WIRRAL COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 5 SEPTEMBER 2007

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION

REGENERATION DEPARTMENT - FINANCIAL MONITORING

1.0 **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1.1 This is the second monitoring report this financial year; further reports will be submitted throughout the year to highlight the financial performance of the Regeneration Department. Members are asked to note the report.

2.0 FINANCIAL YEAR 2006/07

2.1 The accounts for the 2006/07 financial year have been completed and reported to Cabinet on 20 June 2007 and the Statement of Accounts was presented to the Audit and Risk Management Committee on 28 June 2007. The outturn position for the Regeneration Department showed an underspend in the year of £236,000; this represents a 0.7% saving on the Current Estimate 2006/07 of £33,602,800.

3.0 FINANCIAL YEAR 2007/08

- 3.1 Further to the reporting of the Estimates 2007/08 to Cabinet on 20 February 2007 and to Council on 1 March 2007, the approved budget for the Regeneration Department was set at £32,777,900, (see Appendix 1).
- 3.2 Since this Committee approved the budget in January 2007 it has been revised to reflect the agreed savings, policy options and the re-allocation of internal recharges. Following the approval by Council on 1 March 2007, the Executive Board, on 26 April 2007, approved additional revenue support for the new Floral Pavilion to the value of £1,251,300 for the six year development. For 2007/08 this support was set at £236,000:

	£
Budget presented to Overview and Scrutiny Committee	33,422,900
Changes arising after January Overview and Scrutiny	
Agreed Savings - Reduction in Pay Inflation	-263,700
 Reduction in Car Allowances 	-25,200
 Reduction in Procurement 	-108,300
Additional Savings 2007/08	-399,000
Policy Options – Regeneration	350,000
Recharge adjustments	-198,800
Budget approved by Council 1 March 2007	32,777,900
Approved by Executive Board 26 April 2007	236,000
Revised Budget 2007/08	33,013,900

4.0 FINANCIAL MONITORING 2007/08

4.1 Progress on implementing Policy Options

4.1.1 The total of policy options for the Regeneration Department is £580,000 of which the following are contained in the Regeneration Department's budget:

	£
Free swimming for younger people and pensioners	180,000
Cultural Services development plan (funded from SRE reinvestment)	100,000
Youth sports night programme	50,000
Dog fouling enforcement	20,000
	350,000

4.1.2 In addition to the policy options shown above there are two further options funded from other sources:

	Z.
Smoke free campaign (funded from Grant)	180,000
Improving security in parks and cemeteries (from Property Maintenance)	50,000
	230,000

4.2 Progress on delivering savings

4.2.1 The Regeneration Department remains committed to making the following additional savings during the year (2007/08), and progress is being made to ensure that the target is achieved by the year end:

	£
Amend Cultural Services staff duty rotas	-50,000
Review Contribution to Health Links	-54,000
Extended schools provision of services to the community	-30,000
Capitalise HMRI grant	-135,000
Delete two vacant posts	-80,000
Renegotiate funding on Community Safety Officers' provision	-25,000
Re-profiling Alleygating programme	-25,000
	-399,000

4.3 Progress on delivering Service Re-engineering savings

4.3.1 The Regeneration Department's share of the overall savings target for the year 2007/08 is £945,000. In addition to which there is the reinstatement of £152,000 of savings, which were found in 2006/07 from one-off savings making the total for 2007/08 of £1,097,000. Furthermore, additional procurement savings, planned property maintenance savings and the department's contribution to the Principal Health and Safety post have yet to be allocated to the appropriate service area:

Service Areas	Savings Identified £	Achieved to Date £
Housing and Regeneration Division	133,000	133,000
Regulation Division	224,400	0
Sports and Recreation	230,000	170,000
Libraries and Halls	143,800	70,000
Parks and Countryside	281,300	10,000
Community Services	36,900	10,500
Arts and Museums	47,600	0
Procurement Savings	108,300	0
Planned property Maintenance	21,900	21,900
Health and Safety Officer post	18,500	18,500
Total	1,245,700	433,900

4.3.2 Information on the savings identified in the above table will be the subject of more detailed reports to Cabinet in the near future.

