

REVISED CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2014/2015
HEADS OF SERVICE COMMENTS

Housing Strategy
<p>The Affordable Housing budget is committed to our Partnership with Regenda Housing Group with two sites providing 35 units now under construction.</p> <p>The remaining budget has been reprofiled into next year to take account of the viability assessment work required in respect of each of the other sites identified to use this budget. A third site of 14 units earmarked to use this budget will shortly be submitted into the planning system.</p> <p>The partnership has helped attract £0.8m of additional HCA investment to our Borough. New Homes Bonus at the higher rate will also be achieved when the affordable units are completed.</p>
Regeneration and Estates
<p>Consultants have been appointed for the Greenshoots Project and expenditure is dependent on the outcome of their assessment. Most of the approval has, therefore, been re-profiled to accommodate this.</p> <p>An interface with the Housing QL system is currently being trialled and the approval will be used for licence upgrade and implementation if this is successful.</p> <p>Scoping work for the Culvert Debris Screens is progressing and the scheme should be completed by the end of the financial year.</p>
Corporate Property Management
<p>The Corporate Property Programme overall spend is low at the mid-year point when compared with previous years. This is mainly due to the fact that the budget holder retired in April. However, a new Facilities Manager has recently been appointed and it is anticipated that there is sufficient time left to fully deliver the programme by the 31st March 2015.</p>

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Planning

The Free Tree Scheme runs in October and November and expenditure is expected to be in line with the budget. Expenditure on implementing the OR recommendations is dependent upon the Planning ICT Upgrade which is due for completion by December.

The new CIL/S106 Database has been implemented and quotes are being investigated for the Replacement Scanner which should be installed by the end of the financial year. The Canal Towpath scheme should also be completed by the end of the financial year but is dependent on match funding from external partners.

A Government Grant has been received for software to implement the New Burdens Inspire Project. This will be used in collaboration with the LCC Mapzone Group and spent within the financial year.

The remaining Planning schemes are demand led. There are commitments for Conservation Area Enhancement Grants but the Buildings at Risk budget has not yet been called upon.

Street Scene

The Replacement Blue Bins scheme is complete and bins have been distributed to households.

The Vehicle In-Cab Communication System will be completed by the end of the financial year.

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Corporate Services

The progress made on delivering Parish Capital Projects rests with individual Parish Councils and is not within the direct control of the Borough Council. Part of this year's budget has been re-profiled into the next financial year and part has been returned to the Capital Pot as it is no longer required.

Allocations from the Environmental/Town and Village Centre Improvement Fund have been agreed for works to Ormskirk Car Parks, Christmas Lights, Poppies, CCTV, and a joint scheme to provide a public car park facility in Banks with North Meols Parish Council. This Fund may also need to be used to support the Moor Street project in Ormskirk and Public Realm Improvements in Skelmersdale.

An ICT strategy has been agreed and the necessary funding put in place to deliver it. While expenditure to date in this area has been limited, the strategy should ensure that key issues will be addressed. For example, in addition to developments specific to individual services (eg. Civica Icon upgrades, ensuring card payments taken council wide are compliant with Data Security Standards), Strategy Projects currently planned/underway include:

- replacing and upgrading Microsoft ICT infrastructure (which is recognised as a key risk on the Council's strategic risk register)
- upgrade of the SQL Server (to meet the needs of third party applications, for example Northgate and Civica Icon (for income management))
- implementation of secure remote access (to comply with the government's PSN requirements which means for example that we can continue to deliver the Revenue and Benefits service)
- replacement of / upgrading Windows XP machines with Windows 7 pro (as Windows XP becomes 'end of life').

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Community Services - Private Sector Housing

Both Housing Renewal Grants and Disabled Facility Grants are demand led. Demand for Renewal Grants is likely to be lower than anticipated and some of the approval has been re-profiled into the next financial year. Expenditure on both schemes should now be in line with budgets and any unspent budgets will be slipped into the new financial year to meet anticipated demand.

Other Community Services

The Leisure Trust funding is part of an on-going agreement and the budget will be fully spent.

Approvals using section 106 monies have been included for improvement works at various parks and the Bowling Green and new play equipment. Works for these schemes should be mostly complete by the end of the financial year.

The remaining CCTV approvals for Phase 3 have been included in the Programme. This phase is currently in the planning stages and will complete early next year.

Works are progressing on Flood Alleviation Schemes and should complete early next year.