

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA 2

THE EXECUTIVE

Tuesday, 27 June 2006

- Agenda Item 5. Budget Monitoring 2006/07 (Pages 1 - 15)**
- Agenda Item 6a "Borough Beat" - Special Constables (Pages 17 - 21)**

Contact Officer: Amanda Thompson
Telephone: 020 8227 3103
Fax: 020 8227 2171
Minicom: 020 8227 2685
E-mail: amanda.thompson@lbbd.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

THE EXECUTIVE

27 JUNE 2006

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

BUDGET MONITORING REPORT APRIL 2006/2007	For Decision
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The report updates the Executive on the Council's revenue and capital position for the first month of the 2006/07 financial year. The final position on the Council's budget for 2005/06 was reported as part of the final outturn report on revenue and capital spend to the Executive in June.</p> <p>The current year for revenue highlights a project balanced budget for the year end across all Departments with indications of early pressures that will need addressing as part of the Council's ongoing budget monitoring process.</p> <p>For the Housing Revenue Account, the resultant position expected is for the relevant working balance to increase to around £2.6 million by the year end in line with the original budget.</p> <p>For capital, the latest position is that there has been spend to the end of April of around £1.4 million on the overall original budgeted programme of £66.0 million, with a current projection of a total spend in line with the budget by the year end.</p> <p>Wards Affected: This is a regular budget monitoring report of the Council's resource position and applies to all wards.</p>	
<p>Implications:</p> <p>Financial: The overall revenue budget is indicating a balanced position against budget with Directors taking relevant action where necessary. The capital programme is reported to be on target against the original budget of £66.0 million.</p>	
<p>Legal: There are no legal implications regarding this report.</p> <p>Risk Management: The risk to the Council is that budgets are overspent and that this reduces the Council's resource position. Where there is an indication that a budget may overspend by the year end the relevant Director will be required to review the Departmental budget position to achieve a balanced position by the year end. This may involve the need to produce a formal action plan to ensure delivery of this position for approval and monitoring by the Executive. Similarly, if there are underspends this may mean a lower level of service or capital investment not being fully delivered.</p> <p>Specific procedures and sanctions are in place through the Resource Monitoring Panels, Corporate Programme Management Office (CPMO), Corporate Management Team and the Executive.</p>	

Social Inclusion and Diversity:

As this report does not concern a new or revised policy there are no specific adverse impacts insofar as this report is concerned.

Crime and Disorder:

There are no specific implications insofar as this report is concerned.

Recommendation

The Executive is asked to consider and note:

1. the current position of the Council's revenue and capital budget.
2. note the position and projected out-turn for the Housing Revenue Account.
3. approve the addition of 14 schemes to the Council's capital programme in line with Appendix D.

Reason

As a matter of good financial practise, the Executive should be regularly updated with the position on the Council's budget.

Contact Officer

Joe Chesterton

Head of Corporate
Finance

Tel:020 8227 2932

Minicom: 020 8227 2413

E-mail joe.chesterton@lbbd.gov.uk

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 It is important that the council regularly monitors its revenue and capital budgets to ensure good financial management. It is practise now within the Council for this monitoring to occur on a regular monthly basis, which helps members to be constantly updated on the council's overall financial position and to enable the Executive to make relevant decisions as necessary on the direction of both the revenue and capital budgets.
- 1.2 The report is based upon the core information contained in the Oracle general ledger system supplemented by detailed examinations of budgets between the budget holders and the relevant Finance teams to take account of commitments and projected end of year positions. In addition, for capital monitoring there is the extensive work carried out by the Capital Programme Management Office (CPMO).
- 1.3 The monthly Resource Monitoring Panels chaired by the lead member for finance, which monitor the detail of individual departments revenue and capital budgets also enhance and form the basis of the report.

2. Current Position**2.1 Overview for Revenue Budget**

At the end of April 2006, the Council is projecting a balanced budget for the year end, however, there are various indications of early pressures across individual departments, which will need appropriate managing in 2006/07 and these will need to be considered further as part of future monitoring reports to the Executive.

