

Area East Development Budget Outturn Report (Executive Decision)

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Purpose of the Report

To give an overview of spending from the Area East Budgets for the 2014/15 year and to replenish the Community Capital Grant allocation for 2015/16.

Public Interest

The Area Development Service supports the Council's 4 Area Committees (North, South, East & West) to work closely with local communities to create better places in which to live and work.

Each Committee has the freedom to use its resources, both financial and through its team of Development staff, to understand what matters to local people and address this by offering support, encouragement and direct financial and practical help.

The report gives the financial position at the year end and requests a top up to the community grants budget for this year.

Recommendations

That Members agree to:-

- (1) note the spending and balances for the Area East Capital Programme and Reserve for 2015;
- (2) transfer a sum of £18,748 from the Capital Reserve to the Community Capital Grants Budget for awards during 2015/16;
- (3) note the budgets available for 2015/16 to address priorities for the coming year.

Background

The Council approves budgets in February for the next financial year. Each of the 4 Area Committees has delegated responsibility for monitoring budgets within its control. Area East considers all decisions relating to grant requests over £1,000, its Capital Programme and the allocation & spending of its Reserve. The Executive monitors all budgets on a quarterly basis.

The Area East Committee focuses its resources to address local needs in order to promote improved quality of life in Area East. The Area Development Plan 2014/15 contained a set of local priorities, agreed by the Committee and a work programme with targets, to carry

these forward throughout last year. A report on the achievements of the plan was taken to the April Committee.

Funding Overview

Appendix 1 gives a summary of all project and grants budgets at 2014/15 year end. It also shows available, uncommitted budgets for 2015 Appendix 2 Gives an overview of all funding awards made by the Committee within the 2014/15 year. A sheet showing projects supported and these funding awards, by ward, will be circulated at the meeting for Councillors to keep

Area East Capital Programme

The area capital programme supports investment in new or existing, locally important assets. These may be SSDC owned, community owned or privately owned. In the last two categories support will normally be via a grant scheme. Fuller detail on the spending across the capital programme is attached at Appendix 3. It shows live projects, their funding allocation and spending that took place to 31 March 2015 with a progress report from the lead officer. In summary this shows that there is a total of £63,355 unallocated to projects, including the Parish Infrastructure Fund. This funding is available for local priority schemes in 2015/16.

Community grant applications for capital projects are normally considered twice a year in June and December. If a grant request is urgent it may be considered at other times by agreement with the Chair and Vice Chair. At present there is £6,252 unallocated in 2014/15 for community capital grants. It is recommended that this is topped up to £25,000 for 2015/16. This will leave an unallocated balance in the Capital Reserve of £19,636

Area East Reserve

There is £3,460.00 unallocated in the Area East Reserve. This is an historical revenue fund that is not replenished. It can be used to support unplanned or urgent work or schemes that cannot be supported through the main, annual budgets. It has the flexibility to be used for capital or non-capital work, including staff costs or commissioned work. It can also be spent up front for work that is subsequently reimbursed.

Allocation of Reserve	Approved	£	£ Balance Remaining 14/15	£
Balance B/forward 13/14				60,190
Community Planning-Project Spend	Apr 05	50,000	26,930	
Derelict sites, Castle Cary	Jun 05	4,000	4,000	
Rural Business Units	Nov 05	17,050	5,800	
Wincanton Retail Support Initiative top up	July 14	10,000	10,000	
Retail Support Initiative	May 09	10,000	10,000	
Unallocated Balance				3,460

The *Community Planning project budget* is only available to communities with endorsed parish/ community plans but can be used for assisting the delivery of a range of priority

projects where community grant budget is not available. Proposals can come forward in any month from this allocation.

The *derelict site* funding is available for essential works on a number of sites in Castle Cary with at risk historic buildings.

Spending from these allocations has been slow and Councillors may wish to reconsider these allocations at the Area East Priority workshop in July 2015.

Small Community Grants

A small fund is set aside each year to support community projects. In addition a sum of £10,000 of health and wellbeing money is set aside for the Balsam Centre. This is subject to separate reporting and award by the Committee against an agreed work plan. See Appendix 2 for details of last year's spending.

Area East Discretionary Fund

This annual budget is used, at the discretion of Members, to support partnership work, attract external funding and other regeneration work. Details of how this has been allocated is shown in Appendix 1.

Financial Implications

The level of Area East funding is shown in the body of this report and in the Appendices along with some suggested transfer of funds between budgets. There are no additional financial implications arising from this report.

Council Plan Implications

In compliance with the Council Plan.

Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications

None arising directly from this report.

Equality and Diversity Implications

None arising directly from this report.

Background Papers

Area East Development Plan 2014-15;
Monthly budget monitoring and quarterly capital monitoring reports.
