

Area North Committee – 23 February 2011

## 11. Area North Budget Monitoring Report for the Period Ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010 (Executive Decision)

*Executive Portfolio Holder:* Robin Munday, Finance and Support Services  
*Chief Executive:* Mark Williams, Chief Executive  
*Assistant Director:* Donna Parham, Finance and Corporate Services  
*Service Manager:* Amanda Card, Finance Manager  
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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 2010.

### Public Interest

This report gives an update on the financial position of Area North Committee after nine months of 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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010 and approve to transfer back to the Reserve Fund £1,500 originally allocated in May 2009 for community play day events which were financed from other sources.
- (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 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<sup>th</sup> December 2010. This includes transfers to or from reserves.

	£
<b>Approved base budget as at Feb 2010</b>	<b>324,350</b>
Carry forwards approved July 2010	53,780
Funding contribution to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sector & Partnership Assistant	(3,500)
<b>Revised Budget as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010</b>	<b>374,630</b>

A summary of the revenue position as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010 is as follows:

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

### Area Development Manager (North) Comments

The overall net expenditure for Area North is expected to be within budget for the year, or result in a small underspend in the light of various efficiencies made during the year in the course of changing our accommodation requirements.

In addition, the £40,000 not allocated for service enhancements will be requested as a carry forward into 2011-12 to enable us to assist with transition funding to help parishes and communities to adapt to reduced public services – where these helps achieve SSDC corporate priorities.

In the Grants budget there are a number of small grants under consideration that we anticipate will complete the annual budget allocation.

### Budget Virements

Under the financial procedure rules the Strategic/Assistant Directors and 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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010 is as follows:

	£	£	Comments
<b>Position as at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010</b>		<b>43,920</b>	
<u>Less amounts allocated:</u>			
Completion of feasibility study for the Langport – Cartgate Cycleway	(1,000)		Partially completed £500 spent of £1500 allocation. Remaining work has now been completed but from main budget. An update report will be provided separately.
Promoting local access to services – Area North Community Offices	(2,000)		Additional work achieved without cost to date. Reviewing broadband into community offices / LICs.
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, funding not required.
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 of £2500, to progress re-use of empty property. Remaining allocation of £2,000 transferred to the enforcement action below.
Provision to underwrite risk of costs of enforcement action (s215) for empty property.	(17,500)		Enforcement process is ongoing; owner has agree to comply, but not complied yet.
Provision to underwrite risk of costs of enforcement action (listed building).	(1,000)		As above. Some work completed by owner. Conservation team continuing to monitor.
<b>Total Committed</b>		<b>(38,000)</b>	
<b>Uncommitted balance remaining</b>		<b>5,920</b>	

\* Members are requested to approve a transfer back to the Reserve Fund of £1,500 originally allocated in May 2009 for community play day events which were financed from other sources and no longer required.

## 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 the North Capital programme in 2010/11 is £150,580, with a further £61,531 allocated for future years.

There is £68,398 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:

<b>Schemes</b>	<b>Estimated Spend 2009/10 £</b>	<b>Future Spend £</b>
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	32,158	80,000
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>68,398</b>	<b>140,000</b>

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 December, Committee approval was given in October for a grant of £1,445 and a grant funding of £300 was made under the delegated grants below £750.

There remains an uncommitted balance of £16422.44 out of a total grants budget of £42,324 (Appendix C). There are a series of small grants arising from the past few months of community led initiatives, which are in hand or expected by year end.

### **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.