

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL,
SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL AND
BRIGTON AND HOVE CITY COUNCIL

ORBIS JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE: 28th May 2020

LEAD OFFICER: NIGEL MANVELL (DEPUTY CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER
BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL), KEVIN FOSTER
(CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER EAST SUSSEX COUNTY
COUNCIL), LEIGH WHITEHOUSE (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OF RESOURCES SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL)

SUBJECT: BUDGET MONITORING

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

To provide an update to the Joint committee on the financial position of Orbis.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Joint Committee is asked to note the report.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Joint Committee is responsible for ensuring the sound financial management of the partnership, delivering the business plan and monitoring the investment.

DETAILS:

The Orbis joint operating budget of £60.4m for 2019/20 included challenging efficiency targets of £3.2m. The year-end outturn is a small underspend of £0.029m, which can reasonably be described as a balanced position for a budget of this size.

Orbis Operating Budget

Full Year Outturn as at Period 12 (March 2019/20)

Orbis Operating Budget	Net Expenditure			2019/20 Savings
	Full Year Budget	Outturn	Year End Variance	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Business Operations	5,779	5,872	93	770
Finance	10,386	10,851	465	338
HR	5,793	5,803	10	700
IT & Digital	19,935	19,495	-440	500
Management	2,316	2,055	-261	0
Procurement	4,681	4,468	-212	873
Property	11,490	11,807	317	0
TOTAL	60,380	60,351	-29	3,181

The reduction in the forecast outturn from month 9 is mainly due to the ongoing impact of vacancies and delays to recruitment. Services are currently working towards the delivery of further efficiency targets in 2020/21. In particular, the underspends in IT&D and Procurement will reflect, in part, early delivery of 2020/21 savings where underspend can be identified as recurrent. The overspends in Finance and Property are due to the impact of temporary staff while those services implement a new service model and disaggregate from the Orbis partnership. The level of agency staffing relative to overall staffing costs are set out on the table below.

Orbis Operating Budget

Year to Date Staffing Expenditure as at Period 12 (March 2019/20)

Orbis Operating Budget	Agency	Non Agency Staffing	Total Staffing	Agency Proportion
	£'000	£'000	£'000	%
Business Ops	289	10,844	11,133	3%
Finance	1,327	11,706	13,033	10%
HR&OD	209	6,636	6,845	3%
IT&D	853	20,832	21,685	4%
Management	0	771	771	0%
Procurement	209	4,252	4,461	5%
Property	840	11,751	12,591	7%
Total	3,727	66,792	70,519	5%

The partner contributions are set out in the table below. In February 2020 it was agreed that partners would fund 100% of any significant variances where those variances related to sovereign activity. This has increased the relative contributions of BHCC and SCC due to overspends in BHCC Property and SCC Finance respectively.

Orbis Operating Budget	Net Expenditure		
	Full Year Budget	Outurn	Year End Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Contributions			
BHCC	13,217	13,277	60
ESCC	13,825	13,644	-181
SCC	33,338	33,430	92
TOTAL	60,380	60,351	-29

Contact Officer:

Thomas Alty –

Consulted:

Kevin Foster – Chief Operating Officer (ESCC)

Leigh Whitehouse – Executive Director of Resources (SCC)

Nigel Manvell - Deputy Chief Finance Officer (BHCC)

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