3. Service Position

3.1 General

3.1.1 Details of each Department's current financial position are provided in Appendix A. It is expected such pressures, however, should not impact on the outturn position for the year but in those areas highlighted continual work is required by Directors and their management teams to ensure a balanced budget for the year end.

3.1.2 At the Executive meeting on 13 June, Members approved that roll forwards from 2005/06 for the revenue budget amounting to some £1.649 million (2004/05 £3.0 million) be added to the relevant Departmental budgets for 2006/07. It is important to remind Members that Directors need to use these funds to deliver the relevant services associated with the agreed roll forwards and that the appropriate work is undertaken to ensure delivery of full spend by the year end. Additionally, consideration by Directors on the use of these roll forwards will need to be made where Departments are currently indicating pressures in their budgets.

3.2 Adults and Community Services Department

Although Departmentally the financial position was neutral for 2005/6, it was evident within the Adults Service, pressures were increasing towards the end of the financial year, in line with Looking after more clients (with intensive packages of care), and in pursuit of improved performance. These pressures within the system are being quantified for future budget monitoring reports and may lead to financial challenges that will need to be addressed this year.

Early pressures being indicated for 2006/07 are occurring within Older Persons Care Packages, Physical Disability Care Packages and Mental Health services. Budgets are anticipated to be on target at this stage in Libraries and Heritage, and also within Community Services, although more detailed analysis will be carried out for future reports.

The Supporting People Programme is budgeted to be on target within 2006/07 at this stage, with service reviews from 2005/06 onwards providing savings to cover for reduced government grants.

The Department's management team remain committed to maintaining a sound financial base, dealing with any overspend areas, and bringing the departmental budget in on target for the current and future years.

Value for money considerations are paramount within Adult and Community Services as the department faces infinite demand for its services, and in pursuit of improved performance from Inspection processes.

3.3 Children's Services Department

Children's services budget is projected to be on target at present with no areas being highlighted as early pressures apart from the Children's Safeguarding and Rights budget. In this area there are pressures apparent in the area of Residential Placements and Leaving Care and support packages and a more detailed analysis will be carried out for future reports, which will be informed by more activity data as we progress through the year.

3.4 Customer Services Department

The Customer Services Department is forecast to spend to budget in 2006/07, although any specific pressures and potential changes, which could result in a change in the forecast over the coming months, are detailed below.

3.4.1 Environmental & Enforcement Services

The implementation of the requirements of the recent Waste Management review may add financial pressure on this budget but this will be continually reviewed by the Head of Service to achieve a balanced budget.

Trade Waste fees are forecast to underachieve, although savings will be identified elsewhere to ensure an overall spend to budget.

3.4.2 Housing Services

The Housing General Fund is forecast to spend to budget.

An increase in temporary accommodation placements may require additional staff resources, although savings will be identified elsewhere within this budget.

The total number of people housed in temporary accommodation at the end of April 2006 was 485, compared with 321 the end of April 2005.

Maximising the collection rent income, due from tenants in temporary accommodation, is paramount in order to achieve spend to budget.

3.4.3 Revenues & Benefits

The overall forecast for Revenues and Benefits is for a spend to budget to be achieved, although the following issues should be noted.

The outcome of a proposed restructure of Revenues and Benefits may result in additional resources being required to remain in budget. Rents & Benefits Business Unit is forecast to underspend by £64,000, due to additional income and reduced court work costs within Rent Accounts. Income and Collections is forecast to overspend by £60,000 due to higher than budgeted Supplies and Services costs, although this type of expenditure is forecast to be lower than last year's actual spend.

3.4.4 Contact Centre & Customer First

The Contact Centre and Customer First are forecast to spend to budget.

3.5 Regeneration Department

Overall, the Department is projecting a balanced position for year end but is highlighting a number of early pressures on budgets for 2006/07, some of which relate to those experienced in 2005/06.

The Regeneration Management team is continuing a range of actions to minimise any impact from early pressures identified across service budgets. These include a freeze on non-essential overtime and recruitment, Head of Service approval for items of spend in excess of £250, and the cessation of non-essential agency contracts.

The position for each service within this Department's budget is as follows:

3.5.1 Housing Strategy

There are no projected variations for this service at this stage.

