MANAGEMENT BOARD

2007/08 Mid-Year Forecast Outturn

Note by the Director of Financial Management

Purpose

This exercise is the main opportunity during the financial year for the Board to realign budgets to meet agreed work priorities. Former departmental titles have been used as the forecast returns were submitted on that basis.

Recommendation

2. The balanced budget position suggests that no further action is required at this stage of the year, although the cash requirement will need to be carefully monitored in case a Supplementary is required. The forecast exercise at the end of December 2007 will provide a useful analysis to inform any final adjustments.

Background

3. A resource underspend of £17.2 million (7.5% of the Estimate) arose in 2006/07 although a balanced budget had been forecast in the mid-year forecast. Given that funds already voted by parliament cannot be reduced in a later Supplementary, the significant underspend for 2006/07 represented a lost opportunity to invest in other areas of work. It also raised questions around the robustness of the budget planning and monitoring arrangements across the House.

Current year's forecast by departments

- 4. The **resource** forecast outturn for the current year is again showing a balanced picture overall, although some significant variances arise around the accommodation and ICT investment areas. However, a reduction in the level of receipts together with reduced depreciation charges forecast suggests the current **cash** requirement limit may be inadequate by up to £2 million. If resource underspends were again to materialise towards the year end then this is likely to reduce the net cash requirement.
- 5. A detailed analysis of departmental returns is provided in the attached Annex. The analysis has been prepared on a resource basis in line with the budgets allocated. A forecast against planned capital expenditure is also shown as this will impact upon the net cash requirement.

Resource outturn

Receipts

6. Rental income is forecast to be £205,000 less than originally planned. Around half of this arises from a dispute with the tenants of St Stephen's Tavern over refurbishment costs, the balance representing decreased receipts from the Abingdon Green car park following the introduction of the congestion charge. The other major contributor to the receipt shortfall arises from the Finance and Services Committee deciding to hold refreshment prices at pre 2007/08 levels.

Salary related

- 7. Salary related costs in PICT are significantly higher than originally planned. Although some additional posts have been authorised, for which the budget may need to be amended when the number of staff posts have been reconciled, the size of overspend suggests that further additional costs are being forecast for this business area.
- 8. SAA has incurred additional staff costs from transferring maintenance contracted posts to permanent staff. This action should provide a more flexible resource and be cost neutral overall (i.e. reduced expenditure against the maintenance budget). Assimilation of the craft team to Commons pay bands has also contributed to increased staff costs. A number of departments are forecasting reduced expenditure levels which in part offset these additional costs.

Metropolitan Police contract

9. An independent review of MPS resources has identified net savings worth 3.5% of the current police complement, worth around £0.8 million. The forecast includes this adjustment.

Accommodation related

- 10. Renting of the newly acquired Tothill Street building shared with the Lords, together with a rise in the rent charged on 7 Millbank has increased costs by £1.8 million per annum for the Commons. This increase has been offset in 2007/08 by changes to the Works programme which has reduced the forecast resource expenditure by £2.9 million against which HAIS procurement savings of £947,000 were planned.
- 11. The delay to the Visitor Reception Building has given rise to increased capital costs. The Clerks of both Houses have subsequently authorised a further £2.9 million addition to the business case. The Commons share of this is £1.74 million which explains the capital overspend forecast.

ICT

- 12. Significant overspends have been forecast by PICT, although they have indicated at JBSB that a position nearer to a balanced budget may be achieved. It is important for accurate forecast to be prepared to allow the Board to reach appropriate conclusions.
- 13. Funding has been set aside in the Project Provision to cover the Commons share of major ICT projects such as Internet development (£2.2 million) and EDRM (£0.4 million). In addition, a balance of around £2 million exists against which PICT can bid for other work. The forecast now includes significant expenditure on items such as procedural IT development (£1 million) and corporate applications (£0.9 million) which has not been agreed by DFA.

14. The PICT delegated budget shows an overspend (£0.4 million) on ICT equipment against a significant underspend (£1.6 million) on current ICT running costs. The Board may wish to consider whether the additional investment expenditure, not yet authorised, being shown against the Project Provision should be scored against the delegated PICT budget. If this were to happen then the projected PICT overspend would increase to £3 million. However, any slippage to planned ICT programmes could give rise to lower levels of expenditure than are currently being forecast.

