

ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE POSTION AS AT MONTH 4

1. Director's Summary

Revenue Summary

- 1.1 The forecast revenue overspend for the Environment Directorate as a whole is £24k. The total net budget for the directorate is £31.4m.
- 1.2 Forecast car park income, as in month 3, is expected to be £240,000 over budget. The estimated pressure on energy costs for street lighting has increased from £50,000 to £118,000. (This pressure arose because the new energy contract for the council as a whole, although achieving savings in energy costs across the council, has increased the cost for street lighting). The winter maintenance budget is still forecast to be £134,000 overspent because of the cost of rebuilding salt stocks to the prudent recommended level.
- 1.3 These pressures will be offset by savings of £120,000 from concessionary fares and additional income. The planned reduction in highways maintenance has increased to £232,000 to offset the increased street lighting pressure. £32,000 vacancy savings are also expected to be achieved in Highways and Transport in excess of the Managed Vacancy Factor (MVF) target, because of the recruitment freeze.
- 1.4 In Property Services, there are pressures of £193,000 because of the higher than budgeted running costs of West Street House and West Point and £17,000 from a shortfall in commercial property income. The Head of Service is aiming to offset £112,000 of this pressure by reducing spending on reactive maintenance by approximately £74,000 and through vacancy savings over and above the MVF and recruitment freeze targets, additional income, and savings on cleaning and energy costs and supplies and services.
- 1.5 Development Control and Building Control income are both still expected to be on target. The Planning and Countryside service also expects to achieve savings of £59,000 from supplies and services, additional income and reductions in spend on minerals and waste and urban design and additional £40,000 from vacancies because of the recruitment freeze.
- 1.6 The Corporate Director's own budget is expected to be under spent by £9,000 because he is no longer required to make a contribution to the cost of the Director of Public Health.

Recruitment Freeze

- 1.7 Because of the freeze in staff recruitment, the managed vacancy factor (MVF) for the directorate has been increased by £98,500. Additional

vacancy savings of approximately £101,500 in excess of the (MVF) target are expected to be achieved across the directorate as a whole.

This saving helps to offset the overall net pressure on the Environment budget.

Capital summary (month 3):

Highways and Transport

- 1.8 There has been some reprofiling of the Thatcham Vision schemes and the A4/Hambridge Lane, Hungerford Footbridge and Aldermaston Footway/Cycleway Improvements.

The overall highways capital programme will be managed within the existing budget.

Planning and Countryside

- 1.9 All the capital schemes being undertaken by the Countryside Service are currently expected to be in line with agreed budgets.

Property and Public Protection

- 1.10 Expenditure is in line with capital programmes of work and accordingly these are expected to come in on budget.