

<b>Committee(s):</b> Planning & Transportation Committee	<b>Date(s):</b> 24 February 2021
<b>Subject:</b> 2020/21 Business Plan Update Q3	<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 Q3 of the 2020/21 Departmental Business Plan. This report continues to build on our approach to share high level data, awards and results as infographics in Appendix 1.

At the end of December 2020, the Department of Built Environment was £270k (3.1%) underspent against the local risk budget to date of £8.694m, over all the services managed by the Built Environment within the Planning & Transportation Committee. Appendix 2 sets out the detailed position for the individual services covered by this Committee.

Overall the Department of Built Environment is currently forecasting a year end overspend of £354k (2.9%) for City Fund and Bridge House Estate services.

## **Main Report**

### **Background**

1. The 2019/20 Business Plan of the Department of the Built Environment was approved by this committee on 28 January 2020.

### **COVID-19**

2. The Department continues to support the City's Public Services Silver Group, with a remit including Planning and Construction, Highways and Transportation and Cleansing. With a focus on recovery, the group work closely with the Gold group and are contributing key data to the weekly dashboards.
3. Measures to enable the safe return of the City's workforce and support COVID-19 recovery are being delivered in phases, with the roll out of "Temporary plus" measures were completed by in November 2020. These measures replace the initial barriers and cones with more robust materials that are easier for street users to understand.

### **Current Position**

4. Appendix 1 shows our infographic approach to presenting departmental high-level data, awards and results. The work of the department continues to support City of London's Corporate Plan.
5. Members feedback continues to shape these reports to provide valuable key strategic updates to Members. Significant work is being done with the support of the Town Clerk's team to better align with the Corporate Performance Framework (CPF) and create a dashboard approach to the monitoring and measuring of our workstreams.

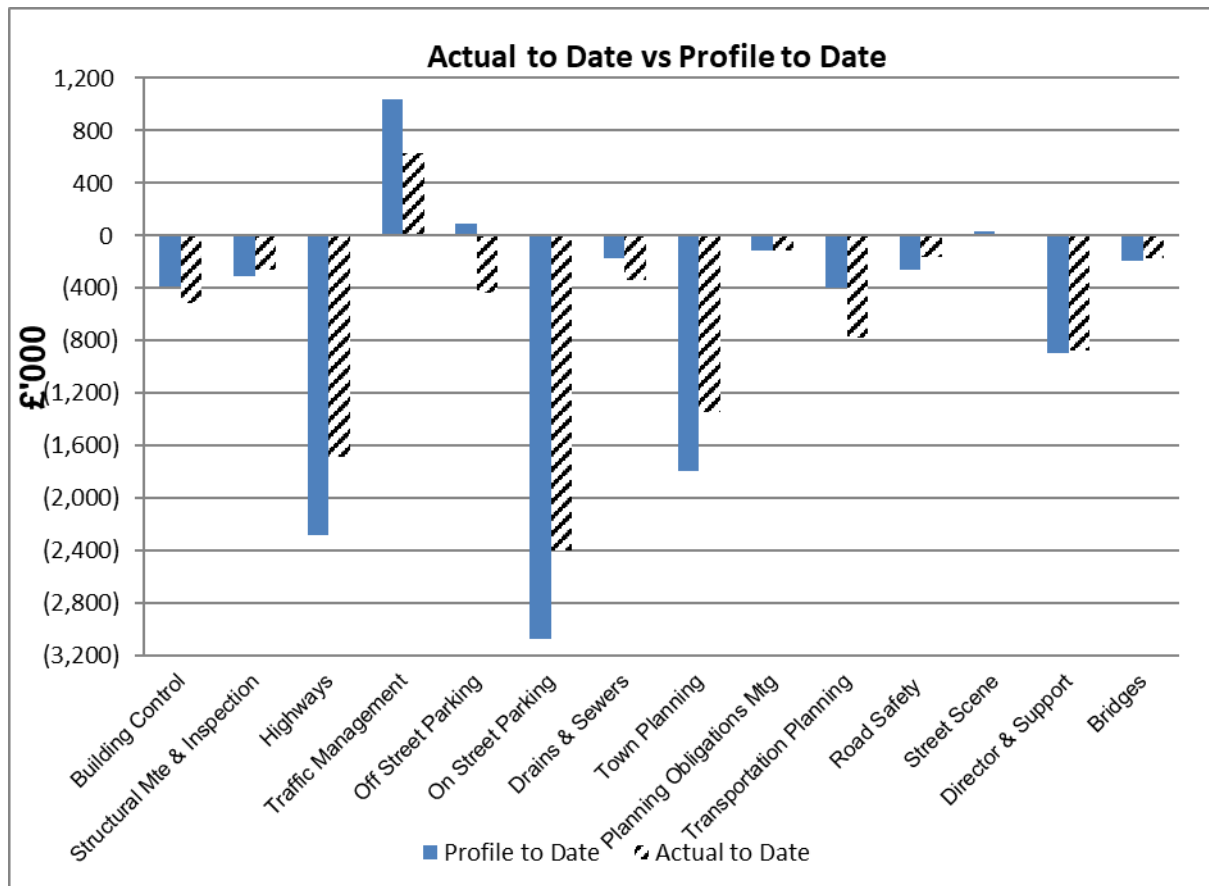
### **Staff Development**

6. Rasin Khayaguli, a business administration apprentice in DBE has won Apprentice of the Year at the Institute of Couriers national awards. During his time at the City, he has been working alongside colleagues ensuring transport Fleet management and safety. Rasin was part of the International Future Fleet Forum, engaged and listen to transport professionals from all around the world and made a great impression from his eagerness to learn and wanting knowledge of the industry. In 2019 he even took part in the Lord Mayor's Show, walking the route in a recyclable cloak.
7. This February 2021 to celebrate National Apprentice Week Rasin will be speaking at TFL, clean air transport round table alongside industry experts.
8. The DBE apprentices continue to have success with their reverse mentoring / skill sharing scheme. The aim of this scheme is to promote and use their

strengths within the organisation and to aid the development of their professional skills, networking and communications skills. If Members would like to speak with one of the DBE apprentices, please contact me.