Security related

15. Funding to cover the latest phase of the road barrier project is currently included in the Works budget. The cost of the new pass access arrangements is being managed through the Project Provision. The only remaining high cost security projects are the control room and off-site vehicle searching. Although these could be multi-million pound projects if approved, it is not anticipated that significant levels of expenditure will be incurred in the current year.

Hansard digitisation project

16. While the Library forecast is showing a significant underspend on information-related expenditure, it has been agreed to transfer £120,000 of the budget to the Hansard digitisation project. The budget for this project is currently held in the Project Provision. The number of pages to be digitised was previously under-estimated and the amended budget is required to complete the project in the current financial year.

Refreshment department

17. The overspend reflects significant increases in the cost of food together with a freeze on the prices charged. RD has traditionally generated a surplus which until last year was transferred to the Commission Reserve. A year-end option would be to ask the Commission, if necessary, to agree to frank any overspend by a transfer from the Reserve.

Central Provision

18. No significant additional funding has been retained in the Central Provision for unforeseen events. Part of the balance shown may be required to meet a deposit on the Edinburgh Conference Centre should this be required in the current financial year for NATO PA in 2009.

Conclusion

19. The forecast exercise was more difficult than usual because a number of departmental returns were received after the deadline. Some of these returns included variances that had a significant impact on the overall outturn position. It further proved necessary in some instances for DFA to make further enquiries to reconcile loaded budgets back to change control notes, and to check the accuracy of forecasts where the figures presented raised questions not addressed in the accompanying departmental commentary. There have been a number of finance staff changes across

departments over the summer recess period which may have contributed to these events.

- 20. DFA has appointed a new corporate accountant from the beginning of November to help deliver the planned training programme and offer further assistance to budget managers where they would find this helpful.
- 21. It is proposed the Board continue with the existing budget allocations on the basis that the experience of earlier years will be repeated, and sufficient underspends will emerge later in the year to enable the House to stay within both its resource and cash requirement limits. A final forecast exercise will take place after December 2007 which would inform a spring Supplementary application if required.

C Ridley 24 October 2007

ANNEX
2007/08 RESOURCE BUDGET: SEPTEMBER FORECAST
OUTTURN

SUMMARY

	Annual	Actual (April to	Forecast (Sept to	Outturn	Variance
Description	Budget £000	Aug) £000	Mar) £000	£000	£000
Receipts	(9,182)	(3,353)	(5,478)	(8,831)	(351)
Salaries	69,925	28,760	42,734	71,494	(1,569)
Other staff costs	2,314	924	1,545	2,469	(155)
Travel & subsistence	4,066	1,665	2,475	4,139	(73)
Information	15,488	6,922	8,164	15,086	402
Broadcasting	130	57	78	135	(5)
Communications	7,754	2,792	4,715	7,507	247
Computers	6,908	2,822	3,963	6,785	123
IT	3,042	862	1,593	2,455	587
RD cost of goods	3,300	1,322	2,082	3,404	(104)
RD other supplies	253	138	153	291	(38)
Office supplies	2,345	847	1,403	2,249	96
Consultancy	3,494	1,380	2,060	3,440	54
Finance & prof. services	61	142	27	169	(108)
Security	22,188	8,560	12,731	21,291	897
Accommodation	37,889	12,152	24,849	37,001	888
Grants	1,358	340	1,018	1,358	-
Depreciation	16,467	708	15,053	15,761	706
Cost of capital	30,400	-	30,400	30,400	-
Pensions: interest cost	13,800	-	13,800	13,800	-
Other resource adjustments	1,100	-	1,100	1,100	-
Gross Resource Expenditure	242,282	70,394	169,942	240,335	1,947
Net Resource Expenditure	233,100	67,040	164,464	231,504	1,596
Capital Expenditure	10,532	2,990	6,771	9,761	771
Depreciation	(16,467)		-	(15,761)	771
Cost of capital	(30,400)	_	_	(30,400)	
Pensions: Interest cost	(13,800)	_	_	(13,800)	
ASLCs	(10,200)	_	_	(10,200)	
Other resource	(10,200) $(1,100)$		_	(10,200) $(1,100)$	
Use of provision	5,413	_	_	5,413	
Balancing adjustment	(3,778)	_	_	J, T 1J	
Net cash	173,300		_	175,418	
THE CASII	173,300			1/3,410	

