Corporate Costs | 2,608,170 | 2,825,170 | 217,000 | 2,122,120 | 2,338,746 | 216,626 | |
| Totals - Strategic Finance | 5,667,320 | 5,884,320 | 217,000 | 3,504,048 | 4,088,853 | 584,805 | |
| Adjustments Under Statute | (376,950) | (376,950) | 0 | 0 | 0 | C | |
| GRAND TOTALS | 17,225,400 | 18,032,158 | 806,758 | 10,205,392 | 10,934,496 | 729,104 | |

| Explanation of Revenue Variance at Quarter 2 (September) 2016/17 | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|--|------------------|--|--|--|
| Service Area Description | | Details of Outturn Variance to Latest Budget | | | | |
| Corporate Strategy & Client | Parks & Open Spaces | Vehicle leasing no longer required, vehicles have been procured | (40,000) | | | |
| Service | Clinical Waste | Savings made due to rationalisation of service | (25,000) | | | |
| | | Other minor variances | (18,490) | | | |
| | | TOTAL | (83,490) | | | |
| | Environmental Health | New post for 2016/17 as part of new contract for pest services with TRDC from April'16 and increase in agency costs to cover vacant posts in the current structure. See below for income from TRDC | 55,000 | | | |
| | Health & Safety at Work | Legal advice regarding accident at work Additional income from Primary Authority Partnership | 7,000 (4,000) | | | |
| | Pest Control | Additional income from the pest control contract with TRDC (contract cost plus call outs) | (76,800) | | | |
| Community & Customer Service | Housing Standards | Recovery of court costs from successful prosecutions | (4,000) | | | |
| | Taxi Licensing | Legal advice costs | 2,000 | | | |
| | Housing Supply | Additional cost of temporary accommodation | 450,000 | | | |
| | Printing Section | Expected income from print work will not be achieved | 35,000 | | | |
| | Temporary Accommodation | Further expenditure required to complete temporary accommodation project. This is funded from the PMB reserve | 24,770 | | | |
| | | Other minor variances | (3,877) | | | |
| | | TOTAL | 485,093 | | | |

| Service Area | Description | Details of Outturn Variance to Latest Budget | £ | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---|----------|--|
| | | Increased rental income mainly due to two new lettings at 28-30 Greenhill Crescent & 40 | (52,660 | |
| | Watford Business Park | | | |
| | | Additional cost of outsourcing property management services | 92,00 | |
| | Marriott House | Rental income for 9 months following the purchase as approved by PIB | (197,800 | |
| | The Parade (Nos 38/46) | Increase due to rent review | (15,550 | |
| | Timberlake | Introduction of car park charges | (8,500 | |
| | Cardiff Road | Accrued income for Cardiff Road 15/16 has been revised downwards | 50,00 | |
| | 29/31 High St. | 1st Floor & 29 Charter Place rental income | (43,110 | |
| | Green Travel Plan | Reduction from staff parking income as spaces allocated to NHS | 11,00 | |
| | Parking Service | Cabinet approved scheme (12/09/16) to implement new parking bays funded from CPZ reserve | 48,00 | |
| Regeneration and Development | Land Charges | Reduction in the number of searches mainly due to Brexit | | |
| | Building Control | Increase in application fees | (72,000 | |
| | Implementation Team | Cost of Traffic Engineer 2 days a week from Hertsmere | 16,00 | |
| | | Loss of project work income | 10,00 | |
| | Property Services | Further expenditure required to complete the review of property investment services. This is | 30,00 | |
| | | funded from the PMB reserve | 50,00 | |
| | | Further expenditure required to complete the corporate property review project. This is funde | | |
| | | from the PMB reserve | 50,00 | |
| | Economic Development | Contribution to the Chamber of Commerce and Skill Makers - funded from LABGI reserve | 54,00 | |
| | | Use of High Street Innovation reserve to fund the monitoring of the town centre footfall. | 32,40 | |
| | | Reduction in planning application fees | 150,00 | |
| | | Increase in CIL monitoring income | (7,50 | |
| | Development Control | Increase in fees for unilateral undertaking drafting fees | (4,00 | |
| | | Income target on planning application fees unlikely to be achieved | 20,00 | |
| | | Increase in cost of staff pool cars | 8,00 | |
| | | Other minor variances | (2,12 | |
| | I | TOTAL | 188,15 | |
| trategic Finance | Dividend Received | Dividend for Health Campus will now be received in 2017/18 | 217,00 | |
| | | TOTAL | 217,00 | |