### Detailed Finance Information

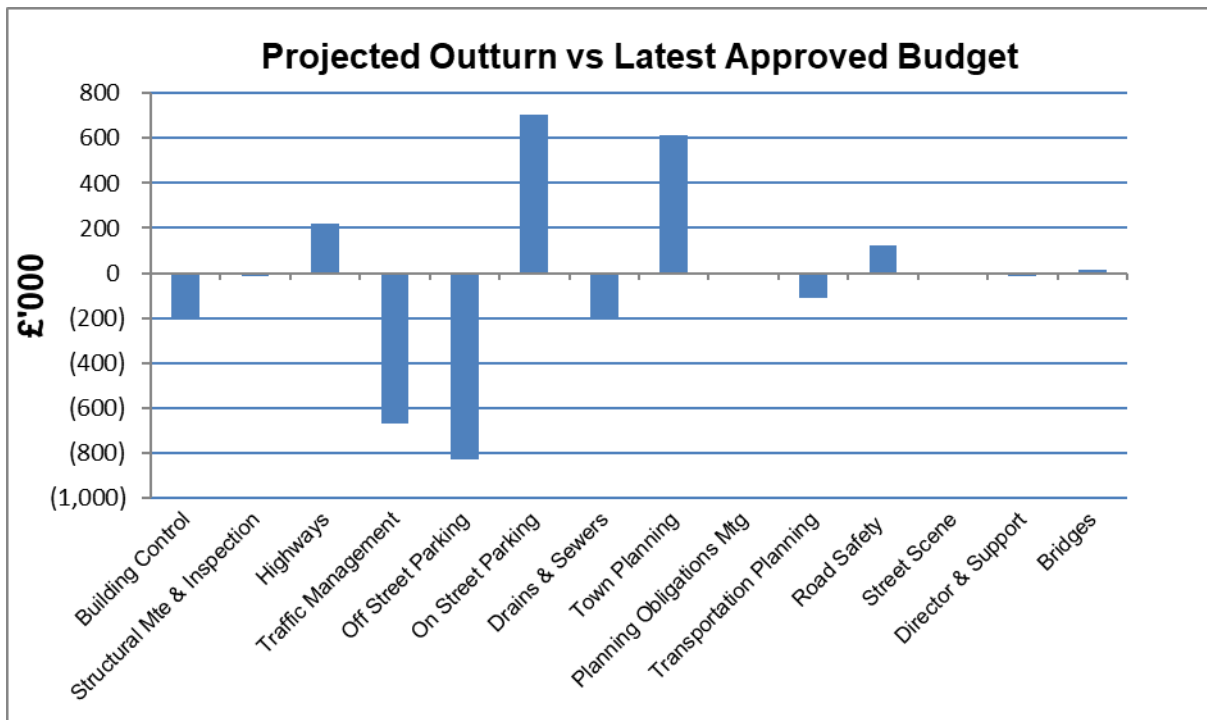
9. The end of December 2020 monitoring position for the Department of Built Environment services within Planning & Transportation Committee is provided at Appendix 2. This shows a net underspend to date for the Department of £270k (3.1%) against the overall local risk budget to date of £8.694m for 2020/21.



**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 £8,424k is £270k under the profiled budget to date of £8,694k.

10. Overall the Department of Built Environment is currently forecasting a year end overspend position of £354k (7.6%) for City Fund and Bridge House Estate services.



**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 ie either additional income or reduced expenditure.
4. A variance below the baseline is unfavourable is additional expenditure or reduced income.
5. Overall the Department is forecasting an overspend of £354k at year end.

11. The reasons for the significant budget variations are detailed in Appendix 2, which sets out a detailed financial analysis of each individual Division of Service reporting to this Committee, for the services the Department of Built Environment manages.
12. The better than budget position at the end of December 2020 is mainly due to reduced variable On-Street Parking enforcement costs and reduced Highways maintenance costs due to reduced and deferred activity as a result of COVID-19, increased income from Planning Application Fees and Planning Performance Agreements, and staffing savings due to vacancies held throughout the Department.
13. These underspends to date are partly offset by reductions in income streams across the department due to the impact of COVID-19; and under recovery of staff costs recharged to capital projects due to reduced activity as a result of COVID-19 together with current staff vacancies within the Department.
14. The Department of Built Environment anticipates that the budget position will significantly worsen by year end, to an overspend of £354k, due to the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on income streams across the department and projected under-recovery of staff costs recharged to capital projects. Additional overspends are expected due to the costs of the Tulip Inquiry, and increased recruitment and advertising costs. These overspends are anticipated to be partly offset by staffing savings due to vacancies, reduced contractor costs particularly for On-Street

Parking enforcement, and additional income from Planning Application Fees and Planning Performance Agreements.

15. The department is continuing to review all opportunities to further reduce the projected overspend for your Committee. The department is also currently projecting an underspend on services within Port Health and Environmental Services Committee which will reduce the overspend for the Department as a whole to nil.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Infographic
- Appendix 2 – Finance Report

## **Background Papers**

DBE Business Plan 2020/21  
Q3 Transport Strategy Update

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