SPEAKER'S OFFICE

Description	Annual Budget £000	Actual (April to Aug) £000	Forecast (Sept to Mar) £000	Outturn £000	Variance £000
Receipts	-	-	-	-	-
Salaries	404	172	232	404	_
Other staff costs	17	1	16	17	_
Travel & subsistence	192	74	118	192	_
Information	_	3	-	3	(3)
Broadcasting	_	-	-	-	_
Communications	6	-	6	6	_
Computers	_	_	_	-	_
IT	_	_	-	-	_
RD cost of goods	_	-	-	-	_
RD other supplies	-	-	-	-	_
Office supplies	6	7	-	7	(1)
Consultancy	6	-	2	2	4
Finance & prof. services	-	-	-	-	-
Security	_	0	-	0	(0)
Accommodation	6	2	4	6	_
Grants	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	2	_	2	2	-
Cost of capital	_	-	-	-	_
Pensions: interest cost	_	-	-	-	_
Other resource adjustments	-	-	-	-	-
Gross Resource Expenditure	639	259	380	639	(0)
Net Resource Expenditure	639	259	380	639	(0)
Capital Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-

CLERKS DEPARTMENT

	Annual	Actual (April to	Forecast (Sept to	Outturn	Variance
Description	Budget £000	Aug) £000	Mar) £000	£000	£000
Receipts	(530)	(168)	(333)	(501)	(29)
Salaries	19,538	7,737	11,551	19,288	250
Other staff costs	566	201	364	565	1
Travel & subsistence	3,240	1,293	1,932	3,225	15
Information	9,070	4,415	4,591	9,006	64
Broadcasting	130	57	78	135	(5)
Communications	80	33	49	82	(2)
Computers	95	134	56	190	(95)
IT	-	-	-	-	-
RD cost of goods	-	-	-	-	-
RD other supplies	-	-	-	-	-
Office supplies	867	378	489	867	-
Consultancy	1,300	588	691	1,279	21
Finance & prof. services	2	1	-	1	1
Security	-	-	_	_	-
Accommodation	40	16	25	41	(1)
Grants	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	473	48	70	118	355
Cost of capital	-	-	-	-	-
Pensions: interest cost	-	-	-	-	-
Other resource adjustments	-	-	-	-	-
Gross Resource Expenditure	35,401	14,901	19,896	34,797	604
Net Resource Expenditure	34,871	14,733	19,563	34,296	575
Capital Expenditure	70	34	7	41	29

SERJEANT AT ARMS

Description	Annual Budget	Actual (April to Aug)	Forecast (Sept to Mar)	Outturn	Variance
2 escription	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	(1,350				
Receipts)	(340)	(763)	(1,103)	(247)
Salaries	11,643	5,140	6,928	12,068	(425)
Other staff costs	175	101	228	329	(154)
Travel & subsistence	237	112	121	233	4
Information	126	42	75	117	9
Broadcasting		-	-	-	-
Communications	5,366	1,851	3,567	5,418	(52)
Computers	-	-	-	-	-
IT	-	-	-	-	-
RD cost of goods	-	-	-	-	-
RD other supplies	-	-	-	-	-
Office supplies	1,230	328	771	1,099	131
Consultancy	-	-	-	-	-
Finance & prof. services	-	-	-	-	-
Security	22,188	8,557	12,731	21,288	900
Accommodation	36,671	11,905	24,362	36,267	404
Grants	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	12,133	214	11,919	12,133	-
Cost of capital	-	-	-	-	-
Pensions: interest cost	-	-	-	-	-
Other resource adjustments	-	-	-	-	-
Gross Resource Expenditure	89,769	28,250	60,702	88,952	817
Net Resource Expenditure	88,419	27,910	59,939	87,849	570
		- 1-	- 7 2	,	
Capital Expenditure	2,660	992	3,414	4,406	(1,746)

