
Meeting: Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date: 15 October 2013
Subject: Capital Budget Management Report Quarter 1 ended 30 June 2013
Report of: Cllr Mark A G Versallion, Executive Member for Children's Services
Summary: The report sets out the projected full year forecast as at 30 June 2013

Advising Officer: Edwina Grant, Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Children's Services
Contact Officer: Dawn Hill, Senior Finance Manager
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

Sound financial management contributes to the Council's value for money which enables the Council to successfully deliver its priorities. The recommendations will contribute indirectly to all 5 Council priorities.

Financial:

1. The financial implications are set out in the report.

Legal:

2. There are no direct legal implications arising from the report.

Risk Management:

3. Sound financial management and budget monitoring mitigates adverse financial risks.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

4. Not applicable

Equalities/Human Rights:

5. Public Authorities must ensure that decisions are made in a way which minimised unfairness and without a disproportionately negative effect on people from different ethnic groups disabled people, women and men. It is important that Councillors are aware of this duty before they take a decision.
6. Equality Impact Assessments were undertaken prior to the allocation of the 2013/14 budgets and each Directorate was advised of significant equality implications relating to their budget proposals. Many of the pressures outlined in this report are in relation to those needs led services which support the most vulnerable children in our communities.

Community Safety:

7. Not applicable.

Sustainability:

8. Not applicable.

Procurement:

9. Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Committee is asked to note the current projected full year outturn position is in line with the revised budget for 2013/14.:-

Introduction and Key Highlights (Appendices A1)

10. Children's Services annual capital expenditure budget is £27.395M (including slippage from 2012/13) The income budget is £26.691M which leaves a net expenditure capital budget of £704k.
11. The full year reported outturn position for 2013/14 is currently inline with the budget allocation. There is no expenditure deadline to the spending of the grant receipts.
12. All but two projects, Schools Access and Temporary Accommodation, are funded wholly by grant receipts that have no expenditure deadline.
13. The actual to date gross expenditure is line with the profiled budget.

Summary Table: Directorate Overall position (Appendices A1)

	Gross Expenditure Budget	Profiled Gross Expenditure Budget YTD	Gross Spend to Date	Gross Expenditure Variance to date
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Children Services	27,195	2,626	2,627	1
Partnerships	200	0	0	0
Total	27,395	2,626	2,627	1

14. New School Places /Basic Need

This grant funding is to enable management of pressures related to population growth and capacity within our schools. The outline programme to commission new school places over the next five years will drive the expenditure of basic need grant and will also align S106 contributions that are being collected for major projects.

15. In March 2013 the DfE announced the Basic Need allocations for 13/14 and 14/15 which has allocated £18.281m over the two years. An update to the New School Places Programme was reported to Executive in March 2013

16. The budget for 2013/14 has therefore been reviewed to take account of the actual grant funding received for 2013/14, which was not known at the time the programme was originally approved by Executive. The forecast spend for 2013/14 is £15.77M with £21.77M planned expenditure in 2014/15.
17. The New School Places Programme has recently been refreshed and was reported to the Council's Executive in February and March 2013.
18. **Schools Capital Maintenance**

This rolling programme is externally funded by DfE grant but does require schools to contribute to the cost of works, as set out in a formula contained within the Scheme for Financing Schools. These contributions are invoiced once planned works are complete.
19. The 13/14 programme is now being commissioned but with a much reduced DfE grant of £2.562M as a result of Academy capital held centrally by the EFA
20. **All Saints Academy**

The Academy buildings were completed in September and were occupied at the commencement of the Autumn Term.
21. The client-side team continue to work with the school in monitoring outstanding issues and will administer (on the Council's behalf) the final deployment of the two 'retention payments' in September 2013 and at Easter 2014.
22. **School Devolved Formula Capital**

The allocation to Schools is for use on capital condition / improvement works on their buildings in line with the priorities in their School Improvement Plan and in context with the Schools Asset Management Plan. The schools have three years to spend the grant.
23. **Temporary Accommodation**

Central Bedfordshire Council provides capital funding for schools requiring temporary units where pupil numbers exceed the maximum capacity of a school. A rolling budget of £450k has been used to set a programme each year, based on forecasts from the School Organisation Plan 2012-2017.
24. The budget allocation for 2013/14 has been reduced to £400k.
25. **University Technical College**

This scheme was added to the Capital Programme in March, 2012 and involves converting existing premises at the Kingsland Campus, Houghton Regis, vacated by Central Bedfordshire College, together with the addition of a small new adjoining block. The project, which was undertaken in three phases, is now complete.
26. By agreement with the UTC governors the Council has temporarily retained the new build block, which currently houses the PRU in order to free up the PRU accommodation for the scheme referred to at paragraph 34 (below) to be implemented for an opening September 2013.

