

Chief Executive
Director's Report
Capital Budget Monitoring 2009/10 : Period 9

Overview

At Period 11, capital projects in Chief Executive's Directorate are as planned In the capital programme.

Project Issues

Timelord – The ICT Capital Programme in 2009/10 comprises mainly Timelord Programme costs which will be spent in year. It is also anticipated that the Corporate Replacement Programme allocation will also be spent in year but there is likely to be more expenditure on back-end servers and on Telecoms equipment upgrades to support the move to Mobile and Flexible Working (MFW) and less on PCs than in previous years. ICT expects to spend all of its capital budget allocation and will make bids against the Corporate Allocation to cover GCSx and Business Continuity issues.

Finance capital budgets will be spent as planned when current accommodation proposals have been completed. Preparations for a second round of Members Bids are under way.

Fire risk - remedial works. The current budget is under significant pressure. The work to Denefield has escalated beyond initial estimates following results of the more detailed survey and this is becoming typical for other buildings being inspected. The costs associated with the Denefield School are being looked at in more detail and alternative funding sources explored. If alternative funds are identified further progress can be achieved with the wider fire remedial work programme. Some smaller remedial projects may need to be deferred if alternative funding is not identified

Parish Planning/Vibrant Villages – spend here is dependent upon the number of applications made by Parish Councils linked to their approved Parish Plans. Budget expected to be spent.

Special Projects – The major area of expenditure in the current financial year relates to the Ad Lucem (St Bartholomew's School) project and the construction of the new school is progressing well and slightly ahead of schedule at present. Budgets for the remedial works at Denefield and Brookfield Schools have been identified and profiled into the programme.

Planned use of uncommitted Capital

As detailed above, there will be further expenditure incurred in the coming months mainly in relation to the Timelord programme and planned accommodation expenditure. These schemes will utilise the majority of the remaining capital budget in the Chief Executive's allocation and therefore it is anticipated at this stage that all capital resources will be used before the end of the financial year.

Community Service
Director's Report
Capital Budget Monitoring 2009/10 : Period 11

Overview

The current year programme covers spend associated with housing grants, the completion of the Shaw House Project, provision of OT equipment, planned maintenance programme for the community services property portfolio, and the ongoing modernisation programme in adult social care. New projects include provision for the contractual investment obligations that form part of the leisure management contract and the stage one application for an HLF grant towards the refurbishment of the Granary and Corn Store that house the West Berkshire Museum. Additional funds are also allocated within the scheme to complete the refurbishment of council owned temporary accommodation.

Project Issues

1. The budget provision for the contractual investment in leisure centres has all been allocated to 2009-10 but covers all years in the period to 2017. This is showing in the budget monitoring statement as a potential in year underspend of more than £500,000.

Proposed Action. A more accurate re-profiling of the years in which spend will occur at the leisure centres has now been completed and forms part of the forward capital programme for consideration by Executive and Council.

2. The stage 1 bid to HLF for the West Berkshire Museum has been considered. HLF have asked for a resubmission with more detail about the learning and participation programme that will be supported by this project. There will be no further capital expenditure against this project in the current year.

Proposed Action. Suggestions for re-profiling the budget allocation to met the revised project timetable being presented to the next capital strategy group.

3. The final phase of the programme for refurbishment of temporary accommodation is currently delayed due to the need to wait for planning decisions. The majority of this budget will slip into next year as the major refurbishment project at Yorke House and adaptations at Newtown Road will not start before March 2010.

Proposed Action. The Housing Service is working with Property Service to establish scope of refurbishment work required to maximise number of units on the site in Newbury.

Planned use of uncommitted Capital

Whilst these projects will not complete before the financial year end, there are no plans to use any of this uncommitted capital for other projects. Completion of each project is still an important part of the Directorates medium term planning and service delivery obligations. The capital strategy group has been asked approve the retention of these budget allocations for use in the next financial year.

Children and Young People
Director's Report
Capital Budget Monitoring 2009/10 : Period 11

Overview

The 2009/10 capital programme budget is approximately £15.4m, of which approximately £14m is education and £1.3m is Children's Services. It is important to note that additional to this is the £1m of 2010/11 funding that was required to be brought forward to support the Government's Fiscal Stimulus programme.

There are a number of live large projects of over £3m within the Children and Young People capital programme – Theale Green and Chieveley, which are being managed by Property Services, St Bartholomew's and Denefield that are being managed and reported on by Special Projects and St Finian's rebuild that is being managed by the Portsmouth Diocese and the school.

Issues

1. **Theale Primary**

Issue

Awaiting the start of the South Lakeside housing development solution.

Solution

Re-allocate 2010/11 budget to other projects, and re-profile S106 element to 2011/12.

Seeking to work with the developer for them to carry out another feasibility study to re-assess likely impact due to proposed application to extend planning permission and given previous study is 6 years old. Aiming to carry out study during Spring/Summer 2010 subject to agreement from developer.

2. **St Finian's**

Issue

Partnerships for schools (PfS) have made an informal offer of £1.5m towards the school rebuild project from a requested £4.6m. FMM have agreed to extend the Dedication Agreement for a further 5 years (31 August 2016).

Solution

Continue to seek full amount through PfS but a proposal to re-allocate the budget for land purchase to The Winchcombe project will be put forward at CSG.

