

11. Area North Budget Monitoring Report for the Period Ending 30 September 2010

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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 September 2010. The report will be presented by the Area Development Manager (North) as budget holder.

Public Interest

This report gives an update on the financial position of Area North Committee half way through the financial year 2010/11.

Recommendations

Members are recommended to:

- (1) Review and comment on the current financial position on Area North budgets
- (2) Note the position of the Area North Reserve as at 30 September 2010
- (3) Note the position of the Capital Programme for 2010/11 to 2014/15 (Appendix A) and of the Play & Youth capital investment programme in Area North (Appendix B)
- (4) Note the position of the Area North Community Grants budget, including details of grants authorised under the Scheme of Delegation by the Area Development Manager (North) in consultation with the ward member(s) (Appendix C)

REVENUE BUDGETS

Background

Full Council in February 2010 set the General Revenue Account Budgets for 2010/11 and delegated the monitoring of the budgets to the four Area Committees and District Executive. Area North now has delegated responsibility for the Area North Development revenue budgets, (which include revenue grants); 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 2010. This includes transfers to or from reserves.

	£
Approved base budget as at Feb 2010	324,350
Carry forwards approved July 2010 (Grants and Service Enhancements committed but not paid)	53,780
Funding contribution to 3 rd Sector & Partnership Assistant	(3,500)
Revised Budget as at 30th September 2010	374,630

A summary of the revenue position as at 30th September 2010 is as follows:

Element	Original Budget £	Revised Budget £	Y/E Forecast £	Variance £	Fav / Adv	%
Development	295,990	332,300	332,300	-	-	-
Grants	28,360	42,330	42,330	-	-	-
Group Total	324,350	374,630	374,630	-	-	-

Area Development Manager (North) Comments

The Development Budget includes all staff salaries & travel costs for the Area Development and Area Support teams, supplies and services (printing, post, phones) and the Service Enhancement budget.

The overall net expenditure for Area North is expected to be within budget for the year, although the grants and service enhancement budgets if committed but unspent, will be requested as carry forwards.

The budget held for Service Enhancements (within the above Development budget) is uncommitted and includes a £10,000 carry forward from 2009-10, making £50,000 in total for 2010-11.

More detailed progress on committed expenditure against local priorities is referred to in the Area Development Plan update contained within this agenda, and within the attached appendices to this report for the capital programme and grants.

As would be expected, there is a significant time being spent at present to identify savings for 2011-12, over and above previously required annual savings target (4%).

At present it is assumed that the capital programme will be retained in its current form, which provides a good level of continued investment into Area North into community priorities – with an ever increasing focus on contributing to long term sustainability for local communities.

Budget Virements

Under the financial procedure rules the Strategic/Assistant Directors and Service Managers 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 Assistant Director Finance & Corporate Services 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)
There have been no virements since the last report.

AREA RESERVE

The position on the Area North Reserve as at 30th September 2010 is as follows:

	£	£	Comments
Position as at 1st April 2010		43,920	
<u>Less amounts allocated:</u>			
Completion of feasibility study for the Langport – Cartgate Cycleway	(1,000)		£1500 allocated. Draft report collated. Meeting held with Sustrans; Update report due Dec 10; additional hours appointed to complete work.
Promoting local access to services – Area North Community Offices	(2,000)		Additional work achieved without cost to date.
Support towards progressing affordable rural housing schemes within the Area North	(15,000)		To transfer as required for additional staffing, printing, and professional fees. Work to date covered from existing budgets.
Delivery of five community play day events in 2009	(1,500)		Work completed, funds not required – return to unallocated balance.
Professional fees and associated costs to progress priorities for the re-use of redundant buildings or workspace development	(2,000)	2,000	£500 spent from original allocation to progress re-use of empty property. Remaining allocation of £2,000 transferred to the enforcement action below.
Serving of Section 215 Planning Enforcement Notice to owner of property in dilapidated condition	(17,500)		To cover the costs of SSDC carrying out remedial works if owner of property fails to comply; and subsequently reclaiming from owner. Enforcement process is ongoing.
Listed building enforcement action	(1,000)		As above at another property. Some work completed by owner. Conservation team continuing to monitor.
Total Committed		(38,000)	
Uncommitted balance remaining		5,920	

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 (Appendices A & B).

The estimated spend on approved schemes in the North Capital programme in 2010/11 is £154,611, with a further £45,000 allocated for future years. There is £80,898 in the reserve schemes for 2010/11 and a further £140,000 for future years.

The details of the Reserve Schemes for future years are as follows:

Schemes	Estimated Spend 2009/10 £	Future Spend £
Unallocated Capital Reserve	36,240	40,000
Langport Vision – river and countryside access to promote sustainable tourism in Cocklemoor / Upper Parrett area		20,000
Local priority projects – enhancing facilities and services	44,658	80,000
TOTALS	80,898	140,000

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

During the quarter to September, grant funding of £400 was made under the delegated grants below £750.

There remains an uncommitted balance of £18,808 out of a total grants budget of £42,330 (Appendix C).

Corporate Priority Implications

The budget is closely linked to the Corporate Plan.

Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications (NI188)

There are no implications currently in approving this report.

Equality and Diversity Implications

When the Area North budget was set any savings made included an assessment of the impact on equalities as part of that exercise.

Background Papers – Financial Services Area North budget file