

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2010/2011
DIVISIONAL MANAGER COMMENTS
AT END OF JANUARY

Parish Capital Schemes
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. Parishes must complete schemes within 2 years or risk losing their funding.
Assistant Chief Executive
<p>Expenditure against the ICT Infrastructure budget, used to keep the Council's ICT equipment up to date and to maintain its speed, integrity, and security, is almost complete for the year. Works are progressing in relation to the integration of M3PP with front office on the EDM scheme and any underspends will be slipped into 2011/2012 to enable further OR projects to be rolled out.</p> <p>The Server Virtualisation and other projects are progressing on the E-Government scheme and it is anticipated that the Web Improvement Programme will slip into next year.</p>
Street Scene
The new wheelie bins for the rollout of AWC in Skelmersdale have been purchased and distributed. The Vehicle Tracking Scheme will be completed towards the end of the year.
Regeneration and Estates
<p>The Council is currently working on two separate phases of the Skelmersdale Town Centre Regeneration Project with a development partner but the economic conditions remain challenging. Consultancy costs are being shared with the HCA and the current phase should near completion within this financial year.</p> <p>The Investing in Business Regeneration Programme is complete as is the residual budget on the Abbotsford project.</p>

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Planning

Conservation Grants are progressing and any unspent budget will be slipped into next year's Programme. The minor overspend on the Free Tree scheme will be funded by a contribution from Revenue and the Buildings at Risk Scheme will be fully utilised by the end of the financial year.

Community Services

Contaminated Land schemes are dependant of Government guidance and are progressing. Following completion of the OR Project it is anticipated that the Environmental Health System will now be completed before the end of the financial year.

Consultants have been employed on the implementation of the new CCTV suite and preparatory work is underway. The full scheme will get underway in August 2011 and the budget will need to slip into subsequent Programmes. Works are due to commence in March for the acquisition and installation of new Outdoor Gym Equipment. This will continue into April.

Lottery funding is awaited for works on Play Engagement and works on other parks are progressing. An anticipated £8,000 overspend on Richmond Park will be funded from the anticipated underspend on Coronation Park (Ph 4) which is complete. Halsall Lane and Manor Road Park schemes are nearing completion. The consultation/design process is underway on Stanley Coronation Park and tenders are due in March. This funding will be sipped into 2011/2012.

The final invoice for works on Nye Bevan Roof repair is awaited and expenditure on the Leisure Trust contract continues. Funding is committed on Allotments and Chapel Gallery and WiFi provision are complete.

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Corporate Property

Work, including plans being drawn up, is progressing on most larger schemes and tender returns are awaited. Some delay has been caused by the severe weather over winter and overall there will be an element of slippage

The vast majority of work on the Office Move and Refurbishment has been completed and utilisation of the remaining resources has still to be finalised.

Housing Private Sector

Both Affordable Housing Schemes that transferred at the Mid Year Point to revenue, due to the nature of their expenditure, have been launched. The remaining approval is likely to be slipped into 2011/2012 and is discussed elsewhere on this agenda.

The transition of a grant regime to home loans has proved challenging and take up has been slower than anticipated. Remaining approvals will be slipped into the next financial year. This scheme is discussed elsewhere on this agenda.

A property in Firbeck has been acquired under the Clearance Programme and the remaining balance is likely to be slipped into 2011/2012 pending the outcome of negotiations at Lime Court.

The Disabled Facilities Grant budget is fully committed although some invoices are likely to be paid in the new year. Commitment against the Empty Homes Initiative is dependant on Government proposals and this budget will slip into the new financial year.

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Housing Public Sector

Energy Efficiency and Window Replacement Programmes are practically complete as are the Homecarelink and Simdell System Replacements. The Decent Homes and Professional Fee budgets are fully committed.

Contracts have been awarded for Communal Areas at less than budget and works should be completed by the end of March. Finalisation on the framework agreement has meant an underspend of Electrical Upgrades and Re-Roofing Works. Whitburn Cladding has been delayed till 2011/2012 and the remaining budget will be unspent in 2010/2011. Balances from these underspends along with the unused budget on the General Contingency will be used to fund overspends indicated below.

Demand for Adaptations is a key priority for tenants and has exceeded all expectations. Re-let works have been greater than forecast meaning expenditure is higher than anticipated. Severe inclement weather has resulted in an unexpected and unplanned Heating Equipment Replacement Programme to tenants across the Borough. Excess expenditure on these schemes will be funded from underspends indicated above.

Although contractually committed, the timing of expenditure on Elmstead will cross into the new financial year and there will be significant slippage in this area. HCA funding has been received for this scheme as planned.

General Upgrades to Sheltered Schemes had a delayed start but other schemes are progressing and due to finish mid-March. The remaining budgets will be slipped into 2011/2012.

Tenant proposals are awaited for Environmental Improvements meaning that this budget will slip into 2011/2012 as will the Binstore Upgrades that are dependent on corporate proposals.