3. **The Porch PRU**

Solution

Purchase of Richmond House has recently been completed and plans for the relocation of the Porch PRU are progressing well.

3. **The Castle Post – 16**

Issue

Planning permission granted on 9 March 2010. Land purchase awaiting 3 month Judicial review period – 9 June 2010.

Solution

Re-profiling of funding from 2009/10 to 2010/11 and 2011/12.

4. **Capital Maintenance Programme** – there has been significant pressure on capital maintenance this year and spend will exceed the current budget allocation. Part of the decision to proceed with urgent maintenance this year over and above the budget was based on the governments Fiscal Stimulus drive to bring forward projects for delivery in 2009/10. The capital maintenance programme had the greatest capacity to increase output during 2009/10 but the additional spend this year will impact on the level of funding available in 2010/11.

5. **Chieveley Primary** – tenders have now been received and an instruction to appoint the Principal Contractor has been given. The contract sum is below that budgeted for, although there are provisional sums included within the tender.

There have been delays during the detailed design stage and the tender period has had to be extended. This has resulted in programme slippage which means that commencement on site did not hit the February half term. The enabling works (playground relocation) need to be undertaken during a holiday period and thus the construction phase will not commence till the Easter holidays.

This has resulted in significantly less spend than previously predicted in the current financial year.

Outturn Summary

Overall the 2009/10 C&YP Capital Programme outturn is anticipated to be approximately £12,862,000. This figure includes the fire risk assessment remedial works but excludes Children's Centre spend as the outturn is currently unclear.

Environment
Director's Report
Capital Budget Monitoring 2009/10: Period 10

Overview

The 2009/10 programme covers spend associated with delivery of highway projects and maintenance works as outlined in the Local Transport Plan (LTP2), land drainage and flood prevention works as detailed in the Flooding Review Action Plan and the Enabling Works Contract associated with development of the Padworth Sidings Waste Transfer Station.

Project Issues

In the main the Highways and Transport Capital Programme 2009/10 is progressing well, however a number of schemes have had to be delayed due to unforeseen circumstances as detailed below.

1) Aldermaston Wharf to Village Footway/Cycleway – (£400k S106)

Issue

The scheme has been delayed due to protracted negotiations with 2 landowners along the route.

Solution

Some progress has been made this year in negotiating a price for the land and it is anticipated the scheme will proceed next financial year. If the land cannot be acquired through negotiation Compulsory Powers will be used. One of the landowners has relaxed their position and opened negotiations and it is hoped the other will follow suit in the near future.

2) A4/ Hambridge Road Junction Improvements (£250k S106)

Issue

This scheme (to improve the A4/Hambridge Rd junction) has been postponed pending the resolution of the Racecourse planning application.

Solution

As part of the mitigation for the racecourse site this junction will have to be improved, hence discussions are ongoing to bring forward this element of the S106 funding to supplement a scheme in the 2010/11 financial year.

3) A4 Improvements as Part of the Thatcham Vision

Issue

These works have been delayed to avoid clashing with the Park Lane surfacing works and other utility works in the area.

Solution

The works are programmed to start in March and will be well under way by the end of the financial year.

4) Streatley Crossroads Signal Improvements

Issue

The Parish Council have asked for a number of additional scenarios to be designed and modelled which has delayed the works programme.

Solution

The re-designs are currently being modelled and a meeting has been arranged with the Parish to discuss their preferred option. It is fully anticipated the majority of the works for this scheme will be completed by the end of the financial year.

5) Kennet Centre Car Park Roof Replacement (£10k internal funding)

Issue

Repair of the Kennet Centre Car Park roof would require prolonged closure of the top deck of the car park. This would cause an unacceptable shortfall in public car parking for Newbury Town Centre.

Solution

It is recommended that the scheme be postponed until the Parkway development is complete and has been re-programmed for the 2013/14 financial year.

6) Multi Storey Car Park Life Care Plans (£40k Internal funding)

Issue

This funding is towards the production and implementation of a Life Care Plan for the Council's multi-storey car parks

The launch of the Council's Clear Streets Project has meant a significant increase in workload for the Parking Services Team. The success of the Clear Streets Project was very much dependent on the Parking Services Team fully engaging with the scheme and unfortunately as a result other projects have had to be delayed.

Solution

Expressions of interest are currently being sought from consultants to produce the Life Care Plan, and work will continue into the New Year.

7) Kintbury Traffic Management Improvements (£70k S106)

Issue

Protracted discussions and a number of consultation exercises have been undertaken with the Parish Council on proposed traffic calming/road safety improvements for Kintbury Village, however it has not been possible to reach a consensus with the Parish.

Solution

Recent discussions have taken place with the Parish Council resulting in an agreed scheme which will be progressed in the 2010/11 financial year.

2009/10 Outturn Position

At the end of month 11, 98% of the £8.6m Highways and Transport Capital programme has either been spent or committed. As detailed above, a number of schemes have been re-profiled to the 2010/11 financial year. The total budget to be re-profiled is £800,000 which represents approximately 9% of the overall budget. The vast majority of this funding (£750,000) is S106 contributions which are not tied to the fiscal year.

Orders will shortly be placed for the remaining extended maintenance schemes on the A4 at Thatcham. Other large areas of spend include major flood prevention & drainage schemes in Hungerford and Shaw Rd, junction improvements at Streatley and Footway/Cycleway improvements throughout the district. All these schemes are currently being programmed for completion by year end.