

Corporate Director's Report on Financial Performance

Environment Directorate

Quarter Three 2014/15

Section 1: Revenue

Service	Net Budget	Forecast (under)/over spend				Change from last quarter
		Quarter One	Quarter Two	Quarter Three	Year End	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Corporate Director	166	0	0	0		0
Highways & Transport	7,619	(84)	(18)	(13)		5
Planning & Countryside	4,184	29	30	(4)		(34)
Culture & Environmental Protection	21,434	53	76	(3)		(79)
Total	33,403	(2)	88	(20)	0	(108)

Overview

The forecast revenue under spend for the Environment Directorate as a whole is £20k compared to an £88k over spend in Quarter Two.

Highways and Transport

The Highways and Transport Service are forecasting an under spend of £13k, a reduction of £5k from Quarter Two. The under spend is mainly due to increased income in Car Parking and a lower payment of concessionary fares to transport operators. In year pressures due to a reduction in the forecast income from S278 supervision fees and a transfer of £146k of additional emergency work due to the flooding in the Spring of 2014 are being managed within the Service.

Planning and Countryside

The Planning and Countryside Service is forecasting an under spend of £4k, a change of £34k from the over spend position of £30k in Quarter Two. This change is largely due to the cost for the tree safety works coming in lower than the original estimate.

Culture and Environmental Protection

Culture and Environmental Protection is forecasting an under spend of £3k which is a change of £79k from the forecast over spend position in Quarter Two of £76k. Savings have been achieved due to staff turnover in the third quarter.

Risks identified

Potential risks include:

- Extreme weather on the last quarter will have an impact on the Highways emergency budget.

Section 2: Capital

Service	2014/15 Original Capital Programme	2014/15 Revised Capital Programme	Amount spent/ committed to Quarter Three	Forecast spend in year	Forecast under/over spend in year
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Highways & Transport	11,908	15,853	13,076	13,993	(1,860)
Planning & Countryside	135	480	378	480	0
Culture & Environmental Protection	693	2,316	1,107	2,316	0
Total	12,736	18,649	14,561	16,789	(1,860)

78.1% of the Environment capital programme has been committed as at the end of Quarter Three.

The Newbury Museum Project is now complete and good progress is being made with the maintenance and refurbishment of Leisure Centres and other cultural services buildings.

The majority of Highways and Transport schemes are well underway. However some delays are still expected on the Boundary Road bridge widening, Tull Way retention pond, A340 rail bridge footway, upgrading parking equipment, St John's assessment and LRIE schemes. Capital Strategy Group has therefore approved £1.36 million for these schemes to be re-profiled to 2015/16. In addition expenditure on Environment Agency flood defence schemes will be £500,000 lower than originally budgeted for in 2014/15, because phase one of the Cold Ash Retention Pond scheme has been more successful than expected, which means that it is no longer necessary to proceed with phase two as planned.

For Planning and Countryside, it has now been confirmed that the additional work being undertaken to repair storm damaged rights of way can largely be funded from the Severe Weather Recovery Grant received in 2014. It is possible that this may result in a small overspend although this cannot be confirmed until all the works have been fully scoped, specified and are underway.