

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2011/2012
DIRECTORATE SERVICE HEADS' COMMENTS
AT MID YEAR POINT

Housing Private Sector

Following the suspension of the Home Loans Scheme, approvals have been reprofiled into the next financial year while a review takes place. Approvals on the Clearance Programme have been reprofiled as commitments will not be completed until the new financial year. Approvals for the Empty Homes Initiative have also been reprofiled as Government Policy is still awaited.

The full Disabled Facilities Grant budget has been committed although some expenditure may be slipped into the next financial year due to the timing of grant payments.

Community Services

Works are ongoing on Flood Alleviation Schemes and the full amount of grant funding has been added to the Programme. CCTV approvals have been reprofiled as works are not expected to commence until April 2012 following the tender exercise that is underway.

Works are substantially complete at Stanley Coronation Park, Mossy Lea Play Areas and Halsall Lane Park and works on Outdoor Gyms should be completed in the Autumn. Works on Banks, Tanfields and Richmond Parks are complete, however, access works at Richmond Park will cause an overspend in the region of £10,000. There is also a small overspend on Manor Road Park. Both will be funded from underspends elsewhere within the Service later in the year. Works at Coronation Park are at the Planning stage and Lottery funding has yet to be claimed for MUGA and Play Engagement works.

Works are complete on Allotments and at Aughton Street where the final invoice is awaited.

Expenditure continues on the Leisure Trust contract and is in line with the agreed budget.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2011/2012
DIRECTORATE SERVICE HEADS' COMMENTS
AT MID YEAR POINT

Planning

It is intended to transfer £15,000 of approvals from the Conservation Area Enhancement budget to revenue for expenditure in accordance with a recent Planning Committee decision. It is anticipated that this will be reimbursed at some future date when this funding can be put back in to the Capital Programme.

All three remaining schemes are demand led. Conservation Area Enhancement approvals are fully committed for the year and any overspend on the Free Tree Scheme can be funded by a small Revenue contribution from within the Heritage Budget. No expenditure has been incurred to date on Buildings at Risk.

Corporate Property

Lancashire County Council has made a contribution to works at 52 Derby Street for the Registry Office and schemes of a revenue nature have been transferred to revenue.

Savings of £38,000 have been identified in the mid year review which will be used to fund the installation of solar photovoltaic panels at Robert Hodge Centre and Sandy Lane.

All remaining schemes are progressing well and it is anticipated, barring extenuating circumstances, that all projects should be completed or nearing completion by March 2012.

Regeneration and Estates

The development phase of the Skelmersdale Town Centre Project is continuing although progress has been slower than anticipated due to the economic climate.

Expenditure on the Estates ICT System relates to potential shared service arrangements which are subject to on-going discussions.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2011/2012
DIRECTORATE SERVICE HEADS' COMMENTS
AT MID YEAR POINT

Housing Public Sector and Housing Strategy

The Housing Public Sector Programme has been thoroughly reviewed to take account of new contracts awarded for the financial year. Original budgets have been moved between schemes to facilitate the implementation of the new contracts, and amendments made to reflect transferred and additional funding from the HRA. All of the adjustments are detailed in Appendix A to this report.

Expenditure on the Bin Store scheme is linked to the rollout of the Council's new wheelie bin programme and the Affordable Housing Budget will be contractually committed by the end of the financial year although some expenditure may be slipped into the next financial year due to the timing of payments. The remaining programme will be delivered within the new budgets allowing for some retention at the end of the year.

Corporate Services

Allocation of approvals to projects for ICT Infrastructure, Electronic Document Management and ICT Development were agreed at Cabinet in September. Expenditure against these approvals is progressing.

The progress made on delivering Parish Capital Schemes rests with individual Parishes. A saving of £10,000 has been recognised in the mid year review largely from the delivery of projects at a lower cost than the original estimates.