3.5.2 Spatial Regeneration

There is potential for the energy management action to deliver some savings below budget, but further analysis is currently being undertaken.

3.5.3 Skills, Learning and Enterprise

There are no projected variations for this service at this stage.

3.5.4 Leisure, Arts and Olympics

There are risks to the 2006/07 planned savings around some income and supplies and services budgets.

In addition, there are recurring pressures from 2005/06 anticipated around leisure centres, income generation, and grounds maintenance. Actions are already being considered to minimise any costs arising from the latter.

3.5.5 Asset Strategy and Capital Delivery

Potential pressures identified are around Highways Maintenance and various employee and supplies and services budgets.

3.6 Resources Department

The Department is presently projecting a balanced position with it's budget by the year end.

3.6.1 Assistant Chief Executive – Democracy and Partnerships

Democracy and Partnerships Division is projecting a breakeven position.

3.6.2 Assistant Chief Executive – Performance and Delivery

This Division is projected to breakeven. The Division is undergoing a restructure within its service areas and includes the creation of a team to redefine the Performance function and create new service areas of Best Value and Inspection, and Projects and Programmes.

3.6.3 ICT & eGovernment

ICT & eGovernment Division is projecting a small underspend of £86,000 mainly due to vacancies within the Division. However, the Division is currently in process of implementing its Service Improvement Plan based on the recommendations of the Best Value Review and therefore, is expected to use all available budget in 2006-2007.

3.6.4 Legal Services

Legal Services Division has a projected a breakeven position. The delivery of their Best Value Improvement Plan as a result of the recent Best Value Review will call upon any available resources in the Division.

3.6.5 Corporate Finance

The Corporate Finance Division has a provisional projection of £49,000 underspend mainly due to staff vacancies. The Division is currently reviewing the staff structure to align with the Council's New Departments to ensure that adequate and appropriate financial support is provided to the Service Departments. It is anticipated by year end that this Division's budget will be spent in full.

3.6.6 Strategic Finance and Audit

The Strategic Finance and Audit Division is projecting a small under-spend of £11,000. This is mainly due to anticipated delays in filling staff vacancies.

3.6.7 Human Resources

This Division has a projected overspend of £32,000 but this will be managed to a balanced position by year end.

4. Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

- 4.1 The Housing Revenue Account end of year balance is forecast to increase by £289,000 in line with the budget. Appendix B shows the detailed breakdown of the HRA budget position.

- 4.2 The percentage of rent income lost through void properties April 2006 was 1.42%, compared to a budgeted figure of 1.50%. There were 289 empty council properties at the end of April 2006.
- 4.3 The number of properties sold in April 2006 under Right to Buy was 12, compared 22, for the same period last year. The total number of properties sold during 2005/06 was 249. It is now estimated that sales in 2006/07 will be around 150.
- 4.4 The Void levels, Right to Buy sales and Rent write offs will all be closely monitored throughout 2006/07, as they significantly impact on the level of income the Housing Revenue Account achieves.

5. Interest on Balances

- 5.1 The current position is that this area of the budget has good performance as budgeted and that current projections show a balanced budget by the end of the year. The position of interest on balances is affected during the year by performance on investments, actual spend on the Capital Programme in 2006/07 and delivery of the Council's disposals programme. Any positive position arising will allow the strengthening of Council balances at the year end.

6. Capital Programme

- 6.1 The Capital Programme is managed by the Capital Programme Management Office (CPMO) team in the Department of Resources alongside financial input from the Corporate Finance Service. A Summary of the latest position for the 2006/07 programme is shown in Appendix C.
- 6.2 As at the end of April, approximately £1.4 million (a similar position as at April 2005) of this year's programme has been spent out of an overall original budget for the year of around £66.0 million. It is quite usual for the majority of spending on capital schemes to occur in the latter part of the year as a result of tender exercises, consultation etc, however, the spend to the end of April is only 2% of the total budget programme of £66.0 million.
- 6.3 The original budget will be updated for the net roll forwards from 2005/06 totalling £4.2 million (£14.1 million last year) to assist with better delivery of the overall programme. The relevant schemes associated with the rollforward sums are continuing be monitored through the Resource Monitoring Panels and by the Corporate Programme Management Office (CPMO).
- 6.4 The original budget of £66.0 million was set at Assembly on 1 March 2006. As part of that report it was highlighted that there were a further 26 schemes across all Departments totalling £30.711 million that could be added to the programme on completion of a successful capital appraisal and review by Resource Monitoring Panel. To date 14 schemes have successfully met this requirement and are recommended for addition to the current year's programme. The relevant schemes are identified in Appendix D.