| | | | APPENDIX 1A |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--|-------------|
| | Explanation of Reve | nue Variance Reported for Period 6 (September) 2016/17 | |
| Service Area | Description | Details of Changes Reported | £ |
| Corporate Strategy & Client | Parks & Open Spaces | Vehicle leasing no longer required, vehicles have been procured | (40,000) |
| Service | Refuse | Increased income expected from Refuse and Recycling | (18,490) |
| Service | Clinical Waste | Savings made due to rationalisation of service | (25,000) |
| | | TOTAL | (83,490) |
| | Community Safety | Additional income from The Police | (6,677) |
| Community & Customer | Pest Control | Additional income from the pest control services | (13,000) |
| Service | Printing Section | Expected income from print work will not be achieved | 35,000 |
| | | Other minor variances | (2,700) |
| | | TOTAL | 12,623 |
| Democracy & Governance | Legal services | Savings on Legal feessupplies and services | (5,000) |
| | | TOTAL | (5,000) |
| | Rental Income | Changes in rental income due to revised rents | (4,495) |
| | Street Furniture & Maint | Savings on supplies and services | (5,000) |
| | Building Control | Increase in application and regulation fees | (12,000) |
| Regeneration and | land and a station Taxan | Cost of Traffic Engineer 2 days a week from Hertsmere | 16,000 |
| Development | Implementation Team | Loss of project work income | 10,000 |
| | | Contribution to the Chamber of Commerce and Skill Makers - funded from | 10.550 |
| | Economic Development | LABGI reserve | 10,550 |
| | Development Control | Reduction in planning application fees | 20,000 |
| | | TOTAL | 35,055 |
| | | | |
| | | GRAND TOTAL | (40,812) |
| | | | |

CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME – SUMMARY

| Capital Scheme | Latest Approved 2016/17 | Forecast Outturn | Variance | Actual | Draft Budget 2017/18 | Draft Budget 2018/19 |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|-----------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Key Projects | 4,665,160 | 5,816,420 | 1,151,260 | 3,776,921 | 310,000 | 250,000 |
| Environmental Services | 408,950 | 482,650 | 73,700 | 170,336 | 110,000 | 325,000 |
| Community & Leisure Services | 9,712,759 | 9,596,814 | (115,945) | 3,048,722 | 118,000 | 600,000 |
| Housing Services | 816,370 | 816,370 | 0 | 303,041 | 450,000 | 450,000 |
| Parking Services | 19,507 | 19,507 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Asset Management | 5,300,548 | 2,097,303 | (3,203,245) | 252,995 | 4,847,000 | 5,367,805 |
| ІСТ | 404,496 | 404,496 | 0 | 76,351 | 320,000 | 320,000 |
| ICT Shared Services | 924,000 | 924,000 | 0 | 450,643 | 210,000 | 210,000 |
| Section 106 Funded Schemes | 94,389 | 179,389 | 85,000 | 108,008 | 0 | 20,000 |
| Corp Serv / Project Mgt | 552,470 | 552,470 | 0 | 0 | 552,470 | 552,470 |
| TOTAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME | 22,898,649 | 20,889,419 | (2,009,230) | 8,187,016 | 6,917,470 | 8,095,275 |

CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME – DETAIL

| Capital Scheme | Latest Approved 2016/17 | Forecast Outturn | Forecast Variance | Actual | Scheme Update |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------|--|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | |
| Key Projects | | | | | |
| New Market | 122,573 | 122,573 | 0 | 105,552 | |
| CSI Project | 247,500 | 172,500 | (75,000) | 9,000 | Rephasing request due to review of project completion date |
| Health Campus | 449,847 | 561,107 | 111,260 | 103,312 | Forecast increase due to the cost of preparatory and planning works for a future phase of the project |
| Health Campus-Contribution to LABV | 3,600,000 | 4,700,000 | 1,100,000 | 3,450,000 | Additional costs for completion of infrastructure and master planning work. Report to Council in October |
| Green Spaces Strategy | 74,000 | 89,000 | 15,000 | 93,078 | Rephasing from 2017/18 based on project needs E.G. Garston Park |
| Website Enhancement | 3,400 | 3,400 | 0 | 732 | |
| Cultural Quarter Phase 1 | 167,840 | 167,840 | 0 | 15,248 | |
| Environmental Services | | | | | |
| Replacement Domestic Bins | 42,185 | 42,185 | 0 | 0 | |
| Electric Vehicle Charging Units | 27,265 | 27,265 | 0 | 6,083 | |
| Transit Vans x 2 | 48,000 | 48,000 | 0 | 33,706 | |
| Pest Control Van | 13,560 | 13,560 | 0 | 13,578 | |
| Wood Chipper / Shredder | 0 | 15,500 | 15,500 | 15,300 | Replacing two old shredders and funded by vehicle replacement reserve |
| Cricket Pitch Roller | 0 | 11,100 | 11,100 | 10,700 | Replacement required as current one in poor condition. Funded by vehicle replacement reserve |
| Caged Vehicle / Bulky Lorry | 0 | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 | Lease vehicle purchase providing better value than buying new funded by vehicle replacement reserve |
| Pedestrian Aerator | 0 | 7,650 | 7,650 | 0 | Replacement required as current one in poor condition. Funded by vehicle replacement reserve |
| Mounted Aerator | 0 | 24,450 | 24,450 | 24,450 | Replacement required as current one in poor condition. Funded by vehicle replacement reserve |
| Recycling Boxes | 36,940 | 36,940 | 0 | 0 | |
| Additional Green Waste Bins | 36,000 | 36,000 | 0 | 0 | |
| Decent Homes Assistance | 205,000 | 205,000 | 0 | 51,519 | |

| Capital Scheme | Latest Approved 2016/17 £ | Forecast Outturn £ | Forecast Variance £ | Actual £ | Scheme Update |
|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|--|
| Community & Leisure Services | _ | | - | - | |
| Town Hall Subway CCTV | 17,300 | 17,300 | 0 | 7,867 | |
| Clarendon Road Street Improvements-Relocation of CCTV | 18,000 | 0 | (18,000) | 0 | Rephasing request due to Herts County Council scheme being delayed |
| Watford Museum HLF Matchfunding | 125,000 | 25,000 | (100,000) | 0 | Rephasing request due to review of project completion date |
| Meriden Community Centre Redevelopments | 444,000 | 444,000 | 0 | 325,402 | On track to complete by October |
| Play Review | 1,250,000 | 1,250,000 | 0 | 184,386 | |
| Allotments & Parks Upgrades | 416,990 | 416,990 | 0 | 44,413 | |
| Farm Terrace Allotments | 552,874 | 552,874 | 0 | 30,908 | |
| Town Centre CCTV Camera Replacement | 22,711 | 24,766 | 2,055 | 24,766 | Camera failure not in original capital programme |
| Gaelic Football Relocation | 865,886 | 865,886 | 0 | 315,468 | Building due to be completed within this calendar year |
| Improvements Community Centres | 159,160 | 159,160 | 0 | 100,000 | |
| Cassiobury Park HLF Project | 5,640,838 | 5,640,838 | 0 | 2,015,513 | Project ahead of schedule. Launch of bandstand and Cha café on 4th September. Hub progressing well. |
| Cassiobury Dev't (Fullerians) | 200,000 | 200,000 | 0 | 0 | |
| Housing Services | | | | | |
| Retained Housing Stock | 163,800 | 163,800 | 0 | 13,079 | |
| Mand Disabled Facilities Grant | 652,570 | 652,570 | 0 | 289,962 | Demand led depending on application criteria |

