

THAMES VALLEY FIRE CONTROL SERVICE



SUBJECT	TVFCS FINANCIAL OUTTURN 2025/26
PRESENTED TO:	JOINT COMMITTEE
DATE OF MEETING	13 JULY 2026
LEAD OFFICER	IRENE KEMA ONYERI RBFRS DEPUTY HEAD OF FINANCE & PROCUREMENT
EXEMPT INFORMATION	NONE
ACTION	NOTE

1. **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1.1 To provide the Joint Committee with Q4 2025/26 financial position for TVFCS.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 That the Joint Committee **NOTE** the Q4 financial position for 2025/26 as detailed in Appendices A and B.

3. **REPORT**

Commentary on the Revenue Outturn

3.1 The budget provision for TVFCS for 2025/26 agreed at the Joint Committee meeting on 12 December 2024 was £3,007,294 with a contingency allocation of £150,000 available, if required. The year-end outturn for the year was £2,971,467, a variance of -1.19%. Appendix A provides an in-depth review of the in-year performance across all areas.

3.2 Although the pay award was higher than anticipated, the 2025/26 budget was based on a pay award of 2% whereas the actual pay award agreed was 3.2%, the Employment Costs were underspent by 1.79% due to staff turnover and the recovery of TVFCS

Replacement Project Subject Matter Expert's (SME) salary costs from the Renewal Fund, as agreed by the Joint Committee.

- 3.3 The Mileage and Subsistence expenditure is variable in nature, the costs in the last quarter were lower than average, resulting in a small underspend (-4.29%).
- 3.4 The Training cost line, under budget by 90.7%, covers the costs of Control Room operational training, which is not included in the RBFRS HR recharge. For operational reasons, the planned training courses were postponed to 2026/27.
- 3.5 A reduced amount of Control Room equipment required replacement during the last 12 months, resulting in a saving of 12.44% in the Prof Services and General Equipment Purchase.
- 3.6 The Contingency Call Handling Provision budget consists of 2 elements: training costs and contingency service provision. The costs incurred in 2025/26 were solely training related. There was no operational need for contingency service, resulting in an underspend of 52.80%.
- 3.7 The Alarm Receiving Centre Income is under budget (-3.5%) because of continuous changes in the alarm monitoring sector, leading to fewer organisations paying for dedicated lines.
- 3.8 The MAIT grant (£13k) was received to fully cover the costs of implementation and annual subscription. The adverse income variance of 45.86% is the result of a revised forecast relating to Compensation for rise in NI rate grant (£19k). The budget (£46k) assumed reimbursement for the full impact of the NI rate increase; however, the actual receipts were £27k lower than expected.
- 3.9 The receipt of service credits from NEC resulted in an underspend of 9.56% in the Vision System Maintenance and Support.
- 3.10 A small overspend in the DS3000 cost line (0.59%) was caused by the actual annual indexation uplift being higher than budgeted.
- 3.11 The SD-WAN Network and Telephony Rental cost line reported slightly lower actual usage costs compared to the accrued estimate for prior financial year, resulting in an underspend of 6.91%.
- 3.12 The Software Maintenance is over budget (£1.6k) because of an increased maintenance requirement for several ancillary systems that were not known at the time the budget was set.
- 3.13 The EISEC Calcot and Kidlington budget was underspent (-4.03%) due to actual BT costs incurred after renewal of EISEC being lower than estimated.

Commentary on Capital Outturn and Renewals Fund

- 3.14 Phase 1 of the TVFCS Replacement Project commenced with an appointment of the Business Analyst, employed by RBFRS. This role is to deliver the Outline and Full Business Case including tender specification and supporting documentation and prepare Phase 2 resourcing profile. The year-to-date cost of employment amounted to £67,530. The role of SME was conducted by a RBFRS member of staff, the post provides

expertise in delivering key work packages, the cost amounted to £35,000. The Procurement Lead was appointed by Oxfordshire CC at a cost of £28,425. The purpose of the role is to manage the procurement tender and relating activities. The associated legal costs, which were incurred in March 2026 and paid by Oxfordshire CC, amounted to £11,926.

3.15 The EISEC server replacement was completed and cost £3,500.

3.16 The total Capex Profile for 2025/26 was £217,800 as shown in Appendix B.

3.17 The three partners contributed £150,000 to the Renewals Fund in 2025/26. Interest on balances invested amounted to £62,188 with expenditure from the Fund being £146,381, as detailed above. The balance as at 31 March 2026 was £1,504,259.

4. COMPLIANCE WITH THE TVFCS PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

4.1 This report complies with our statutory duty to collaborate.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The year-end outturn was £35,827 under budget.

5.2 The collaboration continues to deliver significant savings on an annual basis in comparison to the three stand-alone control rooms.

5.3 The financial implications of capital expenditure are set out in sections 3.14 - 3.17 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 2025/26 budget and subsequent in-year performance complies with statutory regulations.

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are none.

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 2025/26, Joint Committee, 12 December 2024

12. APPENDICES

- 12.1 Appendix A: Outturn Statement 2025/26
- 12.2 Appendix B: Capital Programme 2025/26

13. CONTACT DETAILS

- 13.1 Irene Kema Onyeri, Deputy Head of Finance and Procurement, RBFRS
- 13.2 Jana Samajova, Management Accountant, RBFRS