

# THAMES VALLEY FIRE CONTROL SERVICE



<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>TVFCS Q3 BUDGET OUTTURN 2024/25</b>
<b>PRESENTED TO:</b>	<b>JOINT COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	<b>17 MARCH 2025</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	<b>IRENE KEMA ONYERI - RBFMS DEPUTY HEAD OF FINANCE &amp; PROCUREMENT</b>
<b>EXEMPT INFORMATION</b>	<b>NONE</b>
<b>ACTION</b>	<b>NOTE</b>

## 1. **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 To provide Joint Committee with the 2024/25 Q3 revenue budget outturn position for TVFCS.

## 2. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 That Joint Committee **NOTE** the Q3 budget outturn position for 2024/25 as detailed in Appendix A.

## 3. **REPORT**

### 3.1 **Commentary on Revenue Outturn**

- 3.1.1 The budget provision for TVFCS for 2024/25 agreed at the Joint Committee meeting in December 2023 was £2,874,023 with a contingency allocation of £150,000 available, if required. The Q3 Forecast outturn for the year was £2,856,343, a variance of -0.62%. Appendix A provides an in-depth review of the in-year performance across all areas.
- 3.1.2 The pay awards have been lower than anticipated and have contributed to the lower salary costs and associated payments. The current year's budget is based on a pay award of 5% whereas the actual pay award agreed is 4%.
- 3.1.3 Lower than anticipated staff turnover has resulted in an 'in year' saving on recruitment.

- 3.1.4 Professional Services and General Equipment Purchase – the overspend is due to the requirement to provide specific equipment to a member of staff as a reasonable adjustment for disability, which has arisen during the year.
- 3.1.5 TVFCS Alarm Receiving Centre Income – the income is lower than forecast, as a result of changes in the Alarm Monitoring Sector, where small companies have been acquired by larger concerns, reducing the number of organisations paying for dedicated lines.
- 3.1.6 Vision System (maint) – overspend is due to a need to bring in engineering support for works that were not known to be required when the budget was set. Service credits are expected from NEC during Q4 which are likely to offset the current overspend.
- 3.1.7 DS3000 (for primary and secondary) ICCS – budget was based on anticipated costs of a new maintenance and support contract whilst we were still going through procurement. The actual costs of the contract proved to be slightly lower.
- 3.1.8 Software Maintenance – unexpected expenditure was required relating to the TVFCS domain and the Autopage tertiary bearer system. TVFCS use of the Autopage system is currently being reviewed.

## **3.2 Commentary on Capital Outturn**

- 3.2.1 The Integrated Communications Control System (ICCS) provides a centralised command and control interface that integrates data from various sources, enabling emergency responders to have a comprehensive view of incidents and manage resources effectively. Our ICCS hardware was of an age that it would no longer be supported and needed replacing. The project to replace the hardware was carried out in two phases to minimize disruption and was completed in January 2025. The cost of the project was £539,280.
- 3.2.2 The total Capex Profile for 2024/25 is £665,000 as shown in Appendix B.

## **4. COMPLIANCE WITH THE TVFCS PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

- 4.1 This report complies with our statutory duty to collaborate.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The current Q3 Forecast underspend is £17,680.
- 5.2 The collaboration continues to deliver significant savings on an annual basis annual basis, in comparison to the three stand-alone control rooms.
- 5.3 The financial implications of capital expenditure are set out in 3.9 – 3.10 of the report.

## **6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 In accordance with Schedule 7, clause 12.1 of the legal agreement, costs are shared between partners in accordance with the cost apportionment model.
- 6.2 The 2024/25 budget and subsequent in year performance complies with statutory regulations.

## **7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 The only implication is explained in section 3.4.

## **8. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 Financial performance is scrutinised monthly by the TVFCS Group Manager and quarterly through the service planning processes at Joint Coordinating Group. It is then subsequently reported to the Joint Committee as part of the wider performance reports to ensure strict controls are in place to maintain and monitor performance and value for money for all partners.

