

<b>Committee(s):</b> Planning & Transportation Committee	<b>Date(s):</b> 5 November 2019
<b>Subject:</b> 2019/20 Business Plan Update Q2	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of the Built Environment	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Elisabeth Hannah	

### Summary

This report sets out the progress made during Q2 of the 2019/20 Departmental Business Plan. This report continues to develop our approach to share data, awards and results as Infographics; additional information on the infographics is available at Appendix 2.

At the end of the September 2019, the Department of Built Environment was £354k (6.3%) overspent against the local risk budget to date of £5.609m, over all the services managed by the Director of Built Environment covering the Planning & Transportation Committee. Appendix 3 sets out the detailed position for the individual services covered by this department.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report and appendices.

## **Main Report**

### **Background**

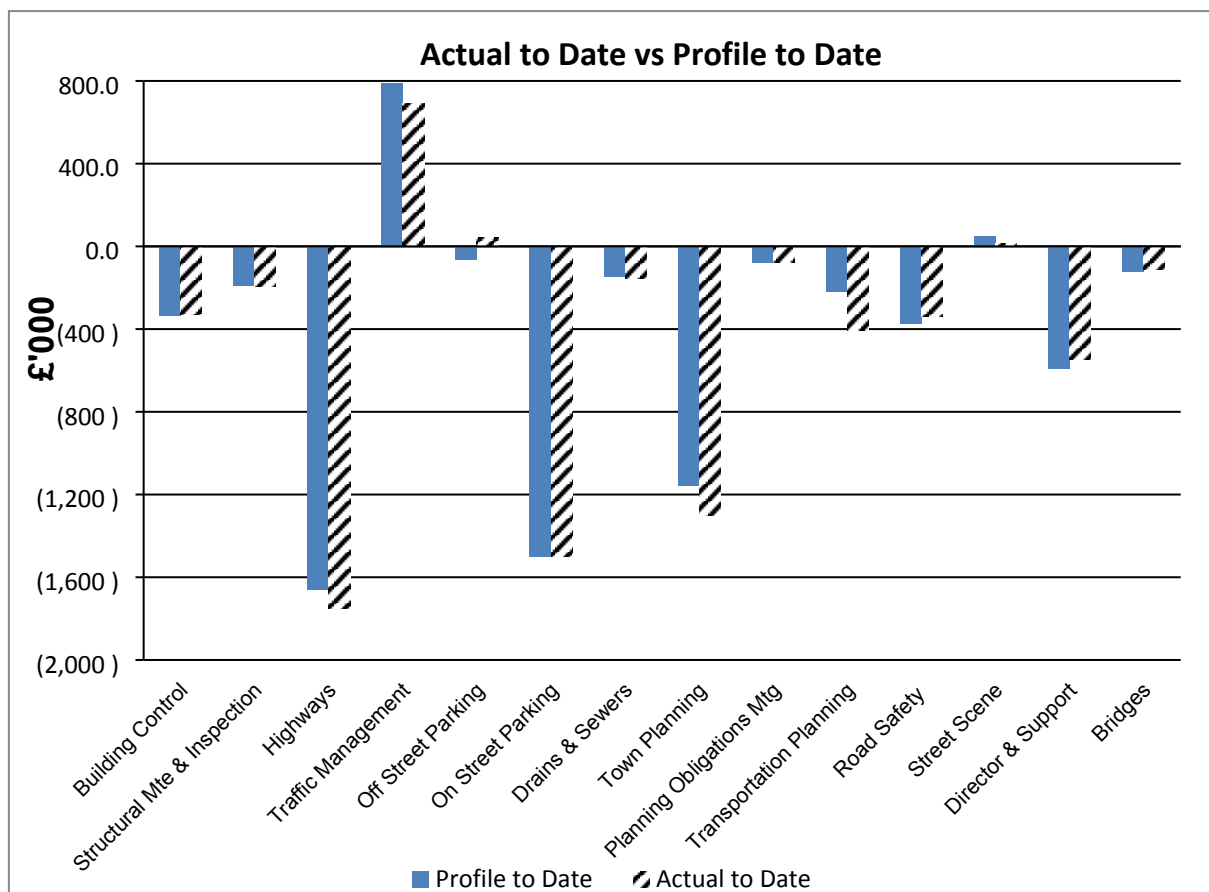
1. The 2019/20 Business Plan of the Department of the Built Environment was approved by this committee on 18 March 2019.

