

REVISED CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2016/2017
HEADS OF SERVICE COMMENTS

Corporate Property
Works are progressing well and we expect to complete our planned expenditure for this financial year.
Transformation
<p>The Call Centre System has been merged into the CRM Replacement System where preparatory works are progressing and the phasing of implementation is being discussed with BTLS. The initial phases of the Gallery Website project are being finalised with BTLS.</p> <p>The ICT Development budget funds an agreed ICT Strategy as well as service-specific developments as appropriate. No changes are proposed for this capital budget. Often projects with committed expenditure are lengthy and complex areas of work and may therefore run over certain financial years. Several key pieces of work are due to conclude this year. There has been significant progress with the ICT capital funded work during 2016/17 with benefits across the Council including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Sector Network (PSN) accreditation 2016 meeting standards set by government (which then, for example, enables us to continue to deliver the Revenues and Benefits Service) • Non-Microsoft application review of over 700 applications and 21,000 installs to help manage e.g. upgrade and licensing costs • Migration, destruction or archiving of databases for the new SQL Server • Work on establishing new access for public and corporate Wi-Fi • Council finance system upgrade (Civica Financials)
Housing Public Sector
Expenditure on the Housing Public Sector capital programme is progressing steadily and is slightly higher than at the same point last year. Details on spending against individual schemes is set out in Appendix B.

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Housing Strategy

The Affordable Housing budget is committed to our Partnership with Regenda Housing Group. Three sites have now been completed resulting in 47 units being developed. A fourth scheme consisting of 14 units is currently being built and estimated to complete in March / April 2017.

The partnership has helped attract £1.5m to date of additional HCA investment to our Borough. New Homes Bonus at the higher rate will also be achieved when the affordable units are completed.

Regeneration and Estates

The Greenshoots units are nearing completion and will be commissioned in the Autumn of 2016. Four units have been pre-let and this represents more than 50% of the lettable square footage.

The Wheatsheaf Walks retail units were purchased earlier in the year for £3.014m. A review of the units has been undertaken with property services to gauge their condition and to establish a programme of improvements to the units. The Council is awaiting the full service charge account from the vendor of Wheatsheaf Walks and until finalised this will hinder the progress of firming up a programme of improvements. Occupancy levels are good and there is firm interest in the empty units, one of these has progressed to the point of agreeing terms and obtaining references.

The procurement of a contractor for the Gorsey Place rebuild project is nearly completed, although the loss adjusters have raised a number of queries on the rebuild details prior to finalisation. Once this is completed work can commence and it is envisaged this will go into the next calendar year.

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Planning

The free tree scheme runs in October and November and expenditure is expected to be in line with the budget.

The CIL/S106 database has been implemented with further plans this year to interface with the land charges system.

Additional scanning equipment will be needed to support the EDM system with plans in place to provide this by the end of the year.

Expenditure on implementing the OR recommendations is dependent upon the Planning ICT upgrade, and the budget is expected to be spent.

To date, there is no expenditure against the Skelmersdale Vision programme with delays due to legal issues. There will be a variety of potential costs associated with moving the project forward.

All remaining planning schemes are demand led and as yet there are no commitments for buildings at risk, and conservation area enhancement grants expenditure is below expected budget spend to date.

Technical Services

Works will be completed before the end of the financial year on Dock Brook, Abbey Brook and East Quarry.

Retentions are outstanding on Ormskirk Car Park Improvements.

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<p>Leisure and Wellbeing - Private Sector Housing</p>
<p>The funding for Disabled Facilities Grants has changed for the current year and plans are being put into place to spend the allocations in accordance with new criteria. Demand has reduced for Renovation Grants but the remaining budget should be spent in year.</p>
<p>Other Leisure and Wellbeing</p>
<p>Works will be completed before the end of the financial year on Richmond Park, Allotments, Leisure Trust, Parish Council Play Area Grants, Chequer Lane Play Area, Station Approach, Playing Fields and Beacon Park Entrance Road.</p> <p>Retentions have been re-profiled on Ormskirk Bowling Green, Abbey Lane Playing Field Drainage, and CCTV although works will mainly be completed this financial year.</p> <p>Works on the Play Strategy Programme may slip into the new financial year as some replacements are demand led. Works may also slip on the Gallery Lift Installation where project costings are being reviewed and finalised.</p>
<p>Financial Services</p>
<p>Expenditure on Parish Council Capital Grants is dependent on spending by Parish Councils and is not within the direct control of the Borough Council.</p>
<p>Central Schemes</p>
<p>This includes the Environmental/Town and village centre improvement fund which has been fully allocated to projects including support for the Economic Development Strategy and Skelmersdale Public Realm improvements.</p>