

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2011/2012
HEADS OF SERVICE COMMENTS
AT END OF JANUARY

Community Services - Private Sector Housing

Expenditure on the Clearance Programme and the Renovation Grant budget is progressing and will largely be spent by the year end.

The Disabled Facilities Grant budget has also mainly been committed for the year.

Other Community Services

Works are complete on Allotments and at Aughton Street where the final invoices are awaited. Expenditure continues on the Leisure Trust contract and is in line with the agreed budget. It is also the intention to complete the Environmental Health Computer System before the end of the financial year.

Works are ongoing on Flood Alleviation Schemes. Contractors will be on site in the coming weeks and some expenditure is anticipated before the end of the year. However, it is anticipated that there will be significant slippage on these schemes.

Contaminated Land works are also progressing but Government advice is awaited. Approvals will, therefore, need to be slipped into 2012/2013.

It is anticipated that of preparatory works will be started on the CCTV suite relocation before 31st March.

Works are complete at Banks Park, Tanfields Play Area, Richmond Park, Hesketh Bank Village Hall, Manor Road Play Area, Mossy Lea Play Area and Outdoor Gyms. Works are substantially complete at Stanley Coronation Park and on Halsall Lane Play Equipment. As there are no specific plans at Coronation Park the unused approvals will be used to fund overspends at Richmond Park (CCTV). Other minor overspends on parks will be funded from within Playground Improvements.

Vehicles and equipment have been acquired at Beacon Park Golf Course as a result of the termination of the DCT contract. This will be funded from reserves in the short term but it is expected that this money will be recovered when a new long term agreement is put in place.

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Corporate Services

Funding on the ICT Infrastructure Programme is used for an on-going, previously agreed plan to keep the ICT infrastructure up to date ensuring security, speed and integrity and to fund part of the JVC Model. Any unspent approvals will be slipped into the next financial year.

Work is progressing on the Electronic Document Management implementation within Environmental Health and Housing Private Sector. There is likely to be a budget shortfall on this which will be funded from unallocated funding within the ICT Development Programme. Any unspent budgets will be slipped into 2012/2013 to complete the previously agreed Programme.

The progress made on delivering Parish Capital Schemes rests with individual Parishes. The majority of these schemes will be completed this year but there are a small number of large value projects where only limited progress has been made to date.

Property Management

The refurbishment at Derby Street is virtually complete and it is expected to generate an underspend.

Other projects in the programme are progressing and no overall overspends on the programme as a whole are expected. Not all projects, however, will be completed by the 31st March 2012. This is because some of these projects are awaiting planning permission, structural surveys, or quotations, etc. before commencement.

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Public Sector Housing

Expenditure on Elmstead Regeneration is complete and the grant funding is awaited. Tenders are being prepared prior to tenant consultation for the Bin Store Scheme.

The Housing Public Sector Programme comprises many schemes within the various budget heads. Funding for the schemes is primarily HRA/MRA which are both ring-fenced for Housing expenditure and unspent approvals will be slipped into the new financial year.

Overall, it is anticipated that there will be slippage in the region of £1.2m due to a delay in appointing a replacement contractor (Structural Works), revised option appraisal on Oakgate Close Heating (Energy Efficiency Works), late start due to tenant consultation (Environmental Improvements), late identification of individual schemes (Fixtures and Fittings), and an unspent contingency (Newly Arising Decent Homes).

There could also be a net underspend of around £0.5m on schemes due to reduced adaptation referrals from LCC, late identification of preferred Structural Work areas, minor underspends on individual projects, and additional void works and gas boiler replacements identified. This underspend will also be slipped into the new year.

The remaining programme will be delivered within budget allowing for some retention at the end of the year.

Regeneration

The development phase of the Skelmersdale Town Centre Project is continuing although progress has been slower than anticipated due to the economic climate. Although consultants have been appointed, expenditure may slip into the next financial year.

Expenditure on the Estates ICT System relates to potential shared service arrangements which are subject to on-going discussions. It is unlikely that this budget will be spent in 2011/2012 and will need to be slipped into 2012/2013.

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Planning

All of the Planning schemes are demand led and Conservation Area Enhancement approvals are fully committed for the year. The overspend on the Free Tree Scheme is to be funded by a small Revenue contribution from within the Heritage Budget. No expenditure has been incurred to date on Buildings at Risk and unused approvals are to be slipped into the next financial year.