

Joint Area Committee – North – 26 August 2009

12. Area North 2009/10 Budget Monitoring Report for the Period Ending 30 June 2009 (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 Joint Area Committee - North as at the end of June 2009.

The report will be presented by the Head of Area Development (North) as budget holder.

Recommendations:

Members are recommended to:

- (1) Review and comment on the current financial position on Area North Budgets
- (2) Agree the revised Reserve Schemes and profiling of the Capital Programme for 2009/10 – 2013/14 (Appendix A).
- (3) Approve £35,000 allocation in detail for the Bartletts Elm Roundabout within the Area North Capital Programme (Capital Appraisal, Appendix B).
- (4) Approve £10,000 allocation in detail for Somerton West Street – town centre enhancements for safety and access within the Area North Capital Programme (Capital Schemes request for Feasibility Fees, Appendix C).
- (5) Agree the re-allocation of £1,533 from the general amenity grants in the capital programme, back into unallocated capital reserve.
- (6) Note the position of the Area North Community Grants budget, including details of grants authorised under the Scheme of Delegation by the Head of Area Development (North) in consultation with the ward member.

REVENUE BUDGETS

Background

Full Council in February 2009 set the General Revenue Account Budgets for 2009/10 and delegated the monitoring of the budgets to the four Joint Area Committees and 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 30 June 2009. This includes transfers to or from reserves. It also includes the carry forwards agreed by District Executive in June 2009:

	£
Approved base budget as at Feb 2009	364,190
Budget carry forwards approved DX June 2009	30,170
Staff turnover savings	(5,720)
Revised budget as at 30 June 2009	388,640

A summary of the revenue position as at 30th 2009 is as follows:

Element	Original Budget £	Revised Budget £	Y/E Forecast £	Favourable Variance £	Adverse Variance £	%
Development	334,830	352,740	356,840	-	4,100	1.1
Grants	29,360	35,900	35,900	-	-	-
Group Total	364,190	388,640	392,740	-	4,100	-

Head of Area Development Comments

The adverse variance of £4,100 for the year is due to the withdrawal of support from SCC for Community Offices. This shortfall will be addressed over the coming months.

As at 30 June the balance of revenue Community Grants is £35,400 for the current year from the revised budget of £35,900. There are in principle commitments towards two service level agreements in the current year, and further grants have been committed since 30 June as shown in the separate table at the end of this report. At the time of writing, around £15,000 remains in the Community Grants revenue budget to the end of March 2010.

No commitments for the Service Enhancement Budget have been made as yet, a further report will be made to councillors to outline potential projects, based on local needs and priorities.

The revised capital programme, following the report presented in April 2009, is included in Appendix A for endorsement.

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
5,720	Area North Budgets	Financial Services	Staff turnover savings

AREA RESERVE

The position on the Area North Reserve is as follows:

		£
Position as at 1 April 2009		56,910
Less amounts allocated:		
Extra hours for Regeneration Officer	(4,350)	
Small Business Development Grants	(7,640)	
Completion of feasibility study for the Langport – Cartgate Cycleway	(1,500)	
Professional fees and associated costs to progress priorities for the re-use of redundant buildings or workspace development	(2,500)	
Promoting local access to services – Area North Community Offices	(2,000)	
Support towards progressing affordable rural housing schemes within the Area North	(15,000)	
Delivery of five community play day events in 2009	(1,500)	
		(34,490)
Uncommitted balance remaining		22,420

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 2009/10 is £222,037. There is £82,000 in reserve schemes for 2009/10 and a further £210,000 for future years.

The details of the Reserve Schemes are as follows:

Schemes	Estimated Spend 2009/10 £	Future Spend £
Unallocated Capital Reserve	20,000	30,000
Somerton, improving safety & access in West Street (feasibility & design) **	5,000	5,000
Martock town centre improvements	2,000	
Langport Vision, including boating access to parking and pathways		35,000
Highways improvements at Fields Road/Bartletts Elm, Huish Episcopi roundabout *		30,000
Feasibility costs of schemes	5,000	10,000
Local priority projects – enhancing facilities and services ***	50,000	100,000
TOTALS	82,000	210,000

* For reserve schemes to be moved into the detailed programme, a capital appraisal is required to be approved. A capital appraisal for the Bartletts Elm Roundabout is included in Appendix B. The total contribution of £35,000 agreed in principle would come from £30,000 earmarked specifically in the Reserve Scheme as above, with the remaining £5,000 from Local priority projects.

** It is proposed to move feasibility costs of £10,000 in respect of Somerton West Street – town centre enhancements for safety and access into the detailed programme. A Capital Schemes request for feasibility fees is included in Appendix C

*** Since 30 June, £39,435 has been allocated towards two projects: £35,000 towards Seavington Community Shop and Services and £4,435 for Langport Local Information Centre and Community Office.

The main Capital Programme for 2009/10 includes £1,533 for two outstanding General Amenity Grants from last year that are no longer required. The grants were for South Petherton allotments (withdrawn) and Cricket Club (completed). Agreement is required to transfer £1,533 from capital amenity grants in the capital programme to unallocated capital reserve for 2009/10.

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.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

The details of the Community Grants are as below:

	£	£
Original Budget as at Feb 2009		29,360
Budget Carry forwards approved June 2009:		6,540
Revised Budget as at 30th June 2009		35,900
<u>Less Committed:</u>		
Carried forward 08-09		
Hambridge & West Parish Council - lights	2,290	
Langport Community Office - relocation	3,000	
Somerton Tourism Partnership - leaflet	500	
Somerset Art Works – hub development	750	
Grants offered 1 April – 30 June		
South Petherton 60 Club – Bingo equipment	64	
Kingsbury May Festival – new marquee	500	
Somerton Summer Festival – Family Fun Day	250	
Compton Short Mat Bowls Club - mats	750	
Over Stratton Village Hall – roof/mullion repair	750	
Seavington History Project – Seavington book	750	
Ash Parish Council – allotment fencing	400	
Grants offered 1 July - to date		
Norton Sub Hamdon Reading Room - roof	750	
Long Load Tennis Club – table tennis table	175	
Langport Youth Centre – summer activities	503	
Somerton Youth Centre – summer activities	628	
Service Level Agreements (subject to applications)		
Somerton & Langport LINKS	5000	
Martock Youth Project – Service Level Agreement	3,500	(20060)
Uncommitted balance remaining		(15340)

Background Papers – Financial Services Area North budget file