| Capital Scheme | Latest Approved 2016/17 | Forecast Outturn | Forecast Variance | Actual | Scheme Update |
|--|-------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------|--|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | |
| Parking Services | | | | | |
| Upgrading/Resurfacing Car Parks | 19,507 | 19,507 | 0 | 0 | |
| Asset Management | | | | | |
| Watford Business Park Redevelopment | 3,964,216 | 1,560,971 | (2,403,245) | 161,673 | Rephasing required into 2018/19 due to slippage with 18-20 Caxton Way because of further engineering activity to limit build costs and ensure project viability. More detailed planning expected for Zone A |
| Private Sector Stock Condition Survey | 150,000 | 150,000 | 0 | 0 | |
| Atrium / GIS | 16,988 | 16,988 | 0 | 16,847 | |
| Pop Up Toilets Refurbishment | 35,000 | 35,000 | 0 | 0 | |
| Non PIB - Strategy & Prog Disposal | 16,796 | 16,796 | 0 | 0 | |
| Match Funding Capital Projects | 67,378 | 17,378 | (50,000) | 4,000 | Rephasing request due to bulk of work expected to be undertaken in 2017/18 |
| Veolia Capital Improvements | 93,170 | 93,170 | 0 | 7,620 | |
| Building Investment Programme | 957,000 | 207,000 | (750,000) | 62,855 | Rephasing into 2017/18 due to duration of major Colosseum project including roof |
| ICT | | | | | |
| ICT-Hardware Replacement Programme | 160,000 | 160,000 | 0 | 847 | |
| ICT - Document Management Process | 4,036 | 4,036 | 0 | 0 | |
| ICT-Env Health | 13,460 | 13,460 | 0 | 7,936 | |
| ICT-Project Management Provision | 227,000 | 227,000 | 0 | 67,568 | |

| Capital Scheme | Latest Approved 2016/17 | Forecast Outturn | Forecast Variance | Actual | Scheme Update |
|--|-------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | |
| ICT Shared Services | | | 0 | | |
| ShS-Business Application Upgrade | 243,000 | 243,000 | 0 | 5,200 | |
| ShS-IT Modernisation | 603,000 | 603,000 | 0 | 443,994 | |
| ShS-Hardware Replace Programme | 78,000 | 78,000 | 0 | 1,449 | |
| Section 106 Funded Schemes | | | | | |
| Himalayan Way Play Area | 7,100 | 67,100 | 60,000 | 72,740 | S106 funding rephased from 2018/19 due to worsening conditions of play area |
| Berry Avenue Play Area | 6,025 | 6,025 | 0 | 8,957 | |
| Ridgehurst Avenue Play Area | 4,266 | 29,266 | 25,000 | 18,767 | S106 funding rephased from 2018/19 due to worsening conditions of play area |
| Colne River Project | 11,450 | 11,450 | 0 | 7,284 | |
| Local Nature Reserves | 6,350 | 6,350 | 0 | 260 | |
| Lower High St Cycle Scheme | 15,393 | 15,393 | 0 | 0 | |
| Abbey Way Cycle Scheme | 28,175 | 28,175 | 0 | 0 | |
| Garston Park Cycle Scheme | 15,630 | 15,630 | 0 | 0 | |
| Corporate Services / Project Management | | | | | |
| Support Services | 552,470 | 552,470 | 0 | 0 | Allocated at year end as part of the internal recharge process |
| | | | | | |
| TOTAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME | 22,898,649 | 20,889,419 | (2,009,230) | 8,187,016 | |

CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME – FUNDING

| FUNDING THE APPROVED CAPITAL PROGR | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| FUNDING TYPE | Forecast Outturn | Draft Budget 2017/18 | Draft Budget 2018/19 |
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Grants & Contributions | 4,949,250 | 239,000 | 239,000 |
| Reserves | 347,600 | 3,607,750 | 536,400 |
| Capital Receipts | 13,905,874 | 3,070,720 | 7,299,875 |
| Section 106 & CIL Contributions | 1,526,559 | 0 | 20,000 |
| Local Enterprise Partnership Loan | 160,136 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL CAPITAL FUNDING APPLIED | 20,889,419 | 6,917,470 | 8,095,275 |
| | | | |

CAPITAL BALANCES AFTER FUNDING THE APPROVED CAPITAL PROGRAMME

| FUNDING TYPE | Forecast Outturn | Draft Budget 2017/18 | Draft Budget 2018/19 | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| | £ | £ | £ | |
| Grants & Contributions | 43,362 | 43,362 | 43,362 | |
| Reserves | 5,728,611 | 2,120,861 | 1,584,461 | |
| Capital Receipts | 4,410,507 | 4,139,787 | 9,289,912 | |
| Section 106 & CIL Contributions | 959,333 | 964,333 | 949,333 | |
| Local Enterprise Partnership Loan | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| TOTAL CAPITAL FUNDING AVAILABLE | 11,141,813 | 7,268,343 | 11,867,068 | |

AGED DEBT ANALYSIS

| Invoices Outstanding from 1st October 2015 to 30th September 2016 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------|--------|--------|---------|---------|----------------|--|--|--|--|
| | | Invoices outstanding by age of debt | | | | | | | | | | |
| Service Area | Description | 0 - 1 | 2 - 3 | 4 - 6 | 7 - 9 | 10 - 12 | Over 12 | Grand Total | | | | |
| | Community Standard | 253,503 | 14,610 | 41,183 | 23,384 | 11,824 | 24,170 | 368,674 | | | | |
| | Community and Customer Service | 1,512 | | | | | | 1,512 | | | | |
| Community & Customer Service | Env Services-Premises Licence | 3,058 | 5,030 | 1,380 | 365 | 1,195 | 4,233 | 15,261 | | | | |
| | Community Services - Pitch Hire | | | | | | | 0 | | | | |
| | Environmental Health | 12,208 | 100 | 200 | | 278 | 3,465 | 16,251 | | | | |
| Democracy and Governance | Democracy and Governance | 2,117 | 1,000 | | | | 3,176 | 6,293 | | | | |
| | Property - Standard | 69,440 | | 285 | | | 1,077 | 70,802 | | | | |
| | Property - Commmercial Rents | 91,865 | 46,794 | 25,403 | 16,680 | 16,680 | 169,334 | 366,756 | | | | |
| | Property - Service Charges | | | 28,620 | 28,620 | 9,378 | | 66,618 | | | | |
| | Property - Garages | 190 | 290 | | | | | 480 | | | | |
| Regeneration & Development | Property - Wayleaves | | | 51 | | | 6 | 57 | | | | |
| | Property - Parking Spaces | 233 | 433 | | | | | 666 | | | | |
| | Planning - Standard | 108,926 | | | | | | 108,926 | | | | |
| | Planning - Inspection Fees | 15,987 | | | | | | 15,987 | | | | |
| | Regeneration & Development | 70 | | | | | | 70 | | | | |
| Managing Director | Corporate Service | 2,604 | 1,268 | | 28 | | | 3,900 | | | | |
| Human Resources | | 6,905 | | | 8,131 | | | 15,036 | | | | |
| Finance | | 27,509 | 298,801 | | | | 127 | 326,437 | | | | |
| Other | Recovery Charges | 0 | 225 | 150 | 175 | 50 | 480 | 1,080 | | | | |
| Grand Total | | 596,127 | 368,551 | 97,272 | 77,383 | 39,405 | 206,068 | 1,384,806 | | | | |
| Percentage of | 43.05% | 26.61% | 7.02% | 5.59% | 2.85% | 14.88% | 100.00% | | | | | |

