

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2016/2017
HEADS OF SERVICE COMMENTS
As at JANUARY 2017

Corporate Property
Works are progressing well and we expect to complete our planned expenditure for this financial year.
Transformation
<p>The implementation of the CRM Replacement System is progressing and should complete early in the new financial year. The implementation of the Gallery Website is currently on hold pending the completion of the building works taking place. This scheme will, therefore, slip into the new financial year.</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 several financial years. A number of 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 • New access for public and corporate Wi-Fi. • Council finance system upgrade (Civica Financials) has been completed • Work around implementation of Service Now (CRM replacement) is underway with the first phase of implementation expected for April 2017.

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Housing Strategy

The Affordable Housing budget is committed to our Partnership with Regenda Housing Group. It has been a success and exceeded the original aim of developing up to 32 new affordable housing units in the Borough. To date, across three sites, 47 affordable units have been developed. A fourth scheme of 14 units is currently being built and is due to complete in May 2017. This will bring the total number of units developed to 61 units. In addition, the partnership arrangement has helped attract £1.5m of additional HCA investment to the Borough. The completed affordable housing units also provide funding to the Council, in the form of New Homes Bonus at the higher rate.

It is anticipated that the remainder of the budget will be able to provide up to 10 further affordable units. Suitable sites will need to be identified and planning approval secured. At this time though, two potential sites are being considered to establish if they are suitable for use with the remainder of the budget.

Regeneration and Estates

The purchase of the Wheatsheaf Walks site was completed in May 2016. Two empty units have now been let and tenants should be in situ sometime during March 2017. Income forecasts are currently in line with initial projections.

Tender quotes have been received for the Gorsey Place fire rebuild scheme. Discussions on the results have taken place with the Insurer's loss adjusters in order to move forward with finalising and commencing the rebuild.

The Greenwood Business Centre has been completed although there are a number of minor issues that still need to be resolved with the contractor. To date 80% of the units have been let but occupation is yet to take place.

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Planning

The Free Tree Scheme has again been a success with demand outstripping supply and is complete for the year.

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 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. As yet there are no commitments for buildings at risk which will be slipped into the next financial year, and conservation area enhancement grants expenditure is below expected budget spend to date.

Technical Services

Works are scheduled for completion before the end of the financial year on Dock Brook although outstanding claims may be slipped into the new year for payment. Negotiations are taking place with the Environmental Agency regarding the responsibility of remaining works at Abbey Brook. Unused approvals will, therefore, slip into the new year until agreement is reached.

Works at East Quarry are also scheduled for completion before the end of the financial year with retentions be slipped into the new year. Ormskirk Car Park Improvements outstanding retentions are being paid with some being slipped into the new year when they are due.

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Leisure and Wellbeing - Private Sector Housing

The funding for Disabled Facilities Grants has changed for the current year and plans continue to be put into place to spend the allocations in accordance with new criteria. However, there are delays in employing Lancashire County Council assessment specialists which will mean that some of the approvals will need to be slipped into the new financial year to meet demand.

Demand has reduced for Renovation Grants and any uncommitted approvals will be returned to the Capital Receipts pot for reallocation to other schemes.

Other Leisure and Wellbeing

Works will be completed before the end of the financial year on Richmond Park, Ruff Wood/Victoria Park, Leisure Trust, Parish Council Play Area Grants, Chequer Lane Play Area, Station Approach, Westhead Playing Fields and Beacon Park Entrance Road.

Aside from retentions that have been re-profiled on Ormskirk Bowling Green and CCTV, works will mainly be completed this financial year.

Works on the Play Strategy Programme may slip into the new financial year as some replacements are demand led. Abbey Lane Playing Field Drainage works will also slip due to a change in ground conditions causing delays. The Allotments Project should be complete early spring following the project expansion included at the mid-year. Works are progressing and may also slip on the Gallery Lift Installation following delays in project costings as identified at the mid-year stage. Preparatory works have commenced on the newly approved Burscough Brick Pits project which is also likely to slip into the next financial year.

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Financial Services
Expenditure on Parish Council Capital Grants is dependent on spending by Parish Councils and is not within the direct control of the Borough Council.
Central Schemes
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. These schemes will however take some time to deliver.