

## 11. Area North 2012/13 Budget Monitoring Report for the Period Ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012

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*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 June 2012.

### Public Interest

This report gives an update on the financial position of Area North Committee after three months of the financial year 2012/13.

### 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<sup>th</sup> June 2012
- (3) Note the position of the Area North Capital Programme for 2012/13 to 2016/17 (Appendix A) as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012
- (4) Note the position of the Play & Youth capital investment programme in Area North (Appendix B)
- (5) 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 in consultation with the ward members.

## REVENUE BUDGETS

### Background

Full Council in February 2012 set the General Revenue Account Budgets for 2012/13 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> June 2012. This includes transfers to or from reserves.

	£
<b>Approved base budget as at Feb 2012</b>	<b>192,440</b>
Carry forwards approved June 2012	36,990
<b>Revised Budget as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012</b>	<b>229,430</b>

A summary of the revenue position as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012 is as follows:

Element	Original Budget £	Revised Budget £	Y/E Forecast £	Variance £	Fav / Adv	%
Development	192,440	226,440	226,440	-	-	
Grants	0	2,990	2,990	-	-	
<b>Group Total</b>	<b>192,440</b>	<b>229,430</b>	<b>229,430</b>	-	-	

The original grants budget was £15,370 but as this is funded from New Homes Bonus it is showing as a nil balance in the table above. Together with the carry forward there is a grants budget of £18,360 for 2012/13.

### Area Development Manager Comments

The revenue budget includes employee costs, supplies and services and a budget for community grants. The approved 'carry forwards' include:

	Update position
£10,000 for additional welfare benefit uptake service in Area North	Officer appointed to provide additional one day a week within Area North for trial period of one year.
£21,000 for rural / community transport investment	Report to be compiled in Autumn
£1,500 for South Petherton Area Lengthsman scheme	Payment made.
£1,500 for community safety projects	£825 awarded and paid. £675 remaining.

## Capital

I have profiled the allocation for signage & marketing (£20,000) to support local economic vitality for £5,000 2012-13 and £15,000 2013-14. This project needs further planning, to be undertaken from September. Additional signage for Cartgate is on order, funded from the reserves. The intention is to grant aid rather than complete direct installation, with long term ownership by third parties (e.g. parish councils, business owners). Suggested ideas include supporting additional 'brown signs' for tourism based services, and signage for business and retail centres.

I have allocated £25,000 towards "local priorities" – most likely allocated through as grants. This can include small grants awarded under delegated powers. There is a further £72,658 for future years in this section of the budget, i.e.: a further two years of funding at a similar level.

This leaves around £150,000 'unallocated'. Capital schemes can come forward at any time, and can be used by SSDC for its own assets; to support a scheme in partnership with another public body; or to grant aid a local community facilities. Feasibility studies / assessments for physical schemes can also be funded from capital programme. There are a number of local schemes under development, and applications for funding are likely – for example improvements to the Parish Hall, Martock, Tintinhull and Montacute Village Halls. An application for support from the Links community transport service is also possible for replacement vehicles.

A potential area of need – with good long term benefits would be assisting local schemes for a 'last mile' connection for high speed broadband. However at this stage, it is not known whether this is affordable or what the need would be. Further clarification is being sought from Connecting Somerset.

The guidance offered by the Area Development team will always consider external and local funding first, and a number of schemes have been successfully completed with minimal financial support from SSDC.

## 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 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012 is as follows:

	£	£	Comments
Position as at 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2012		43,920	
Less remaining allocations:			
Support towards progressing	(15,000)		To transfer as required for

affordable rural housing schemes within the Area North			additional staffing, printing, and professional fees. £5000 allocated to the Norton Community land Trust for legal fees.
Interpretation panels at Cartgate picnic area	(5,000)		Approved June 2012 Panels have been ordered.
Total Committed		(20,000)	
Uncommitted balance remaining		23,920	

## 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 2012/13 is £58,988.

There is £81,240 in the reserve schemes for 2012/13 and a further £232,658 for future years.

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

Schemes	Estimated Spend	Future Spend
	2012/13 £	£
Unallocated Capital Reserve	51,240	100,000
Allocation to support Economic Vitality in Area North	5,000	15,000
Planning enforcement action		45,000
Local priority projects – enhancing facilities and services	25,000	72,658
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>81,240</b>	<b>232,658</b>

## COMMUNITY GRANTS

During the 3 months to June 2012, £4,083 was awarded under delegated authority for grants up to £750.

There remains an uncommitted balance of £11,267 from the grants budget for 2012/13 of £18,360. Since 30<sup>th</sup> June further applications to the value of £750 have been received and are currently being assessed. If approved, this will leave an uncommitted balance of £10,517.

## Community Grants Summary

Original budget 2012/13	£15,370
Carry forward from 2011/12	£2,990
<b>Total revised budget (1)</b>	<b>£18,360</b>
Carry forwards paid	(£500)
Carry forwards to be paid	(£2,250)
Carry forwards withdrawn	£240
<b>Total revised budget (2)</b>	<b>£15,850</b>
Qtr 1 Grants offered (as detailed below)	(£2,583)
SLA's (as detailed below)	(£2,000)
<b>Balance as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012</b>	<b>£11,267</b>

### Update on grants awarded

#### **Quarter 1 (April-June 2012) grants offered under £750**

<i>Group</i>	<i>Award</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Paid (as at June 2012)</i>
Drayton Village Hall – floor refurbishment	£700	Project completed	Yes
Petherton Folk Festival	£750	Project completed	Yes
Lopen Church – hearing loop	£633	Awaiting project completion	No
Somerton Business Association – mini guide leaflet	£500	Awaiting project completion	No
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,583</b>		

#### **Quarter 1 (April-June 2012) grants offered/commitments under service level agreements.**

SLA = Service Level Agreement

<i>Group</i>	<i>Award</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Paid (as at June 2012)</i>
Langport Local Information Centre	£500	SLA agreed	Yes
Somerton Local Information Centre	£500	SLA agreed	Yes
Martock Local Information Centre	£500	SLA agreed	Yes
South Petherton Community Information Centre	£500	Awaiting signed SLA	No
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,000</b>		

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*

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