APPENDIX 6

KEY FINANCIAL & BUDGETARY RISKS

| No. | Type of Risk | Comment | Likelihood | Impact | Overall Score |
|-----|--|--|------------|--------|------------------|
| 1 | Revenue balances insufficient to meet estimate pay award increases | The medium term planning period takes into account the pay increases for the period 2016/17 - 2018/19 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 2 | Revenue balances insufficient to meet estimate of Employers' pension contributions | Pension Contributions have been budgeted at 15.9% for the period 2016/17 - 2018/19 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 3 | Revenue balances insufficient to meet other inflationary increases | 2 | 2 | 4 | |
| 4 | Interest rates resulting in significant variations in estimated interest income | The interest rate has a significant impact on the proceeds from capital receipts that are invested in the money market. The volatility of the global economy following the EU referendum continues to place uncertainty on the investment strategy. | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 5 | Inaccurate estimates of fees and charges income | See Key Income Streams are shown in the latest Finance Digest | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 6 | Revenue balances insufficient to meet loss of partial exemption for VAT | If the council's expenditure on functions for which it receives income that is exempt for VAT purposes exceeds 5% of its total vat able expenditure, then the Council may lose its ability to recover VAT on all of its exempt inputs. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 7 | Major emergency | Major Emergency requires funds beyond Bellwin scheme and causes serious drain on balances | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 8 | The estimated cost reductions and additional income gains are not achieved | Savings identified in 2016/17 will be monitored as part of the monthly budget monitoring process. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 9 | The income received from Commercial rents decreases | The rental income received from the Councils property portfolio is a significant proportion of the total income the Council receives. | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 10 | The Council is faced with potential litigation and other employment related risks | The Council has one outstanding litigation case. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 11 | The amount of government grant is adversely affected | The provisional grant settlement for 2017/18 & 2018/19 have been factored into the MTFS . | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 12 | The amount of New Homes Bonus grant is adversely affected | The grant for 2016/17 has been factored into the MTFS. The Government are carrying out a review on the allocation process in 2016/17. Until the review is concluded, it has been assumed that the Council will receive £2M pa in future years. | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| 13 | Fluctuations in Business Rates Retention | The Council is legally obliged to cover the first 7.5% loss on its pre determined baseline level. The Council is currently in a safety net position | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 14 | Right to Buy Receipts & VAT Shelter Receipts | Under the Housing stock transfer with Watford Community Housing Trust (WCHT) the Council is entitled to use its share of the proceeds to fund the capital programme. The level of activity on both these income streams are outside the Council's control. | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| | | 1= VERY LOW RISK 4 = VERY HIGH RISK | | | |

KEY FINANCIAL RISKS

The Council is exposed to risks in certain key areas. These risks include economic conditions, demographics and dependency on demand. The table below shows those risks that are closely monitored each month and the variances between the latest budget and the forecast outturn at Quarter 2.

| Service Area | Latest Budget | Forecast Outturn | Forecast Variance Quarter 2 | Actuals to Date | Comments |
|--|------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| | £000's | £000's | £000's | £000's | |
| Parks, Street & Waste Services | 5,875 | 5,875 | 0 | 1,860 | The invoice for September totalling £ 470,000 has not yet been paid. |
| Kerbside Recycling Expenditure and Income | (211) | (215) | (4) | 0 | The Herts CC (Alternative Financial Model) income for Kerbside Recycling across the County is not received until the end of the year. |
| Temporary Accommodation (net) | 410 | 860 | 450 | 424 | There is a budget pressure in Temporary accommodation due to increased demand |
| Development Control Fee Income | (708) | (542) | 166 | (747) | Forecasted income from planning application fees has been reduced by £150,000 |
| Building Control Fee Income | (197) | (269) | (72) | (160) | Increase in Building Control application fees. |
| Land Charges Fee Income | (120) | (100) | 20 | (48) | Income is expected to be lower than budgeted. |
| Commercial rent income | (6,836) | (7,098) | (262) | | Due to the outsourcing of the property management contract there is a timing difference in the receipt of rental income. Income of £700,000 relating to September will be received in October . |