LIBRARY

Description	Annual Budget £000	Actual (April to Aug) £000	Forecast (Sept to Mar) £000	Outturn £000	Variance £000
	£UUU		TUUU		
Receipts	-	(1)	-	(1)	1
Salaries	8,998	3,479	5,118	8,597	401
Other staff costs	163	47	94	141	22
Travel & subsistence	109	19	36	55	54
Information	2,120	778	1,101	1,879	241
Broadcasting	-	-	-	-	-
Communications	49	29	29	58	(9)
Computers	10	-	6	6	4
IT	-	-	-	-	-
RD cost of goods	-	-	-	-	-
RD other supplies	-	-	-	-	-
Office supplies	71	35	41	76	(5)
Consultancy	70	23	58	81	(11)
Finance & prof. services	-	0	-	0	(0)
Security	-	-	-	-	-
Accommodation	-	-	-	-	-
Grants	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	116	14	102	116	-
Cost of capital	-	-	-	-	-
Pensions: interest cost	-	-	-	-	-
Other resource adjustments	-	-	-	-	-
Gross Resource Expenditure	11,706	4,425	6,585	11,010	697
Net Resource Expenditure	11,706	4,424	6,585	11,009	697
Capital Expenditure	35	12	20	32	3

DEPT OF FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

	Annual	Actual (April to	Forecast (Sept to	Outturn	Variance
Description	Budget £000	Aug) £000	Mar) £000	£000	£000
Receipts	-	(1)	(1)	(2)	2
Salaries	6,438	2,447	3,991	6,438	-
Other staff costs	702	369	333	702	(0)
Travel & subsistence	30	20	10	30	(0)
Information	55	98	-	98	(43)
Broadcasting	_	-	-	-	· -
Communications	3	1	2	3	(0)
Computers	12	9	3	12	0
IT	-	-	-	-	-
RD cost of goods	-	-	-	-	_
RD other supplies	-	-	-	-	_
Office supplies	70	46	24	70	(0)
Consultancy	2,023	677	1,198	1,875	148
Finance & prof. services	11	113	-	113	(102)
Security	-	3	-	3	(3)
Accommodation	-	-	-	-	-
Grants	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	325	114	211	325	0
Cost of capital	-	-	-	-	-
Pensions: interest cost	-	-	-	-	-
Other resource adjustments	-	-	-	-	-
Gross Resource Expenditure	9,669	3,899	5,772	9,671	(2)
Net Resource Expenditure	9,669	3,898	5,771	9,669	0
Capital Expenditure	5	-	5	5	-

OFFICIAL REPORT

Description	Annual Budget	Actual (April to Aug)	Forecast (Sept to Mar)	Outturn	Variance
Description	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Receipts	-	-	-	-	-
Salaries	5,564	2,243	3,433	5,676	(112)
Other staff costs	223	34	78	112	111
Travel & subsistence	122	50	80	130	(8)
Information	3,795	1,544	2,223	3,767	28
Broadcasting	-	-	-	-	-
Communications	6	1	5	6	0
Computers	-	-	-	-	_
IT	_	-	-	-	_
RD cost of goods	-	-	-	-	-
RD other supplies	-	-	-	-	-
Office supplies	37	11	22	33	4
Consultancy	30	15	15	30	0
Finance & prof. services	-	-	-	-	-
Security	-	-	-	-	-
Accommodation	-	-	-	-	-
Grants	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	145	42	85	127	18
Cost of capital	-	-	-	-	-
Pensions: interest cost	-	-	-	-	
Other resource adjustments	-	-	-	-	-
Gross Resource Expenditure	9,922	3,939	5,941	9,880	42
Net Resource Expenditure	9,922	3,939	5,941	9,880	42
Capital Expenditure	10	3	5	8	2