7. **Consultees**

7.1 The members and officers consulted on this report are:

Councillor Bramley
Corporate Management Team
Heads of Finance
Capital Programme Management Office

Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:

Oracle reports
CPMO reports

REVENUE BUDGET 2006/2007SUMMARY OF POSITION - APRIL 2006

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Working Budget</u>	<u>Budget to date</u>	<u>Actual to date</u>	<u>Projected Outturn</u>	<u>Projected Outturn Variation</u>
	<u>£'000</u>	<u>£'000</u>	<u>£'000</u>	<u>£'000</u>	<u>£'000</u>	<u>£'000</u>
<u>Department</u>						
Adults &Community Services	55,586	55,586	4,632	4,632	55,586	0
Children's Services	162,966	162,966	18,581	18,958	162,966	0
Customer Services	14,555	14,555	1,095	941	14,555	0
Regeneration	20,071	20,071	1,673	1,673	20,071	0
Resources	892	892	74	-6	892	0
Total for Department's	254,070	254,070	26,055	26,198	254,070	0
<u>Other Services</u>						
Corporate Management	5,782	5,782	482	482	5,782	0
General Finance	-19,680	-19,680	-1,640	-1,640	-19,680	0
Contingency	1,168	1,168	-	-	1,168	0
Levies & precepts	6,084	6,084	26	26	6,084	0
Total for Other Services	-6,646	-6,646	-1,132	-1,132	-6,646	0
Total Council Budget	247,424	247,424	24,923	25,066	247,424	0

This page is intentionally left blank

APPENDIX B

Housing Revenue Account - Budget Monitoring Summary

Month April 2006

Housing Revenue Account

	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Budget Apr-06	Actual Apr-06	Forecast	Variance
NET RENT OF DWELLINGS	(66,298)	(66,298)	(5,525)	(5,525)	(66,298)	0
OTHER RENTS	(2,379)	(2,379)	(198)	(198)	(2,379)	0
OTHER CHARGES	(4,227)	(4,227)	(352)	(352)	(4,227)	0
TOTAL INCOME	(72,904)	(72,904)	(6,075)	(6,075)	(72,904)	0
PAYMENT TO ODPM	10,931	10,931	911	911	10,931	0
GENERAL MANAGEMENT	16,422	16,422	1,369	1,369	16,422	0
SPECIAL MANAGEMENT	7,464	7,464	622	622	7,464	0
REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	21,286	21,286	1,774	1,774	21,286	0
DEPRECIATION - DWELLINGS	22,732	22,732	1,894	1,894	22,732	0
DEPRECIATION - OTHER	654	654	55	55	654	0
RENT, RATES AND OTHER CHARGES	970	970	81	81	970	0
CAPITAL CHARGE	34,015	34,015	2,835	2,835	34,015	0
PROVISION FOR BAD DEBTS	0	0	0	0	0	0
HOUSING BENEFIT LIMITATION	3,149	3,149	262	262	3,149	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	117,623	117,623	9,802	9,802	117,623	0
CAPITAL CHARGE ADJUSTMENT	(34,015)	(34,015)	(2,835)	(2,835)	(34,015)	0
INTEREST EARNED	(1,395)	(1,395)	(116)	(116)	(1,395)	0
NET COST OF SERVICE	9,309	9,309	776	776	9,309	0
REVENUE CONTRIBUTION	500	500	42	42	500	0
DEPRECIATION ADJUSTMENT	(10,098)	(10,098)	(842)	(842)	(10,098)	0
WORKING BALANCE B/F	(3,231)	(3,231)	(3,231)	(3,231)	(3,231)	0
WORKING BALANCE C/F	3,520	3,520	3,255	3,255	3,520	0
NET EXPENDITURE	0	0	(0)	(0)	0	0
UNDERSPEND IN YEAR	(289)	(289)	(24)	(24)	(289)	0

