

## **ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE POSTION AS AT MONTH 3**

### **1. Director's Summary**

#### **Revenue Summary**

- 1.1 Forecast expenditure for the Environment Directorate as a whole is £31,430,000, which represents an overspend of £24,000 against the budget of £31,406,000.
- 1.2 As was the case in 2009/10, car parks income has continued to be below target in the first three months of the year. Based on income received to date the shortfall is currently expected to be £240,000. There is also a forecast pressure of £50,000 on energy costs for street lighting, as in 2009/10 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 cost of rebuilding salt stocks to the prudent recommended levels is also estimated at £134,000 in excess of the winter maintenance budget
- 1.3 To offset these pressures, savings of £120,000 are expected to be achieved in Highways and Transport from concessionary fares and additional income. Further savings on highways maintenance are also planned to reduce the overall pressure on the service.
- 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 plans 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 The position for Development Control and Building Control income appears to have improved from last financial year and income for both these areas is currently 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.
- 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**

### **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.