

## **ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE POSITION AS AT MONTH 9**

### **Corporate Director's summary:**

#### **Overview**

- 1.1 The forecast revenue over spend for the Environment Directorate as a whole is £21,570 against the budget of £29.9 million. This is a decrease of £124,620 from the forecast overspend at month 8.
- 1.2 The Corporate Director's 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.
- 1.3 The Highways and Transport budget is expected to be over spent by £28,180. There are significant pressures in car park income, street lighting and winter maintenance as detailed below which are being partly offset by savings from concessionary fares and highways maintenance, as well as an increase in income generated.
- 1.4 The Planning and Countryside service expects to underspend by £27,310. Development Control income is now expected to be £86,000 behind target and Building Control income £40,000 behind target. These pressures have been offset by reductions in spend on minerals and waste, urban design and additional vacancy savings because of the recruitment freeze.
- 1.5 The Property and Public Protection budget is expected to be over spent by £29,700. There are pressures in the running costs of West Street House and West Point, a shortfall in commercial property income, and a potential pressure relating to final energy invoices for Avonbank and Northcroft House. These pressures are being partly offset by planned reductions in expenditure and through managed vacancy savings.

#### **Pressures on the 2010-11 budget**

- 1.6 In Highways and Transport, the forecast shortfall in car park income is now at £200,000 and the estimated pressure on energy costs for street lighting remains at £110,000. The winter maintenance budget is forecast to be £175,000 overspent because of the cost of rebuilding salt stocks to a prudent recommended level and costs of snow clearance and footway treatment. There is an £80,000 pressure due to the high number of highway emergencies that had to be dealt with during the severe winter weather.
- 1.7 In Property and Public Protection, the estimated budget pressures on the running costs of West Street House and West Point have remained at £110,000 for the current year, while the forecast shortfall in commercial property income remains at £33,000.

### **Progress against the recruitment freeze**

1.8 The directorate has identified vacancy savings to meet the recruitment freeze target of £200k.

### **Management action taken to address emerging pressures**

1.9 As a result of management action, the pressures in Highways and Transport will be partly offset by increased income of £103,550 and a planned reduction in some highways maintenance activities of £250,000. In addition there are savings from reduced demand for concessionary fares of £125,000 and lower than anticipated spend on sewage treatment works of £50,000.

1.10 The Head of Property and Public Protection is aiming to offset £57,800 of pressures by reducing spending on reactive maintenance, office cleaning and supplies and services and aiming to offset a further £41,000 of pressures from vacancy savings over and above the MVF and recruitment freeze targets across property services and public protection.

### **Risks identified**

Potential risks include:

- Further pressure on car park income and planning income due to the effects of the recession
- Further severe weather would put pressure on winter maintenance budgets
- An unforeseen Property maintenance issue would put pressure on the reactive maintenance budget
- Increased expenditure on the Local Development Framework following the suspension of the Examination in Public.

## **Capital summary**

In Property and Public Protection, an underspend of approximately £40,000 is expected on disabled access schemes and the budget for repairing the barn at Clappers Farm will need to be reprofiled into 2011/12.

The Highways and Transport Capital Programme is largely on target to be delivered on time and budget. At present the Capital Summary report shows an over commitment for the H&T programme, however this is distorted by the fact that the expenditure capitalised highways maintenance has been transferred into the programme but the capital budgets are still to be adjusted accordingly. It is proposed that the budgets for three projects be re-profiled to the 2011/12 financial year to cover commitments, the reasons for this being largely outside the control of the Highways and Transport Service.

Countryside projects are currently expected to be completed on time and on budget