This page is intentionally left blank

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2006/2007SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE - APRIL 2006

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Working Budget</u>	<u>Actual to date</u>	<u>Projected Outturn</u>	<u>Projected Outturn Variation against Working Budget</u>	<u>Projected Outturn Variation against Original Budget</u>
	<u>£'000</u>	<u>£'000</u>	<u>£'000</u>	<u>£'000</u>	<u>£'000</u>	<u>£'000</u>
<u>Department</u>						
Adult & Community Services	1,261	1,261	12	1,261	0	0
Children's Services	10,818	10,818	44	10,818	0	0
Customer Services	35,457	35,457	17	35,457	0	0
Regeneration	17,916	17,916	1,346	17,916	0	0
Resources	515	515	7	515	0	0
Total for Department Schemes	65,967	65,967	1,426	65,967	0	0
<u>Accountable Body Schemes</u>						
Regeneration and Environment	-	-	-	-	0	0
Total for Accountable Body Schemes	-	-	-	-	0	0
Total for all Schemes	65,967	65,967	1,426	65,967	0	0

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix D

Schemes for inclusion in the Council's Capital Programme 2006/07 to 2009/10

Since the agreement to the Council's capital programme at Assembly on 1st March 2006, the following 14 projects of the 26 "provisional capital schemes" have achieved the relevant "four green" status.

Department	Capital Scheme	Budget £'000 2006/08 to 2009/10
Children's Services	Fair funding 2006/07	160
Children's Services	Fire protection and smoke detection to schools	400
Children's Services	Schools reboiler programme 2006-07	300
Children's Services	DDA works to schools	100
Adults and Community Services	CCTV schemes	200
Adults and Community Services	Office building refurbishment	150
Regeneration	Health and safety works	500
Regeneration	Highways repairs, non-principal roads 2006/07	3,000
Resources	Member's and Mayoral IT	88
Resources	Data backup upgrade	70
Resources	Infrastructure (Citrix) update	878
Resources	Desktop PC replacement	100
Resources	Server upgrade/refresh	100
Resources	Desktop refresh	1,000
	TOTAL	7,046

This page is intentionally left blank

THE EXECUTIVE

27 JUNE 2006

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF ADULTS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

This report is submitted under Agenda item 6. The Chair will be asked to decide if it can be considered at the meeting under the provisions of Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 as a matter of urgency in order not to delay the scheme.

Title: "BoroughBeat" Special Constables	For Decision
<p>Summary:</p> <p>This report concerns the power of the Police to appoint Special Constables, under Section 27 of the Police Act 1996, while regulations are issued under Section 51 of that Act.</p> <p>An innovative scheme of 'BoroughBeat' is being considered/implemented by many local authorities to support a set number of council staff to become Special Constables. The focus of their work would be to work alongside Safer Neighbourhood Teams primarily in delivery of our shared priority to reduce crime and the fear of crime.</p> <p>This paper addresses the benefits of the scheme for the council and the required change for this to progress in terms of the leave entitlement for public duties under our condition of service</p> <p>Wards Affected: All</p>	
<p>Implications:</p> <p>Financial:</p> <p>The council will be required to 'sponsor' the staff by providing paid leave for public duties to undergo a one-off four-week training course, which will be delivered in Barking and Dagenham. Following the training, the council will release staff one day a fortnight to patrol in identified borough areas up to a maximum of 26 shifts per year. As such there would be an indirect cost to the authority of their time, to a notional value of up to £30k per annum spread across the Council.</p> <p>These costs will mainly be absorbed by budget holders, however in agreeing for staff to operate as Special Constable no one area would be exposed to an inappropriate burden in terms of the needs of the service if it is considered that a post-holder cannot easily be covered. Similarly no service would be asked to support an inappropriate number of the 12-15 officers across the Council.</p> <p>It is proposed to restrict applicants to only officers below management grades, which will reduce the notional cost to the council.</p> <p>Should any direct cost be required to cover an officer (for example overtime cover by colleagues) the Chief Executive will consider budgetary support to that team budget if demonstrated as required to maintain service standards; although as stated this is not</p>	

expected based on the custom and practice followed in terms of time of for other public duties such as the magistracy.