COLLECTION RATES FOR COUNCIL TAX AND BUSINESS RATES

| Council Tax Collection - Percentage of current year council tax collected by period | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Annual Apr May Jun July Aug Sept Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Target | 96.0 | 11.3 | 20.2 | 29.0 | 35.3 | 47.0 | 54.9 | 63.8 | 72.8 | 81.9 | 90.2 | 93.7 | 96.0 |
| 2016/17 Actual | | 11.5 | 20.5 | 29.3 | 36.7 | 45.8 | 54.9 | | | | | | |
| On Target | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Business Rates - Percentage of current year business rates collected by period | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | Annual | Apr | May | Jun | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar |
| Target | 97.7 | 11.7 | 21.0 | 31.9 | 36.3 | 49.1 | 57.9 | 66.5 | 75.8 | 85.1 | 90.9 | 94.9 | 97.7 |
| 2016/17 Actual | | 12.5 | 23.3 | 31.3 | 40.2 | 49.0 | 58.0 | | | | | | |
| On Target | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

'On target' has a RAG rating whereby the underachievement of the target is based on the following thresholds.

| RAG | <u>% below target</u> | |
|-------|-----------------------|--|
| Red | More than 5% | |
| Amber | 2% to 5% | |
| Green | Less than 2% | |

RESERVE BALANCES

| Description | Balance at 1 April 2016 | Agreed Use | Movement Previously Reported | Movement this period | Total Movement | Balance |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| CAPITAL RESERVES | | | | | | |
| Capital Fund | (810) | 160 | 0 | 0 | 160 | (650) |
| Development Sites Decontamination | (446) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | (446) |
| New Homes Bonus | (4,069) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | (4,069) |
| Performance Reward Grant | (191) | 50 | 0 | | 50 | (141) |
| Project and Programme Management | (251) | 251 | 0 | (75) | 176 | (75) |
| Vehicle Replacement | (310) | 48 | 74 | 0 | 122 | (188) |
| Weekly Collection Support Grant | (158) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | (158) |
| Total Capital Reserves | (6,235) | 509 | 74 | (75) | 508 | (5,727) |
| | | | | | | |
| REVENUE RESERVES | | | | | | |
| Earmarked | | | | | | |
| Budget Carry Forward | (1,190) | 1,072 | 0 | 0 | 1,072 | (118) |
| Business Rates | (4,661) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Car Parking Zones | (775) | 0 | 48 | 0 | 48 | |
| Charter Place Tenants | (160) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | (160) |
| Climate Change | (57) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | (57) |
| Homelessness Prevention | (113) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | (113) |
| Leisure Structured Maintenance | (423) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | (423) |
| Le Marie Centre Repairs | (12) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | (12) |
| Multi-Storey Car Park Repair | (181) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | (181) |
| Parks, Waste & Street Strategy | (60) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | (60) |
| Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme | (100) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | (100) |
| Area Based Grant | (85) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | (85) |
| Crematorium | (50) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | (50) |
| Economic Impact | (4,029) | (20) | 619 | (51) | 548 | (3,481) |
| High Street Innovation | (90) | 0 | 32 | 0 | 32 | (58) |
| Housing Benefit Subsidy | (996) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | (996) |
| Housing Planning Delivery Grant | (266) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | (266) |
| Invest to Save | (839) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | (839) |
| LA Business Growth Incentive (LABGI) | (570) | 12 | 43 | 11 | 66 | (504) |
| Local Development Framework | (178) | 50 | 0 | 0 | 50 | (128) |
| Pension Funding | (2,249) | 700 | 0 | 0 | 700 | (1,549) |
| Performance Reward Grant | (29) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | (29) |
| Project and Programme Management | (404) | 118 | 105 | 0 | 223 | (181) |
| Weekly Collection Support Grant | (30) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | (30) |
| Total Earmarked Reserves | (17,547) | 1,932 | 847 | (40) | 2,739 | (14,808) |
| General Fund Working Balance | (1,350) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | (1,350) |
| Total Revenue Reserves | (18,897) | 1,932 | 847 | (40) | 2,739 | (16,158) |