## **9. CONTRIBUTION TO SERVICE AIMS**

9.1 The Committee provides oversight on behalf of the three Authorities, in relation to the performance of TVFCS.

## **10. PRINCIPAL CONSULTATION**

10.1 Simon Harris, TVFCS Group Manager.

10.2 Conor Byrne, Head of Finance and Procurement, RBFRS.

10.3 Lead Finance contact at each respective partner.

## **11. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

11.1 TVFCS budget setting paper 2024/25, Joint Committee, 14 December 2023.

## **12. APPENDIXES**

12.1 Appendix A: Outturn Statement 2024/25.

12.2 Appendix B: Capital Programme 2024/25.

## **13. CONTACT DETAILS**

13.1 Irene Kema Onyeri, Deputy Head of Finance and Procurement, RBFRS.

13.2 Jana Samajova, Management Accountant, RBFRS.

**APPENDIX A - TVFCS Budget Monitoring 2024/25 - Position as at 31 December 2024**

	<b>Total Annual Budget</b>	<b>Actual Expenditure To 31 December 2024</b>	<b>Forecast Outturn at Year End</b>	<b>Variance = Forecast Year End Outturn - Annual Budget</b>	<b>Variance %</b>
<b>Staff</b>					
Employment Costs	2,100,116	1,549,545	2,073,200	-26,916	-1.28%
Mileage and Subsistence	5,850	4,778	6,362	512	8.75%
Training	1,000	3,688	3,688	2,688	268.80%
Recruitment	1,000	304	350	-650	-65.00%
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>2,107,966</b>	<b>1,558,314</b>	<b>2,083,600</b>	<b>-24,366</b>	<b>-1.16%</b>
<b>Corporate</b>					
Facilities	148,960	111,720	148,960	0	0.00%
Finance	26,595	19,946	26,595	0	0.00%
HR	102,074	76,556	102,074	0	0.00%
ICT	116,141	87,106	116,141	0	0.00%
Liability and Equipment Insurance	12,964	9,723	12,964	0	0.00%
Management	22,546	16,910	22,546	0	0.00%
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>429,280</b>	<b>321,961</b>	<b>429,280</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>Other</b>					
Prof Services & General Equipment Purchase	4,600	1,066	5,388	788	17.13%
OFRS Costs (Includes Secondary Control Airwave Rental)	53,270	0	53,270	0	0.00%
Contingency Call Handling Provision	6,210	1,600	6,210	0	0.00%
TVFCS Alarm Receiving Centre Income	-13,721	-12,460	-12,460	1,261	-9.19%
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>50,359</b>	<b>-9,794</b>	<b>52,408</b>	<b>2,049</b>	<b>4.07%</b>
<b>Technology</b>					
Vision System (maint)	83,506	86,002	91,502	7,996	9.58%
DS3000 (for primary and secondary) ICCS	106,668	103,090	103,090	-3,578	-3.35%
Charges for Unicorn network and telephony rental	46,454	22,983	46,454	0	0.00%
Software Maintenance	901	1,120	1,120	219	24.31%
EISEC Calcot (999 caller location)	9,000	6,750	9,000	0	0.00%
Smart services to switch 999 lines to secondary control / elsewhere	17,000	0	17,000	0	0.00%
Airwave rental (SAN I ,B) (Primary, secondary) (7+8)	22,889	0	22,889	0	0.00%
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>286,418</b>	<b>219,945</b>	<b>291,055</b>	<b>4,637</b>	<b>1.62%</b>
<b>Total Budgeted Expenditure</b>	<b>2,874,023</b>	<b>2,090,427</b>	<b>2,856,343</b>	<b>-17,680</b>	<b>-0.62%</b>

<b>Authority</b>	<b>Total Annual Budget</b>	<b>Actual Expenditure To 31 December 2024</b>	<b>Forecast Outturn at Year End</b>	<b>Variance = Forecast Year End Outturn - Annual Budget</b>	<b>Variance %</b>	<b>2024/25 Cost Apportionment Percentages</b>
<b>RBFRS</b>	1,063,389	773,458	1,056,847	-6,542	-0.62%	37.0%
<b>OXFRS</b>	810,474	589,500	805,489	-4,985	-0.62%	28.2%
<b>BFRS</b>	1,000,160	727,469	994,007	-6,153	-0.62%	34.8%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,874,023</b>	<b>2,090,427</b>	<b>2,856,343</b>	<b>-17,680</b>	<b>-0.62%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## Appendix B

### Thames Valley Capital Expenditure Programme 2024/25

Item	£
Annual Profiled Capex	610,000
Contingency	55,000
Total	665,000
Expenditure	539,280
Variance	-125,720