Legal:

A Home Office Circular (HOC 12/2000) entitled '*Special Constables: Eligibility for Recruitment*' lists certain occupations that are ineligible to become Special Constables. Some of these are relevant to the local authority e.g. traffic wardens, school-crossing patrols, youth workers, and social workers involved in the administration of criminal law. The Council will wish to set additional criteria that senior posts are excluded from this scheme in order to ensure the exigencies of the service are maintained.

Risk Management:

The programme will be monitored and managed closely by heads of service and directors with support from the Head of Community Safety and Preventive Services and the Head of Human Resources, to ensure that appropriate people are considered for the programme, without disruption to the service delivery of the council.

The BoroughBeat officers will be covered by the Metropolitan Police insurance when on duty. The responsibility of undertaking a risk assessment will be with the Metropolitan Police. Additionally, the officers will be trained to a high standard and during probation will be posted with a regular officer.

If the council intends to use any of the skills an individual acquires through the police training, these will need to be evaluated under the council's risk management programme.

Social Inclusion and Diversity:

There are no specific implications to draw to Members' attention.

Crime and Disorder:

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a responsibility on local authorities to consider the crime and disorder implications of any proposals. In relation to this report crime reduction and reducing the fear of crime is at the heart of the programme and enables greater involvement by council employees in delivering against this priority.

Options Appraisal:

Not appropriate to the report, as the proposal is a standalone option..

Recommendation(s)

The Executive is asked to agree:

1. The adoption of the BoroughBeat Scheme;
2. That acceptance onto the scheme will take into account LB Barking and Dagenham's service requirements and is subject to management approval;
3. That the employee conditions of service be amended to reflect the leave required for the initial 4 week training course and Special Constable duties up to a maximum of 26

days per year; and that clear guidance be issued for pro-rata arrangements in the case of part-time staff, sickness absence, and other forms of special leave (for example TOIL or Flexi-Leave).

4. That additional training and Special Constable duties will be carried out by officers in their own time
5. That the Chief Executive be delegated to make minor amendments to the scheme, for example reducing the number of days paid leave (proposed as 26 days) if this proves problematic to service delivery; and/or other boroughs develop schemes where it is expected that some of the 26 duty days per annum are carried out in an officer's own time (through annual leave).
6. To formalize the long-standing custom and practice that staff may be allowed up to 18 days off for magistrate duties; and delegate to the Chief Executive the authority to reduce the number of days paid leave for magistrate duties if this proves problematic to service delivery; and/or other boroughs develop schemes where it is expected that some of the days per annum are carried out in an officer's own time (through annual leave).

Reason(s)

This is an innovative scheme for the borough, allowing a sound partnership arrangement to exist between the work of the Council and the MPS. This will enable greater delivery on the targets for crime reduction and reducing the fear of crime.

The scheme encourages offices to carry out public duties to complement the encouragement already given to act as school governors and magistrates etc.

<p>Contact Officer: Geeta Subramaniam</p>	<p>Title: Interim Head of Community Safety and Preventative Services</p>	<p>Contact Details: Tel: 020 8227 3723 Fax: 020 8227 3690 E-mail: geetas:barking-dagenham.gov.uk</p>
--	---	---

1. Introduction and Background

1.1 BoroughBeat is an innovative scheme aimed at making the London boroughs safer. It is pioneered by the Metropolitan Police in partnership with local authorities, and backed as part of an overall initiative by the Home Office. The scheme involves local authorities, allowing staff to be trained as Special Constables. These Specials, once fully trained, will patrol areas of importance in line with shared council, police and government priorities around the reduction of crime and the reduction in the fear of crime. The Special Constables released by our Council will work ONLY in the borough of Barking and Dagenham, primarily attached to Safer Neighbourhood Police (SNP) teams, working alongside experienced police officers building close relationships between the two organisations and the local community. The SNP teams consist of approximately 50 officers, with the Council anticipating supporting 12-15 Special Constables through this scheme initially.

