

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2009/2010
DIVISIONAL MANAGER COMMENTS AT JANUARY 2010

Parish Capital Schemes

The spending on grants to Parishes is determined by the progress that Parishes make on individual schemes and is not within the direct control of the Council. In future, grant terms and conditions will require that Parishes complete schemes within 2 years of being approved to encourage faster progress.

Assistant Chief Executive

There are commitments against the rollout of Electronic Document Management although expenditure is dependent of the outcome of Organisational Re-engineering projects. There are also commitments on the ICT Infrastructure Scheme and expenditure is dependent upon the demand for replacement and upgrade.

The E-Government Programme is progressing with the Server Virtualisation project underway and planned to continue into the next financial year. The implementation of the Wireless Network for the Council Chamber, committee and meeting rooms is on schedule to be completed before the end of March 2010. The ongoing Website Improvement Programme and integration of the website with the GIS Mapping System and the Customer Services' CRM System has made good progress throughout the year, with further developments planned for 2010/11.

Street Scene

The Vehicle Tracker System is complete and starting to bring benefits on the operational front.

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Planning, Regeneration and Estates

Expenditure against both Investing in Business and Inspire budgets is demand led and continues to be incurred. Inspire is due for completion by the end of the financial year but it is likely that IIB will continue into 2010/2011. Whilst the European Objective 2 scheme has ended and been successfully audited by CLG, a final audit by the European Commission is expected in 2013 or 2014.

There is likely to be at least £65,000 slippage on the Abbotsford Regeneration Scheme due to delays in preparatory works, but the Burscough Town Centre scheme is complete as is the Re-Roofing at Gorsey Place. Works on the Investment Centre Car Park are progressing and will be completed by the end of the year.

An expanded cycle route at Whitemoss has been completed and the Free Tree Scheme budget has been spent. The remaining budget for the Preservation of Buildings at Risk is committed and there is a separate report elsewhere on this agenda detailing a revised grant strategy and priorities for Conservation Area Enhancement Grants

Community Services

Works are ongoing on the Contaminated Land, Environmental Health System, Play Engagement, and Community Environmental Action schemes. Works are progressing and budgets have been committed for Richmond Park and Coronation Park. There is likely to be around £220,000 slippage for Play Area Improvements and Big Lottery funding is awaited for the Beacon Park Play Area scheme.

The Leisure Trust contract is continuing and outstanding refurbishment works at the Gallery are still to be finalised. Plans are progressing for new schemes added to the Revised Programme from the VAT windfall and there may be some slippage at Stanley Park, Skelmersdale, Manor Road Park, and Halsall Lane Park due to the tendering process and consultation.

Works are nearing completion at the Clock Tower and Aughton street and an under spend is anticipated. Anticipated overspends on Liverpool Road Playing Pitch, Ormskirk Market, and the Nye Bevan Roofing scheme will be funded from underspends on other schemes at the end of the year when slippage balances are reviewed.

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Housing Private Sector

The Disabled Facility Grants are on target to deliver the full Programme for the year. Renovation Grant approvals are committed and the backlog on the Loans Scheme is being cleared and loans will now start to be processed. The timing of expenditure on the Clearance Programme is uncertain due to the need to complete legal procedures and may need to be slipped. Plans for the Affordable Housing budget have been delayed pending the outcome of the Elmstead regeneration and the budget will slip into the next financial year. Preliminary works are progressing on the Elmstead Regeneration project.

Housing Public Sector

The Heating Upgrades, Kitchen and Bathroom Programme, Binstores, and Electrical Upgrades are completed. The Window Replacement Programme, Disabled Adaptations, Improvements to Communal Areas of Flats, T V Aerials, and Professional and Design Fees are all on target for completion by the end of the financial year.

The Energy Efficiency and Structural Works budgets are fully committed although there has been a delay on individual schemes due to tendering difficulties and there may be an element of slippage. Adverse weather caused a delay to the start of the re-roofing Scheme and this may run over into mid-April and there is also likely to be an element of slippage on Sheltered Upgrades due to tendering difficulties and late commencement on site.

The new Housing Computer System is progressing and, with a completion date of October 2010, some of the budget will slip into next year. The Decent Homes budget is for miscellaneous schemes that will complete by the end of the year.

Corporate Property

Tenders for Public conveniences were higher than anticipated. Specifications have, therefore, been revised and re-tendered meaning there may be some slippage in this area. Works at the Bus/Rail Interchange have also had to be re-tendered due to a contractor going into liquidation. Slippage may also be incurred in this area. Prices are awaited for works at Beacon Park, St Helens Road Park, and Chapel Gallery. Other schemes are progressing and the Office Refurbishment is nearing completion.