

12. Area North 2012/13 Budget Monitoring Report for the Period Ending 31st December 2012

Chief Executive: Mark Williams, Chief Executive
Assistant Director: Donna Parham, Finance and Corporate Services
Service Manager: Amanda Card, Finance Manager
Lead Officer: Catherine Hood, Management Accountant
Contact Details: Catherine.Hood@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462157

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 2012.

Public Interest

This report gives an update on the financial position of Area North Committee after nine 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 31st December 2012
- (3) Note the position of the Area North Capital Programme for 2012/13 to 2016/17 (Appendix A) as at 31st December 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 31st December 2012. This includes transfers to or from reserves.

	£
Approved original budget as at Feb 2012	192,440
Carry forwards approved June 2012	36,990
Transfer from Area North Reserve funding for interpretation panels at Cartgate	4,320
Allocation of training budgets	1,130
Revised Budget as at 31st December 2012	234,880

A summary of the revenue position as at 31st December 2012 is as follows:

Element	Original Budget £	Revised Budget £	Y/E Forecast £	Variance £	Fav / Adv	%
Development	192,440	231,890	231,890	-	-	
Grants	0	2,990	2,990	-	-	
Group Total	192,440	234,880	234,880	-	-	

The actual grants budget for 2012-13 is £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 from 2011-12 there is a grants budget of £18,360 for 2012/13.

Area Development Manager Comments

Savings planned for this year will be achieved, and there is likely to be a small underspend as a result of on-going efficiency work within the service, and some savings on salaries due to staff changes.

The carry forward of £21,000 for rural transport initiatives has not been allocated, partly due to the need to assess the impact of reductions to public bus subsidies by SCC. Further consideration to this 'reserve' fund is needed prior to the end of year accounts being prepared.

The community grants budget will be allocated to local priority projects in full by 31st March.

Delivery of the Council Plan, through local investment is largely dealt with through grants and partnerships. The recent collection of s106 obligations, additional corporate funding, external grants and other sources of funding have meant that many 'capital' schemes have progressed well without the need for an allocation from the Area North programme.

The unallocated and reserve capital programme is recommended to be carried forward, and re-profiled for 2013-14 with reserve allocations for "community investment priorities" and "local economic development".

All projects with specific allocations from grants, the reserves and capital programme have a named lead officer, individual project plans and are regularly monitored.

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)

The following virement has taken place since the last report:

Amount £	From	To	Details
1,130	Strategic management	Area North Service Budgets	Allocation of corporate training budget

AREA RESERVE

The position on the Area North Reserve as at 31st December 2012 is as follows:

	£	£	Comments
Position as at 1st April 2012		43,920	
Less amounts transferred for use in 2012/13:			
Interpretation panels at Cartgate picnic area	(4,320)		Project completed.
Current balance in Reserve at 31st December 2012		39,600	
Less remaining allocations:			
Support towards progressing affordable rural housing schemes within the Area North	(15,000)		To transfer as required for additional staffing, printing, and professional fees. £5000 allocated to establish Community Land Trust in Norton sub Hamdon.
Interpretation panels at Cartgate picnic area	(680)		Project completed. Small underspend to be returned to balances.
Total Committed		(15,680)	
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 £66,988 and £15,000 for future years.

There is £73,240 in the reserve schemes for 2012/13 and a further £217,658 for future years.

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

Schemes	Estimated Spend 2012/13 £	Future Spend £
Unallocated Capital Reserve	51,240	100,000
Planning enforcement – provision for compensation		45,000
Local priority projects – enhancing facilities and services	22,000	72,658
TOTALS	73,240	217,658

COMMUNITY GRANTS

During Quarter 3 (October – December 2012), £2,600 was awarded from the community grants budget towards community projects, under delegated authority.

<i>Group, project, total project value</i>	<i>Award</i>
Ash Parish Council - Barrier restriction at recreation ground. (Total project value £1,050)	£350
Langport & Huish Memorial Field Committee- support towards MUGA project development (Total project value £1,500)	£750
Martock M3 - "Making Martock Sparkle" – Equipment as part of festive events. (Total project value £4,920)	£750
Ash Parish Council – Enhancement and maintenance to woodland area (Total project value £1,500)	£750
Total	£2,600

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

Council Plan Implications

The budget is closely linked to the Council 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