

Area North Committee – 28 March 2012

11. Area North 2011/12 Budget Monitoring Report for the Period Ending 31st December 2011

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(This report was deferred from Area North Committee on 22 February 2012.)

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 2011.

Public Interest

This report gives an update on the financial position of Area North Committee after nine months of the financial year 2011/12.

Recommendations:

Members are recommended to:

- (1) Note this is a deferred report from the February Agenda, which includes some additional comments of the Area Development Manager (North), not published in the February report.
- (2) Review and comment on the current financial position on Area North budgets
- (3) Note the position of the Area North Reserve as at 31 December 2011
- (4) Note the position of the Area North Capital Programme for 2011/12 to 2015/16 (Appendix A) as at 31 December 2011
- (5) Note the position of the Play & Youth capital investment programme in Area North (Appendix B)
- (6) 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)

REVENUE BUDGETS

Background

Full Council in February 2011 set the General Revenue Account Budgets for 2011/12 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 31st December 2011. This includes transfers to or from reserves.

	£
Approved base budget as at Feb 2011	263,480
Carry forwards approved June 2011	50,050
Transfer of salary savings	(2,320)
Revised Budget as at 31 st December 2011	311,210

A summary of the revenue position as at 31st December 2011 is as follows:

Element	Original Budget £	Revised Budget £	Y/E Forecast £	Variance £	Fav / Adv	%
Development	248,120	284,160	279,160	5,000	Fav	1.8
Grants	15,360	27,050	27,050	-	-	-
Group Total	263,480	311,210	306,210	5,000	Fav	1.6

Area Development Manager (North) Comments

N.B. These comments have been updated since published in February Agenda.

The overall net expenditure for Area North is expected to be at least £5,000 below budget due to salary underspend from staff internal secondment and includes planned savings of at least 4% on the 2010/11 budget.

The **carry forwards** from 2010-11 of £50,050 noted above include:

Item	£	Update (31-01-12)
Housing and access to services	£10,000	Additional hours to be supplied from the Housing service for welfare benefits advice.
Community Safety Projects	£ 3,000	Allocated to local community safety priorities through grants.
Rural Transport development	£ 5,000	Seek to carry forward to 12-13
Community Justice Panel	£2,500	Transferred to the CJP
Unallocated service enhancement / transition budget	£17,500	To be allocated / carried forward to 12-13
Community Grants	£12,050	All grants paid

The Service transition budget carried forward from 2010-11 is £17,500. If the committee awards a grant to the South Petherton Parish Group Lengthsman Scheme, contained elsewhere in this agenda, the grant will be deducted from this budget.

From reviewing current priorities for investment into Area North identified by ward members, town and parish councils, and community groups, I propose to make a further request for the remaining balance to be carried forward. Of particular interest is the result of the current review of subsidy for rural bus services. The SSDC Transport Officer and Regeneration Officer will be reviewing the final position once known, particularly with respect to opportunities to develop or extend demand responsive, community transport schemes, or private sector. A report is expected to the committee in April or May, and from there the allocation of the service transition budget can be further considered.

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)

No virements have taken place since the last report.

AREA RESERVE

The position on the Area North Reserve as at 31st December 2011 is as follows:

	£	£	Comments
Position as at 1st April 2011		43,920	
<u>Less remaining allocations:</u>			
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.
Total Committed		(15,000)	
Uncommitted balance remaining		28,920	

CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The 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 2011/12 is £105,667.

There is £71,898 in the reserve schemes for 2011/12 and a further £220,000 for future years.

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

Schemes	Estimated Spend 2011/12 £	Future Spend £
Unallocated Capital Reserve	51,240	75,000
Allocation to support Economic Vitality in Area North		20,000
Planning enforcement action – provision for compensation		45,000
Local priority projects – enhancing facilities and services	20,658	80,000
TOTALS	71,898	220,000

COMMUNITY GRANTS

There remains an uncommitted balance of £7,284 from the grants budget for 2011-12 of £15,360. However, further grants to the value of £4,427 have been received and are currently being assessed. If approved this will leave an uncommitted balance of £2,857 until the end of March.

All community grants carried forward from 2010/11 have been completed.

Community Grants Summary

Original budget 2011/12	£15,360
Carry forward from 2010/11	£12,050
Total revised budget	£27,410
Qtr 1 & 2010/11 carry forward - offered, committed or paid	£16,376
Qtr 2 - offered, committed or paid	£3,325
Qtr 3 - offered, committed or paid	£425
Balance as at 31 st December 2011	£7,284

Update on previous grants

Quarter 3 (October – December 2011) grants offered.

Group	Award	Comment	Paid (as at January 2012)
Long Sutton Village Hall & Recreation Ground	425	Kickwall on the recreation ground	Yes
Total	£425		

If Members would like further details on any of the Area North budgets or services they should contact the Area Development Manager (North).

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
