

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2014/2015
HEADS OF SERVICE COMMENTS
As at JANUARY 2015

Housing Strategy
<p>The Affordable Housing budget is committed to the Council's partnership with Regenda Housing Group. The first affordable housing scheme through the Partnership comprised 4 units and completed January 2015. A second site, of 31 units, is under construction and a third site, of 14 units is progressing through the planning system. A fourth site, of 12 units, has planning permission and is due to commence during 2015. Due to the timing of progress on these schemes means that there is likely to be slippage on this scheme.</p> <p>This total of 61 units that will be provided through this project is significantly higher than the original 32 unit maximum originally anticipated. The partnership has also helped attract £1.6m of additional HCA investment to the Borough and 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 progress of the scheme. This is likely to mean that the budget will need to be slipped into the new financial year.</p> <p>The trial with the Housing QL system was not successful and further system investigations are not planned at this time. The GRA funding for this scheme (£10,000) is, therefore, no longer required.</p> <p>Work on the initial Culvert Debris Screens is completed. Works to new Screens will commence in the new financial year meaning that the remaining budget will need to be slipped.</p>
Corporate Property Management
<p>Projects within the Corporate Property Programme are progressing and overall spend is likely to be at around 83% of the year's budget. This is comparable to the previous year's outturn (82%).</p> <p>The remaining budget will be slipped into the new financial year to fund larger scale works that are now planned for the new year.</p>

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2014/2015
HEADS OF SERVICE COMMENTS
As at JANUARY 2015

Planning

The Free Tree Scheme has again been a success and is complete for the year. Orders have been placed for expenditure on implementing the OR recommendations but this is mostly dependent upon the Planning ICT Upgrade. Phases 1-3 of this are complete and the remaining phases will be implemented in the new financial year meaning that any unused approvals will need to be slipped.

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.

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 and will be slipped into the next financial year.

Street Scene

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

The Vehicle In-Cab Communications System will not be completed by the end of the financial year due to on-going discussions with our preferred supplier exploring additional functionality improvement options that are available within the overall package. The scheme will, therefore, slip into the next financial year.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2014/2015
HEADS OF SERVICE COMMENTS
As at JANUARY 2015

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. Consequently, the final level of expenditure in this area will depend on how quickly Parish Council can deliver their Programmes.

Details on the uses of the Environmental / Town and Village Centre Improvement Fund are set out in Appendix C.

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').

Community Services - Private Sector Housing

Both Housing Renewal Grants and Disabled Facility Grants are demand led. Demand for Renewal Grants remains lower than anticipated but demand for DFG's is higher than anticipated.

There are expenditure commitments on both schemes and any unspent budgets will be slipped into the new financial year to cover commitments.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2014/2015
HEADS OF SERVICE COMMENTS
As at JANUARY 2015

Other Community Services

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

Schemes using section 106 monies for improvement works at various parks, the Bowling Green, and new play equipment are progressing. Works should be mostly complete by the end of the financial year or the beginning of the new financial year.

Progress on the CCTV scheme has been delayed following discussions around final locations of CCTV cameras. This will mean that some of the approvals will slip into the new financial year when the scheme is likely to complete.

The installation of electric vehicle charge points at Sandy Lane Car Park will progress before the end of the financial year.

Works are progressing on Flood Alleviation Schemes and should complete early next year meaning there will be some slippage.