

	<u>Agenda Item: 10</u>
Report to:	Local Covid Outbreak Engagement Board
Date:	24th November 2021
TITLE:	TEST AND TRACE BUDGET OVERVIEW
Organisation:	Birmingham City Council
Presenting Officer:	Justin Varney

Report Type:	For discussion
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1. Purpose:
1.1 To inform the Board of the planned spend of the allocated test and trace budget

2. Recommendation:
2.1 The Board is asked to note for discussion at the meeting.

3. Report Body:

3.1

The table below shows the actual spend for the first 7 periods of the current financial Year (April to October 2021). This table includes all spend items that are reported to and paid from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF)

Spend item	Spend to date 2021/22 £'000		Budget 2021/22£' 000		Budget to Sept 2022 £'000
Staffing	1,780		3,263		1,632
Training	0		10		5
Translation services	18		60		30
Equipment	9		47		24
Communications	5		961		481
Community swabbing and support	633		662		331
Test & Trace system - Software licence, implementation & support	0		165		83
Health and wellbeing support	43		546		248
Whistleblowing	0		77		39
Enforcement support inc. Covid Marshalls	823		2,826		1,413
Local contact tracing	0		865		433
Testing Facilities	17		145		73
Isolation Support	0		500		250
Asymptomatic Testing Contingency	292		1,113		557

Supporting compliance	0	1,867	934
Contingency	0	2,624	1,315
Wave 3 response	0	3,450	
Total	3,619	19,181	7,848

3.2 Spend funded from other sources

The following table shows expenditure from different funding sources

Spend item	Spend to date 2020/21 £'000	Budget for 2021/22 £000s
Asymptomatic Testing *	1,766	} Reimbursed via grant
Operation Eagle *	82	
Community Champions Fund **	172	
Total	2,020	440

*Department of Health & Social Care, **Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

4. Clarification Notes to the report:

Due to some historical challenges with appropriate tracking and coding of transactions, some of the entries need further reviews. The Overview Report is presented for information only. An improved Report will be presented at the next LCOEB.

The apparent significant underspend on some line budgets may be attributed to some transactions being charged against the wrong codes in the system - up to 1 November 2021. Translation, Communications costs were charged against the Community Champions Fund (£440,000.00) – the additional funding came after the initial budget had been set.

Other factors which contributed to the apparent underspend include delays in re-charging, for example for Whistleblowing and Local Contact Tracing. The errors will be rectified by the end of November.

Test and Trace Support Payment and Practical Social and Emotional Support payments programmes are managed by other Directorates, may have contributed to underspend on HW Support. Most of the costs for Testing (Asymptomatic/Symptomatic) are covered from TCT Asymptomatic Testing Fund provided from DHSC. Supplementary costs not covered by the DHSC funding are then recharged to the Testing budget.

Forecast for continuation for next year (Jan-Mar 22) include primarily a contingency line item to enable adaptation to the uncertainties and evolution of the COVID response, this will be charged against Asymptomatic Testing Contingency and will be visible as Commitments in the next month report as we are in process of improving the template.

Community Swabbing contract with Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Trust is currently being renegotiated to avoid further significant overspends. Overspend for this service is forecasted to be covered from reserved funds in WAVE 3.

5. Risk Analysis:			
Risk			
Identified	Likelihood	Impact	Actions taken
Financial coding irregularities	high	Apparent underspends	<p>On-going detailed review of the accounts and triangulation of all related budgets;</p> <p>Preparation of a new report format which will include forecasts of planned commitments;</p> <p>Updated Report to presented to the December 2021 LCOEB Meeting.</p>

The following people have been involved in the preparation of this board paper:

John Brookes, Finance Manager
 Malgorzata Sugathan, Service Lead (Test & Trace)
 Iheadi Onwukwe, Consultant in Public Health (Test & Trace)