### **Current Position**

2. Work of the department continues to fully support the Corporate Plan, with all work streams being linked to the plan and the proposed Corporate Performance Measures.
3. A new working group has been established in the department to review the data we collect, to ensure we can fully service the Corporate Performance Measures and that we have meaningful KPIs across the department. The work of this group will be closely linked to future monitoring of the 20/21 Business Plan.
4. Appendix 1 shows our Infographic approach to presenting departmental achievements, results and data. The work of the department continues to support City of London's Corporate Plan.
5. Appendix 2 captures the achievements, deliverables and awards which support the Departmental 2019/20 Business Plan.
6. The UK's first Wind Microclimate Guidelines for new development proposals have been published in August and approved by this Committee. The guidelines have received critical acclaim across the country and raises the benchmark for acceptable wind conditions in the City, putting the comfort and safety of cyclists and pedestrians first.
7. The first phase of relighting the Barbican has been completed, 5 weeks early, and has been well received by residents. Additional work has been done at St Alphage Gardens, transforming the space with the use of lighting to enhance the historic London Wall.
8. 3 members of staff were invited to represent the City of London at an event in Prague to mark 100 years of the British Embassy; the focus of the event was to showcase City Architecture. As part of our Talent Strategy, Officers who had recently completed professional development programmes were chosen from DBE and CPAT to share their skills and expertise to an audience of over 150 Czech delegates.
9. A number of external audits, and statistical information are due to be published this Autumn which will be reported to members in Q4; this includes office growth, urban greening and road safety.

### **Detailed Finance Information**

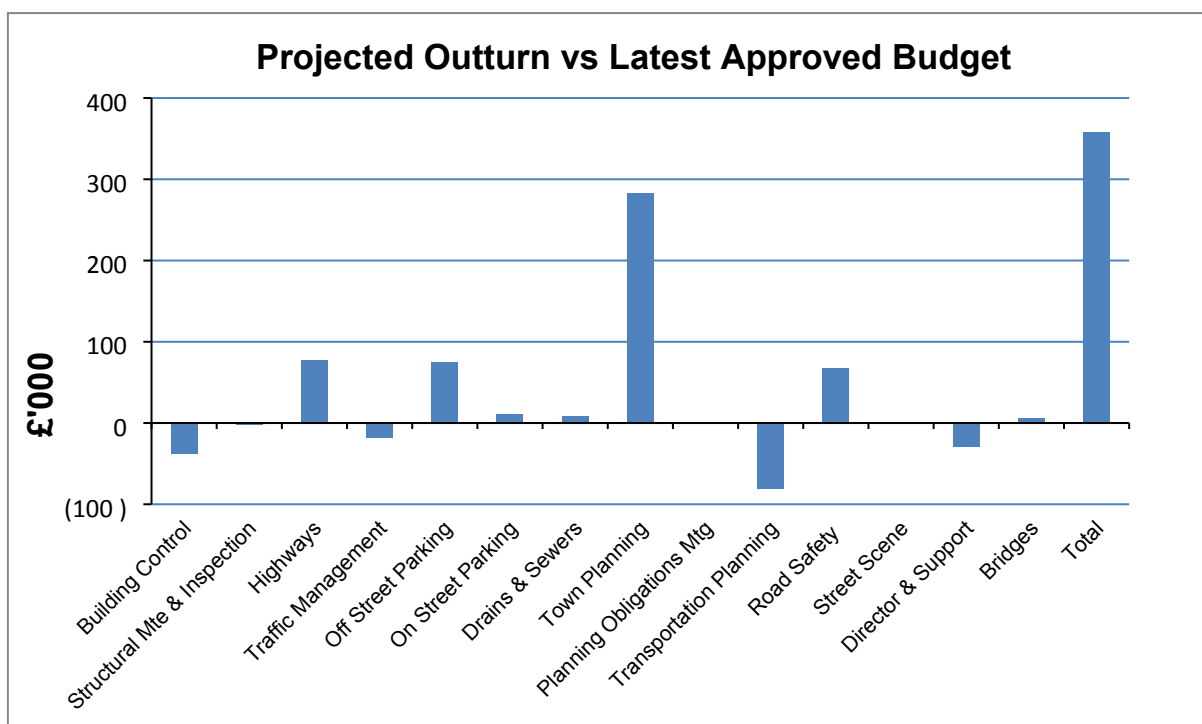
10. The end of September 2019 monitoring financial position for the Department of Built Environment services covered by Planning & Transportation Committee is provided at Appendix 3. This reveals a net overspend to date for the Department of £354k (6.3%) against the overall local risk budget to date of £5.609m for the end of September 2019.