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Description	Annual Budget	Actual (April to Aug)	Forecast (Sept to Mar)	Outturn	Variance
Description	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Receipts	(2)	(1)	(1)	(2)	0
Salaries	615	244	367	611	4
Other staff costs	15	2	13	15	0
Travel & subsistence	4	2	1	3	1
Information	66	21	43	64	2
Broadcasting	-	-	-	-	_
Communications	3	0	3	3	(0)
Computers	5	-	4	4	1
IT	-	-	-	-	-
RD cost of goods	-	-	-	-	-
RD other supplies	-	-	-	-	_
Office supplies	5	2	4	6	(1)
Consultancy	52	15	37	52	0
Finance & prof. services	_	-	-	-	_
Security	-	-	-	-	_
Accommodation	-	-	-	-	-
Grants	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	1	1	1	2	(1)
Cost of capital	_	-	-	-	_
Pensions: interest cost	_	-	-	_	_
Other resource adjustments	-	-	-	-	-
Gross Resource Expenditure	766	286	473	759	7
Net Resource Expenditure	764	285	472	757	7
Capital Expenditure	1	2	-	2	(1)

REFRESHMENT DEPARTMENT

Description	Annual Budget	Actual April to Aug)	Forecast (Sept to Mar)	Outturn	Variance
•	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	(7,300				
Receipts)	(2,841)	(4,380)	(7,221)	(79)
Salaries	9,273	3,781	5,726	9,507	(234)
Other staff costs	289	81	91	172	117
Travel & subsistence	113	78	135	213	(100)
Information	17	10	21	31	(14)
Broadcasting	-	-	-	-	-
Communications	1	1	0	1	(0)
Computers	28	10	18	28	(0)
IT	-	-	-	-	-
RD cost of goods	3,300	1,322	2,082	3,404	(104)
RD other supplies	153	138	153	291	(138)
Office supplies	38	21	21	42	(4)
Consultancy	-	22	23	45	(45)
Finance & prof. services	48	21	27	48	0
Security	-	-	-	-	-
Accommodation	554	225	329	554	(0)
Grants	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	55	25	41	66	(11)
Cost of capital	-	-	-	-	-
Pensions: interest cost	-	-	-	-	-
Other resource adjustments	-	-	-	-	-
Gross Resource Expenditure	13,869	5,736	8,667	14,403	(534)
Net Resource Expenditure	6,569	2,895	4,287	7,182	(613)
Capital Expenditure	10	-	-	-	10

SECURITY CO-ORDINATOR

	Annual	Actual (April to	Forecast (Sept to	Outturn	Variance
Description	Budget £000	Aug) £000	Mar) £000	£000	£000
Receipts	-	-	-	-	-
Salaries	118	103	15	118	_
Other staff costs	-	-	-	-	-
Travel & subsistence	4	3	2	4	-
Information	-	-	-	-	-
Broadcasting	-	-	-	-	-
Communications	-	-	-	-	-
Computers	-	-	-	-	-
IT	-	-	_	-	-
RD cost of goods	-	-	-	-	-
RD other supplies	-	-	-	-	-
Office supplies	-	1	(1)	-	-
Consultancy	-	-	-	-	-
Finance & prof. services	-	-	-	-	-
Security	-	-	-	-	-
Accommodation	-	-	-	-	-
Grants	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	1	1	1	1	-
Cost of capital	-	-	-	-	-
Pensions: interest cost	-	-	-	-	-
Other resource adjustments	-	-	-	-	-
Gross Resource Expenditure	123	107	17	123	
Net Resource Expenditure	123	107	17	123	
Capital Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-

PARLIAMENTARY ICT

Description	Annual Budget £000	Actual (April to Aug) £000	Forecast (Sept to Mar) £000	Outturn £000	Variance £000
Receipts	-	(2)	-	(2)	2
Salaries	6,450	3,414	5,373	8,787	(2,337)
Other staff costs	164	88	328	416	(252)
Travel & subsistence	15	14	40	54	(39)
Information	10	11	110	121	(111)
Broadcasting	_	-	_	-	-
Communications	2,240	876	1,054	1,930	310
Computers	3,600	2,124	1,865	3,989	(389)
IT	1,600	, -	_	-	1,600
RD cost of goods	_	_	_	_	-
RD other supplies	_	-	_	-	_
Office supplies	21	17	31	48	(27)
Consultancy	13	41	36	77	(64)
Finance & prof. services	_	7	_	7	(7)
Security	_	-	-	-	-
Accommodation	_	4	29	33	(33)
Grants	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	1,816	250	1,221	1,471	345
Cost of capital	-	-	-	-	-
Pensions: interest cost	-	-	-	-	-
Other resource adjustments	-	-	-	-	-
Gross Resource Expenditure	15,929	6,846	10,087	16,933	(1,004)
Net Resource Expenditure	15,929	6,844	10,087	16,931	(1,002)
Capital Expenditure	1,025	493	707	1,200	(175)

