
Meeting: Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Date: 25 April 2013
Subject: Capital Programme Report for the Quarter ended 31 December, 2012
Report of Executive Member: Cllr Nigel Young– Executive Member for Sustainable Communities Planning & Economic Development
Cllr Brian Spurr – Executive Member for Sustainable Communities Services
Summary: The schemes that are proceeding in 2012/13 expenditure are expected to total £27,528k gross, £17,408k net.
Due to external factors beyond the control of the Council £3,632k gross and £3,093k net capital expenditure is likely to be delayed into 2013/14.

Advising Officer: Trevor Saunders, Assistant Director Planning and Development
Contact Officer: Sue Templeman, Senior Finance Manager
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

Sustainable Communities capital programme provides the necessary infrastructure to support the Council priorities of: Creating Safer Communities and Managing Growth effectively.

Financial:

The financial implications are set out in the report.

Legal:

All expenditure is in accordance with the Constitution of the Council and Public Procurement Regulations.

Risk Management:

Outline and detailed business cases ensure that risks are addressed before schemes are accepted into the programme. Project Managers oversee delivery risks.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

Covered in business cases as relevant

Equalities/Human Rights:

Covered in business cases as relevant

Community Safety:

Covered in business cases as relevant

Sustainability:

Resource usage and project outcomes are assessed at business case stage.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1.0 that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee considers:

- (a) **The actual gross expenditure to date of £19,451k and external funding of £6,307k resulting in net expenditure of £13,145k;**
- (b) **A forecast gross expenditure of £27,528k and external funding of £10,120k resulting in net expenditure of £17,408k; and**
- (c) **A forecast delay from 2012/13 to 2013/14 of gross expenditure of £3,632k, external funding of £539k, net expenditure of £3,093k due largely to external factors beyond the control of the Council.**

Introduction

2.0 Sustainable Communities capital programme in 2012/13 is made up of 59 schemes which include the large groupings of projects that are the result of developer funds to deliver planning requirements, including highways schemes, associated with new developments.

Capital Position

3.0 Overall position

The directorate forecasts to spend £27,528k and expects to receive external income of £10,120k, leaving spend below budget in 2012/13 of £3,101k. The majority of this is delayed spend due to external factors beyond the control of the Council. This includes leisure projects, compensation payments on Highways schemes and work on sundon / bluewater landfill site.

Leisure projects

Detailed specification is underway for work at Tiddenfoot and construction work is due to start in March. Further design work is required at Saxon to ensure the spa business plan is robust

Compensation payments

Legal negotiations with landowners has yet to be concluded

Sundon / Bluewater Landfill sites

The importation of restoration soils was delayed due to the lack of availability of soil to the contractor at the start of the contract which has pushed back landscaping and related infrastructure works. Also the gas and leachate infrastructure programmes have been delayed by the Environment Agency in order to allow for additional investigatory/ preparatory work to be undertaken.

3.2 Summary Table

Table A shows the Directorate's net budget and forecast by scheme categories for 2012/13. The scheme categories are broadly related to the type of asset being created or enhanced.

Table A – Capital budget by Category (£'000)

Scheme Categories	Net Expenditure Budget	Net Expenditure Forecast	Net Expenditure Variance
Community Safety & Public Protection Infrastructure	47	47	0
Leisure & Culture Infrastructure	2,491	1,288	-1,203
Regeneration & Affordable Housing	4,310	4,047	-263
Transport Infrastructure	13,224	11,731	-1,493
Waste Infrastructure	437	295	-142
Total	20,509	17,408	(3,101)
Percentage of budget		84.9%	15.1%

3.3 Spend to date

Expenditure to date was £19,451k against a profiled budget of £17,089k, a difference of £2,362k. mainly due to spend on Transport Infrastructure schemes ahead of profile.

External funding of £6,307k was received compared to a budget of £8,039k, a difference of £1,733k mainly due to a reduction in S278 spend which is dependant on Developers.

Table B - Capital spend to date (£'000s)

Scheme Categories	ACTUAL TO DATE		
	Gross Expenditure	External Funding	Net Expenditure
Community Safety & Public Protection Infrastructure	5	0	5
Leisure & Culture Infrastructure	1,056	-366	690
Regeneration & Affordable Housing	3,416	0	3,416
Transport Infrastructure	14,738	-5,875	8,864
Waste Infrastructure	236	-66	170
Total	19,451	-6,307	13,145

Major schemes completed to date in 2012/13

4.0 The Capital Programme is key to delivering the priorities set out in the Medium Term Plan, the majority of which are lead by Sustainable Communities. These support the aim of keeping Central Bedfordshire as a great place to live and work.

The major schemes completed that relate to the £19.451m spend to date are highlighted below.

Transport Schemes

Substantial work has been undertaken on the Luton and Dunstable guided busway this year. As of end of December 2012, 70% of the track has been laid, bus stops have been upgraded in Dunstable and Houghton Regis and the busway part of the Court Drive works in Dunstable is nearing completion.

The expenditure to date on integrated schemes has been made on a programme of projects brought forward by the Local Area Transport Plans. Twenty five projects have been completed in 12/13. These reflect many different types of works and include larger projects such as Hitchin St Biggleswade.

90% of the planned 2012/13 highways programme is now complete, with a 100% completion by the end of March.

Street lighting – 77% of the planned 2012/13 street lighting programme is now complete, with a 100% completion by the end of March.

Various improvements on Rights of Way including the replacement of existing bridges with steel bridges at Eggington, Haynes, Arlesey, Hulcote & Salford, Astwick, & Leighton Buzzard and upgrading of 20 footbridges

Regeneration Schemes

The land purchase at Flitwick was completed in April 2012.

Dunstable Town Centre regeneration –purchase on five properties in Dorchester Close has been completed with the remaining two planned to be completed by July 2013.

Leisure and Culture schemes

The upgrading and refurbishment of eight libraries has been completed.

Achievements to date for Outdoor Access and Greenspace Improvement Projects are various works including National Cycle Route 51 surface improvements and surfacing of key footpaths in Leighton Buzzard.

Section 106 Status

5.0 In granting planning permission for new development, legally binding Section 106 agreements are often made between the Council and the applicant. These agreements require the applicant to provide for or contribute to the costs of infrastructure, community facilities and other planning requirements which ensures that development which would otherwise be unacceptable due to its local impact is made acceptable.

Sustainable Communities coordinates S106 requirements and spend for the Council. The S106 information in this report indicates the total value of contributions comprising a substantial number of schemes. For ease of reading the contributions are presented as running totals. The balances are made up of schemes that have different delivery schedules and the amounts do not all have to be spent in the current financial year.

5.1 Table C – s106 schemes by status (£'000)

Purpose / Responsibility	FUNDING STATUS			
	Opening Balance	Contributions received up to December	Expenditure up to December	Closing Balance
Childrens Families & Learning	4,356	985	-292	5,049
Sustainable Communities	8,023	2,174	-1,693	8,504
Pratts Quarry	6,490	0	-3,463	3,027
Sub-total	18,869	3,159	-5,448	16,580
Revenue	82			82
Total	18,951	3,159	-5,448	16,662

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Corporate Capital Summary 2012/13

Appendix 2 – Sustainable Communities Spend to Date, December, 2012

Background Papers: None

Location of papers: Technology House, Bedford