- 1.2 A clear intention of the scheme is to pump-prime interest in the role of Special Constables so that other public and private sector employers encourage their staff to carry out public duties.

2. Current Position

- 2.1 The Scheme is being supported by the MPS.

- 2.2 The implementation planned is as follows:

- Publicity and recruitment – July 2006
- Training in borough – September 2006

2. Detail of the Scheme

- 3.1 The key highlights for the council are as follows:

- After the intensive police training course, the council will receive a member of staff who is trained in a wide range of theoretical and practical areas, giving them more confidence in dealing with the public, a person who is trained in restraint techniques, arrest and life support, and having the same powers as regular officers to use where appropriate – a complete reassurance to colleagues and a real internal police presence.
- This is a risk free, low cost investment in security, reassurance and enforcement. The council will get genuine decision-making authority in agreeing police patrol areas and tasks. Police targets and priorities do not always mirror our own. Police are not always able to meet our requests for patrols in an area or to deal with any particular issue. The introduction of council staff to BoroughBeat makes existing resources go further and guarantees the council a stronger voice in the tasking process.
- BoroughBeat Special Constables will be expected by the Council to work closely with our Parks Police in the context of Safer Neighbourhoods and deliver priorities set out through the Head of Community Safety & Preventive Services.

- 3.2 Other benefits include:

- a positive message to the public of the local authority and Police working proactively together
- Police trained (and empowered) staff working in council buildings, doing their 'day jobs' when not on duty with the Met Police.
- Staff able to assess difficult situations which arise in their 'day jobs' through their legal training and practical experiences.
- A significant developmental opportunity with no direct training costs to the Council (other than cover etc)
- An increased, dedicated police presence in areas agreed by the council and Barking and Dagenham Police Division, with experienced officers patrolling alongside BoroughBeat recruited Specials, creating a safer environment.
- Wider access to police intelligence and additional support and presence from regular police
- An increase in productivity of the rest of the team through a greater sense of security
- Key enhancement of corporate social responsibility
- Forging enhanced corporate and personal links with the local police and an increase in the ability to tackle local problems with local officers

- Having a wider range of council staff who are properly briefed in respect of Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act and partnership priorities in respect of crime reduction.

3.3 The council will have a key role in directing work of the Special Constables in partnership with the police in tackling hotspots and areas of concern for the council. These will include issues of Anti Social Behaviour, youth disorder, and targeting particular crime types as necessary.

3.4 BoroughBeat is a variation on a successfully evaluated scheme known as ShopWatch from the retail sector. It has proved to be a resounding success.

3.5 There are some posts that will be exempt from being a Special Constable – these are outlined in this web link. <http://specials.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/hoc-eligibility-recruitment.pdf>

4. Implications

4.1 Leave entitlement for Public Appointments

Currently time off to attend meetings or carry out work on behalf of a public body is limited to 12 days per year. In the case of magistrate duties, the council 's practice is to grant up to 18 days or 36 half days per year. Time off is granted with pay for these purposes. It is recognised that these officers have the freedom to undertake other duties related to this role, outside the Borough, outside of their own sponsored time.

The request is to agree that staff who are successfully appointed to a post of Special Constable will receive 26 days paid leave per year from their employment in addition to their normal leave entitlements. This will be pro rata as appropriate, for example the Head of HR will issues guidelines for this entitlement to be pro rata in line with sickness absence from work, and if appointed as a Special Constable, the officer will be exempt from all other additional 'special leave'. This arrangement will be extended to officers undertaking magistrate duties above 12 days per annum.

4.2 Right of the Council to Decline Certain Cases

It is proposed that the council reserves the right to decline approval of interested staff on the basis of existing job responsibilities and will undertake vetting of all applications.

All approval must be via the Chief Executive or nominate officer.

5. Consultees

5.1 The following were consulted in the preparation of this report:

Portfolio Holder, Chief Executive, CMT and Borough Commander

6. Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:

BoroughBeat Guidance,

This page is intentionally left blank