

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2013/2014
HEADS OF SERVICE COMMENTS
AS AT JANUARY 2014

Public Sector Housing

This is the most ambitious programme of investment that the Council has undertaken and this year's Budget for Public Sector Housing is £15.1m.

It is anticipated, however, that there will be some slippage into next year for the following schemes: Disabled Adaptations, Environmental Improvements, Void Capital Contingency, Communal Areas, Lifts, General Sheltered Upgrades, Drainage, and Elmstead Affordable Housing. The main reasons for this slippage are planning and design issues along with retentions.

There is likely to be an overspend due to excess need on the Communal Door and Community Heating Programmes. This overspend, however, will be more than offset by tender savings achieved in the following work streams: Heating, Energy Efficiency, Kitchen and Bathroom Replacements, Replacement Windows and Doors, General Contingency, and corresponding Professional Fees.

All of the remaining schemes, including Firbeck Revival Project, are progressing with budgets fully committed. Most will be substantially completed by the end of the financial year allowing for retentions and minor slippage.

This is a satisfactory position bearing in mind the level of investment and the resources available.

Housing Strategy

The proposed Affordable Housing scheme at Furnival/Pickles Drive has been delayed but is still progressing. Budget has been earmarked for a contribution to three further sites that have attracted HCA funding. The remaining Affordable Housing Budget will be used for further sites that have been identified where our registered provider partner has also committed resources.

Each site is different and delivery and timing can be affected by various issues. However, the first development using this budget will commence construction later in the year meaning that budgets will slip into the next financial year.

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Regeneration and Estates

Demolition works at Gorseley Place are complete and the timeline for the Greenshoots project has been finalised. Plans are being put into place for procurement and appointment of consultants for the Greenshoots project and expenditure is likely to be in the next financial year.

Although the scoping work for the Culvert Debris Screens is scheduled to start by the end of the financial year, it is anticipated that this budget will need to slip into next year when the scheme should be completed.

Property Management

The Corporate Property Programme comprises a number of projects within Property Services. As the responsibility for resurfacing of the car park at the Robert Hodge Centre is with Technical Services, this budget (£40,000) has been transferred from Property Services. The remaining schemes are progressing and, although some are dependent upon the weather, the Programme will be delivered by 31st March.

Planning

An order has been placed for new PC's for the Planning ICT System and phase 2 is likely to commence in April. The budget for this phase will, therefore, need to be slipped into the new financial year.

The remaining Planning schemes are demand led. The Free Tree Scheme has been hugely popular and is complete for the year. However, demand for both Conservation Area Enhancement Grants and Buildings at Risk has been lower than anticipated and unused budgets will be slipped into the next financial year.

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Community Services - Private Sector Housing

Both Renovation Grants and Disabled Facility Grants are demand led but expenditure should be in line with current budgets. Any unspent budgets will be slipped into the new financial year to meet anticipated demand.

The Clearance Programme is completed.

Other Community Services

The Leisure Trust funding is part of an on-going agreement and the budget will be fully spent. Playground Improvement Schemes are completed for the year as is the extension to Sandy Lane Car Park and the resurfacing of the car park at the Robert Hodge Centre.

The CCTV schemes are progressing and will be mostly completed this financial year although there could be an element of slippage for the Parish area allocation.

Expenditure on additional works on the Flood Alleviation schemes at both Calico and Dock Brooks will be funded by additional grant. Works at Abbey Brook have commenced and will continue into the new year.

Survey works on Playing Pitch Improvements are due to commence towards the end of the financial year and may slip into next year. This is also the case for Moor Street.

Approvals for using section 106 monies have been made for the refurbishment of the fountain at St Helen's Road Park, the development of a Bowling Green adjacent to Ormskirk Cricket Ground, and improvements to the park at Ruff Wood. Although preliminary works on these schemes is due to commence, the approvals have not been included in the programme as the timing of the expenditure is uncertain. The phasing of the approvals will be included in the next monitoring report.

Street Scene

Replacement Blue Bins have been purchased and distributed to households and the scheme is expected to be completed on schedule by the end of April.

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Corporate Services

Progress made on delivering Parish Capital Schemes rests with individual Parishes and is not within the direct control of the Borough Council. Part of this budget has been reprofiled into the new financial year and part has been given back to the Capital Pot.

A new ICT strategy is being drawn up to ensure that risk is effectively controlled. Expenditure to date in this area has been limited but will increase significantly once the strategy has been put in place. Work on the new Website Content Management System has also commenced and a number of purchase orders have been raised for this project.