GRANTS

	Annual	Actual (April to	Forecast	Outturn	Variance
Description	Budget £000	Aug) £000	(Sept to Mar) £000	£000	£000
Receipts	-	-	-	-	-
Salaries	_	-	-	_	-
Other staff costs	_	-	_	_	_
Travel & subsistence	_	-	-	_	_
Information	-	-	-	_	_
Broadcasting	-	-	-	_	-
Communications	_	-	_	_	-
Computers	-	-	-	_	_
IT	-	-	-	_	_
RD cost of goods	_	-	_	_	_
RD other supplies	_	-	_	_	-
Office supplies	-	-	-	_	-
Consultancy	-	-	-	-	-
Finance & prof. services	_	-	-	_	-
Security	-	-	-	-	-
Accommodation	-	-	-	-	-
Grants	1,358	340	1,018	1,358	-
Depreciation	_	_	_	-	-
Cost of capital	_	_	_	_	_
Pensions: interest cost	_	_	_	_	_
Other resource adjustments	-	-	-	-	-
Gross Resource Expenditure	1,358	340	1,018	1,358	-
Net Resource Expenditure	1,358	340	1,018	1,358	
Capital Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-

PROJECT PROVISION

	Annual	Actual (April to	Forecast	Outturn	Variance
Description	Budget £000	Aug) £000	(Sept to Mar) £000	£000	£000
Receipts	-	-	-	-	-
Salaries	-	-	-	-	_
Other staff costs	-	-	-	-	-
Travel & subsistence		-	_	_	-
Information	229	-	-	-	229
Broadcasting	-	-	-	_	-
Communications	-	-	-	_	-
Computers	3,158	545	2,011	2,556	602
IT	1,442	862	1,593	2,455	(1,013)
RD cost of goods	-	-	-	-	-
RD other supplies	100	-	-	-	100
Office supplies	-	-	-	-	-
Consultancy	-	-	-	-	-
Finance & prof. services	-	-	-	-	-
Security	-	-	_	-	-
Accommodation	618	-	100	100	518
Grants	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
Cost of capital	-	-	-	-	-
Pensions: interest cost	-	-	-	-	-
Other resource adjustments	-	-	-	-	-
Gross Resource Expenditure	5,547	1,407	3,704	5,111	436
Net Resource Expenditure	5,547	1,407	3,704	5,111	436
Capital Expenditure	6,716	1,455	2,613	4,068	2,648

CENTRAL PROVISION

Description	Annual Budget £000	Actual (April to Aug) £000	Forecast (Sept to Mar) £000	Outturn £000	Variance £000
Receipts	-	-	-	-	-
Salaries	884	-	-	-	884
Other staff costs	-	_	-	-	-
Travel & subsistence	_	_	-	-	-
Information	_	_	-	_	_
Broadcasting		_	-	_	_
Communications	_	_	_	_	_
Computers	_	_	-	_	-
IT	_	_	-	_	-
RD cost of goods	_	_	_	_	_
RD other supplies	_	_	-	-	-
Office supplies	-	-	-	-	-
Consultancy	-	-	-	-	-
Finance & prof. services	-	-	-	-	-
Security	-	-	-	-	-
Accommodation	-	-	-	-	
Grants	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	1,400	-	1,400	1,400	-
Cost of capital	30,400	-	30,400	30,400	-
Pensions: interest cost	13,800	_	13,800	13,800	_
Other resource adjustments	1,100	-	1,100	1,100	-
Gross Resource Expenditure	47,584	-	46,700	46,700	884
Net Resource Expenditure	47,584	-	46,700	46,700	884
Capital Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-