4.4 Variations

- 4.4.1 At this stage of the financial year there are no variations to report. However the areas of the budget that have historically been regarded as high risk or volatile, because of the nature of the budget will be subject to closer monitoring.
- 4.4.2 The budgets for Repairs and Maintenance, Energy Costs and Income levels are considered to be the key budget areas that require close scrutiny and any concerns or problems identified during the year will be reported to future meetings.

4.5 Issues affecting future financial years

4.5.1 The savings identified above are likely to have a significant effect on the future provision of services and operation of the department. Further reports highlighting all issues for 2007/08 and for future years will be submitted to Cabinet and the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 For 2007/08 the agreed estimate for the Regeneration Department is £33,013,900 and, at this stage of the year is projected to be on budget.

6.0 STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no additional staffing implications arising from this report.

7.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

8.0 **COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

9.0 LOCAL MEMBERS SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no specific implications for any Member or Ward.

10.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

11.0 PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are none arising from this report.

12.0 ANTI-POVERTY IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are no known anti-poverty implications arising from this report.

13.0 **SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS**

13.1 There are no known social inclusion implications arising from this report.

14.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

14.1 None used in the preparation of this report.

15.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

15.1 Members are asked to note the content of the report.

Alan Stennard Director of Regeneration

This report was prepared by Nigel Kent who can be contacted on 666 3446.

REGENERATION DEPARTMENT	REVISED ESTIMATE 2007/08 £
OBJECTIVE SUMMARY	
MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION	
Departmental Management and Administration	26,000
Total MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION	26,000
HOUSING AND REGENERATION SERVICES	
Housing Market Renewal Initiative Housing Strategy Managed Properties Neighbourhood Renewal Programme Private Sector Housing Regeneration Department NRF Schemes Regeneration Implementation	129,800 621,900 0 44,500 1,268,500 14,500 3,112,300
Rehousing Services Supporting People Tranmere Together	806,700 881,400 0
Total HOUSING AND REGENERATION SERVICES	6,879,600
REGULATORY SERVICES	
Community Safety Dog Warden Service Health District Team Licensing Neighbourhood Nuisance North Western and North Wales Sea Fisheries Committee Pollution and Pest Control Port Health Authorities Public Conveniences Trading Standards and Consumer Advice	1,406,800 302,800 1,218,700 35,200 110,900 39,800 729,800 129,500 462,400 755,600
Total REGULATORY SERVICES	5,191,500
CULTURE AND HERITAGE	
Art Galleries and Museums Theatre, Arts and Culture Tramway	836,700 587,700 175,900
Total CULTURE AND HERITAGE	1,600,300
REGENERATION DEPARTMENT	REVISED ESTIMATE

	2007/08 £
LIBRARY SERVICE	2
Bebington Complex Management Halls Libraries	0 821,900 6,026,000
Total LIBRARY SERVICE	6,837,900
PARKS AND OPEN SPACES	
Allotments Beach Lifeguards Birkenhead Park Cemeteries and Crematorium Golf Grounds Maintenance Parks and Open Spaces Ranger Service	40,000 289,900 528,300 -406,200 -103,600 0 4,176,900 856,800
Total PARKS AND OPEN SPACES	5,382,100
SPORT AND RECREATION	
Health & Sports Grant Funded Initiatives Sports Centres Sports Development	0 6,706,200 275,200
Total SPORT AND RECREATION	6,981,400
COMMUNITY SERVICES	
Community Services	1,456,900
Total COMMUNITY SERVICES	1,456,900
SUPPORT SERVICES	
Support Services	0
Total SUPPORT SERVICES	0
AGREED SAVINGS	
Service Re-Engineering Vacancy Control	-1,245,700 -106,100
Total AGREED SAVINGS	-1,351,800
	33,013,900