27. The project is funded by external capital grant from the Education Funding Agency together with some £400k of 'section 106' funding for additional local secondary school provision. An element of this budget has been centrally retained by the Council and is being used to cover project support costs and the capital costs of relocating some existing users of the Kingsland Campus within the site.
28. The total spend for this project is £6.8M with £6.6M spent in 2012/13. The value and funding of this project was not known at the time the capital programme was originally approved by Executive. The project has been completed within budget.
29. **School Access Initiative**

Central Bedfordshire Council provides capital funding to improve access to mainstream schools for pupils with disabilities. All Central Bedfordshire Schools, with the exception of voluntary aided schools and academies, can apply for funding on a bid basis. A multi-agency Panel of officers from the SEN and Inclusion Service, the School Organisation, Admissions and Capital Planning Team and disability specialists from the Central Bedfordshire Special Schools consider bids in March and September and award funding on a priority basis, as identified in Central Bedfordshire Council's Accessibility Strategy.
30. The budget allocation for 2013/14 is £300k.
31. The March Panel awarded funding for equipment (including hearing and sight aids) and access works projects. The Panel will meet for the final time this financial year in September and unallocated funding will then be declared as an underspend.
32. **Alternative Secondary Provision (Free School)- the Academy of Central Bedfordshire (ACB)**

This project is intended to provide remodelled provision and new build on each of the school's sites at the Kingsland Campus and the former Roecroft Lower In Stotfold.
33. Works to the Kingsland buildings were originally funded from S106 contributions and direct revenue transfer from SEN budgets to address urgent health and safety issues, following disaggregation of the pupil referral unit from Bedford Borough Council and the more intensive use of the existing building.
34. The Kingsland buildings used by the PRU are now part of the Alternative Provision Free School Bid which is progressing for opening in September 2013 with a DfE confirmed budget of £2.9M of capital grant which will come through the Council's capital programme. A business case setting out works required to deliver the Free School's curriculum, has been approved by the Council's Executive, as has the project's procurement. Contractors and architects have been appointed and initial design work is now well advanced with a Planning application also submitted.
35. Work commenced on the Kingsland site in early May is running to the agreed programme and are forecast to complete in late August. In order to provide a single set of premises for the ACB at Kingsland minor adjustments have been made to the UTC premises and the area dedicated to the Adult Education Service.

36. At the former Roecroft site, Stotfold the project design has been completed and planning permission has been secured. The build-programme has been agreed with the contractors and a start on site in July 2013 has been prepared for. If achieved this will lead to completion around February 2014.
37. ACB's proposers have been briefed about the build-programme implications and are concentrating efforts on becoming operational at Kingsland this coming September.
38. **Short Breaks for disabled children – Development of the South Hub, Dunstable.**
- Executive agreed on 10 January 2012 that services for disabled children, young people and their families should be delivered through a 'hub & spoke' model of service delivery. Executive agreed there should be 2 hubs, one in the north, Biggleswade and one in the south, Dunstable.
39. A hub and associated services is being delivered in the north of authority from the Ivel Valley Primary School site in Biggleswade, which become fully operational in January 2013
40. The existing residential properties at 39 Oakwood Avenue and the vacant section of Downside Neighbourhood Centre are being refurbished to provide local services in the south to disabled children and their families. This will enable the delivery of targeted services to disabled children and their families who are some of our most vulnerable and most at need.
41. The location of the property on Oakwood Avenue has the added advantage of its proximity to the Downside Children's Centre. It is also in close proximity of the Area Special School whose pupils will be utilising the facility. The space at the site provides the added benefit in that it will allow GP's and other clinicians to attend and utilise the facilities to support the special needs and care of the child and their family.
42. In all securing Oakwood Avenue for use by Children's services will:
- Enable Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) to deliver the core 'hub' and associated services to disabled children, young people and their families living in south of the authority.
 - Transform and improve services to some of the most disadvantaged and marginalised young people and their families in society.
 - Provide services where there is the most need
 - Surrender the lease of 'Poppies' in Aspley Guise currently rented from Aragon Housing (3 months notice is required).
 - Relocation of services currently provided at 'Poppies' will ensure an increased efficiency of service delivery.
 - Develop integrated working and practice and prepare for the Government's 'personalisation' agenda.
 - Link and contribute to the requirements of the forthcoming Children and Families Bill and Achievement for All agendas.
 - Retain and improve a CBC asset.
 - Achieve milestones agreed by Executive January 2012.

The planned completion date for the refurbishment is 31st August 2013.

43. This funding allocation of £197k will be spent by August 2013.
44. **Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA) & Local Area Agreement (LAA)**
This funding belongs to the Central Bedfordshire Together partnership (CBT) and the Council holds this for administrative purposes. How it is spent rests with the CBT.
45. A proposal was approved by the Board of CBT on 27 June for £55,000 to be allocated for the purchase of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras. This will be match funded by Bedfordshire Police to install 11 ANPR cameras in the Biggleswade area.
46. The Board had previously allocated £200,000 to contribute towards the roll out of superfast broadband across Central Bedfordshire. It is anticipated that this funding will be drawn down by the project during 2013/14.
47. **Early Years places for 2 year olds from lower income households**
On 27 November 2012, the Department for Education announced revenue and capital funding allocations to local authorities to secure early education places for two-year-olds from lower income households. Central Bedfordshire is to receive a capital allocation of £349k to support implementation of early education for two year olds by increasing capacity where these new places are required.
48. Central Bedfordshire also received £506k transitional funding which school forum has approved for additional capital allocation so the working budget for the programme is potentially £854k.
49. The Childcare Development Team will identify areas where additional places are required and work with new and existing providers to develop capacity. Funding allocations will be approved through the Childcare Panel process to ensure these new places are available from September 2014.

Appendices: Appendix A1 Directorate Overall position