**Notes:**

1. Graph shows the actual local risk net position against the profiled budget to date for each Division.
2. A position above the baseline shows overall net income.
3. A position below the baseline shows overall net expenditure.
4. DBE total actual to date net exp of £5,963k is £354k over the profiled budget to date of £5,609k.

11. Overall the Director of Built Environment is currently forecasting a year end underspend position of £357k (3.1%) for her City Fund and Bridge House Estate services within Planning & Transportation Committee.



**Notes:**

1. Zero is the baseline latest approved budget for each Division of Service.
  2. Graph shows projected outturn position against the latest approved budget.
  3. A variance above the baseline is favourable i.e. either additional income or reduced expenditure.
  4. A variance below the baseline is unfavourable i.e. additional expenditure or reduced income.
  5. Overall the Department is forecasting an underspend of £357k at year end.
12. The reasons for the significant budget variations are detailed in Appendix 3, which sets out a detailed financial analysis of each individual division of service relating to this Committee, for the services the Director of Built Environment supports.
13. The worse than budget position at the end of September 2019 is mainly due to additional spends on Highways repairs & maintenance works as these have been carried out ahead of schedule during the summer months; lower than expected planning application fee income received against the budget profile, however, this is expected to increase by year end and achieve the budget target as three major planning applications are in the pipeline; under recovery of staff costs recharged to capital projects due to current staff vacancies within the Department; and finally lower than expected hoarding & scaffolding license fee income. These overspends to date are partly offset by additional Off-Street car parking income due to increased activity levels, which are expected to continue until year end.
14. The Director of Built Environment anticipates this current worse than budget position will move to a favourable position by year end. This is due to the continued staffing vacancies held throughout the Department; additional Off-Street car parking income forecast; and reduced electricity costs from the installation of LED street lighting. These anticipated underspends are partly offset by forecast reductions in building regulation income due to lower than expected activity levels within the City; additional costs for On-Street Parking due to the

Mobius contract dispute legal settlement; and the continuation of under recovery of staff costs recharged to capital projects due to current staff vacancies within the Department.

15. Members are asked to note that the overall Departmental underspend (P&T Cttee underspend offset by Port Health Cttee and Open Spaces Cttee overspend = net underspend £106K for DBE) has now been committed to hastening progress on preparing a Climate Action Strategy.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Infographic
- Appendix 2 – Supporting Data
- Appendix 3 – Finance Report

## **Background Papers**

DBE Business Plan 2018/19

**Elisabeth Hannah**  
Business Manager

T: 07795 290028

E: [elisabeth.hannah@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:elisabeth.hannah@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

**Simon Owen**  
Group Accountant

T: 020 7332 1358

[simon.owen@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:simon.owen@cityoflondon.gov.uk)