

Joint Area Committee – North – 25 November 2009

14. Area North 2009/10 Budget Monitoring Report for the Period Ending 30th September 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 North Committee as at the end of September 2009.

The report will be presented by the Area Development Manager (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 and Appendix B)
- (3) Note the position of the Area North Community Grants budget (Appendix C), including details of grants authorised under the Scheme of Delegation by the Area Development Manager (North) in consultation with the ward member(s)

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 30th September 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)
Transfer of salary budget to Environmental Health	(20,870)
Revised Budget as at 30th September 2009	367,770

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

Element	Original Budget £	Revised Budget £	Y/E Forecast £	Favourable Variance £	Adverse Variance £	%
Development	334,830	331,870	335,970	-	4,100	1.2
Grants	29,360	35,900	35,900	-	-	-
Group Total	364,190	367,770	371,870	-	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 as part of the current Community Office review.

The 'Development' budget in the above table includes the costs of staff, administration, and the £40,000 service enhancement budget. To date, £10,000 has been allocated from this budget to Streetscene Services.

The 'Grants' budget is for grants made under the SSDC Community Grants programme and details of the current position are included in Appendix C

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
20,870	Area North Budgets	Environmental Health	Transfer of salary budget for Support Assistant's post

AREA RESERVE

The position on the Area North Reserve as at 30th September is as follows:

	£	£	Comments
Position as at 1 st April 2009		56,910	
Less amounts allocated:			
Extra hours for Regeneration Officer	(4,350)		Return to balances
Small Business Development Grants	(7,640)		Current programme under evaluation, balance remaining - £1,610
Completion of feasibility study for the Langport – Cartgate Cycleway	(1,500)		Partially completed, Report due; keep provision for further fees if approved
Professional fees and associated costs to progress priorities for the re-use of redundant buildings or workspace development	(2,500)		£750 spent to progress re-use of empty property; retain provision for further work as required
Promoting local access to services – Area North Community Offices	(2,000)		Allocations to be made
Support towards progressing affordable rural housing schemes within the Area North	(15,000)		To transfer at year-end as required for additional staffing, printing, and professional fees
Delivery of five community play day events in 2009	(1,500)		Report due, followed by transfer to play & youth services
		(34,490)	
Uncommitted balance remaining		22,420	

CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The revised capital programme for this financial year and beyond is attached as Appendix A and Appendix B 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 main programme in 2009/10 is £287,419 and a further £40,000 for future years.

There is £16,618 in reserve schemes for 2009/10 and a further £170,000 for future years.

The details of the Reserve Schemes are as follows:

SCHEMES	Estimated Spend 2009/10 £	Future Spend £
Unallocated Capital Reserve	7,500	30,000
Martock town centre improvements	2,000	
Langport Vision, including boating access to parking and pathways		35,000
Feasibility costs of schemes	5,000	10,000
Local priority projects – enhancing facilities and services	2,118	95,000
TOTALS	16,618	170,000

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 included in Appendix C. The uncommitted balance remaining is £15,857.

An evaluation of the success of each grant will be completed during the year.

Background Papers – Financial Services Area North budget file