

Joint Area North Committee – 25th February 2009

11. Area North 2008/9 SSDC Budget Monitoring Report for the Period Ending 31st December 2008 (Executive Decision) (Excepted Business)

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Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the current financial position of the Area North Committee as at the end of December 2008.

The report will be presented by the Head of Area Development (North) as budget holder for SSDC revenue and capital budgets under the control of the Joint Area Committee. NB: Whilst all members of the JAC are invited to comment and discuss this report, only SSDC members may vote on matters relating to SSDC resources.

Recommendation

Members are recommended to:

- (1) Review and comment on the current financial position on Area North Budgets.
- 2) Authorise the Head of Area Development (North) to release the outstanding balance to Somerset County Council, from the Area North Capital Programme, allocated to the Cockle Moor Bridge, Langport, once site works at Langport Visitor centre and legal agreements are completed.

Background

REVENUE BUDGETS

Background

SSDC Full Council in February 2008 set the General Revenue Account Budgets for 2008/9 and delegated the monitoring of the budgets to the four Area Committees and SSDC District Executive. Area North now has delegated responsibility for the Area North Development revenue budgets, which include revenue grants and regeneration, the Area North Capital Programme and the Area North Reserve.

Financial Position

The table below shows the position of revenue budgets as at 31st December 2008. This includes transfers to or from reserves. It also includes the carry forwards agreed by SSDC District Executive in June 2008:

	£
Approved base budget as at Feb 2008	361,980
Budget Carry forwards approved DX June 2008	32,980
Revision of salary budget due to Job Evaluation (JE) results	2,760
Staff Turnover savings	(4,200)
Transfer of training budget to services	1,000
Staff transfer to Area East	(1,960)
Revised Budget as at 31st December 2008	392,560

A summary of the revenue position as at 31st December 2008 is as follows:

Element	Original Budget £	Revised Budget £	Y/E Forecast £	Favourable Variance £	Adverse Variance £	%
Development	330,740	348,340	348,340	-	-	-
Grants	31,240	44,220	44,220	-	-	-
Group Total	361,980	392,560	392,560	-	-	-

Head of Area Development Service Comments

The Development budget includes the provision for the Area North Service Enhancement budget, in addition to all staffing and general administrative costs of service provision, some of which relate to support costs of services based at Old Kelways.

High priority is given to monitoring the expenditure of budgets for grants and projects allocated within the capital programme.

Budget Virements

Under the financial procedure rules the Heads of Service can authorise virements within each individual service of their responsibility (as defined by Appendix B of the Annual Budget Report) and up to a maximum of £25,000 between services within their responsibility providing that the Head of Finance has been notified in advance.

All virements exceeding these limits need the approval of District Executive. All virements between different Services, irrespective of value, need approving by District Executive. Area Committees can approve virements between their reserves and budgets up to a maximum of £25,000 per virement and £50,000 in any one financial year, provided that all such approvals are reported to the District Executive for noting. (In accordance with the constitution)

The following virements have taken place since the last report:

Amount £	From	To	Details
1,160	Job evaluation budget	Area North Budgets	Revision of salary budget due to Job Evaluation (JE) results
3,390	Area North Budgets	Financial Services	Staff turnover savings
1,000	Strategic Management	Area North Budgets	Transfer of training budget to services
1,960	Area North Budgets	Area East budgets	Staff transfer to Area East

AREA RESERVE

The position on the Area North Reserve is as follows:

		£
Position as at 1 st April 2008		56,910
Extra hours for Regeneration Officer 08/09	(4,350)	
Small Business Development Grants	(7,640)	
Promoting local access to services – Area North Community Offices	(2,000)	
Uncommitted balance remaining		42,920

CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The revised capital programme for this financial year and beyond is attached following this report together with a progress report on each scheme either Area or District Wide that are current within Area North. The estimated spend on the North Capital programme in 2008/9 is £260,590. There is £57,110 in reserve schemes for 2008/09 and a further £192,653 for future years.

The details of the Reserve Schemes are as follows:

Schemes	Estimated Spend 2008/9 £	Future Spend £
Unallocated Capital Reserve		59,530
Somerton traffic & safety in West Street		50,000
Martock town centre improvements	2,000	
Langport town centre access & Car Parks	30,000	20,000
Small business grants	5,000	15,000
Community Safety including traffic calming	5,000	10,000
Improving community halls and facilities	11,310	13,123
Play and youth facilities	3,800	25,000
TOTALS	57,110	192,653

If Members would like further details on any of the Area North budgets or services they should contact the relevant budget holder or responsible officer.

Background Papers: *Financial Services Area North budget file.*