

4 JUNE 2007

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION

REGENERATION DEPARTMENT - CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report provides a regular update on The Regeneration Department's Capital Programme. Members are asked to note the report.

2.0 APPROVED PROGRAMME

2.1 The Capital Programme is formulated and planned on a three-year basis within the Council's Capital Strategy. Council 1 March 2007 approved the overall Capital Programme for 2007/10. The original 2007/08 Capital Programme for the department was £30,149,400 as summarised below:

| Areas | 2007/08 £000 |
|--|-------------------------|
| Regeneration Projects | |
| Renovation Grants | 2,500 |
| Clearance | 15,800 |
| Disabled Facility Grants | 1,250 |
| Single Programme (Ex Derelict Land) | 300 |
| Objective 1 | 3,200 |
| SRB | 1,432 |
| Business Rates Support | 300 |
| Total Regeneration Projects | 24,782 |
| Cultural Services Projects | |
| Birkenhead Park restoration | 1,820 |
| The Oval refurbishment | 2,200 |
| The Oval soccer pitches | 550 |
| The Oval Grandstand/ changing facilities | 150 |
| Play area refurbishment | 70 |
| Football facilities | 27 |
| Energy efficiency schemes | 250 |
| Frankby Cemetery | 300 |
| Total Cultural Services Projects | 5,367 |
| Total Programme | 30,149 |

2.2 For detailed analysis of the revised Capital Programme for 2007/08 to 2009/10 see Appendix 1.

3.0 PROGRESS

3.1 A summary of the progress is shown below along with reasons for any significant variances. The increase from current approved expenditure to latest forecast expenditure is mainly due to slippage from 2006/07 and new schemes as detailed in the report.

| Services Area: | 2007/08 Current Approved Programme £ | 2007/08 Latest Forecast Expenditure £ | 2007/08 Expenditure To Date £ |
|-----------------------------|--|---|--|
| Regeneration Projects: | 24,782,000 | 24,842,000 | 1,025,500 |
| Cultural Services Projects: | 5,367,400 | 5,143,000 | 47,800 |
| Total Programme | 30,149,400 | 29,985,000 | 1,073,300 |

3.2 HMRI 2007/08

As reported to Cabinet on 19 October 2006, approval was given for a variation to the Regeneration Capital Programme through the 'bringing forward' of Council resources from 2007/08 to 2006/07 of up to £3 million, with a corresponding reduction in the 2007/08 programme. However, during the latter part of 2006/07 the momentum of the programme was reduced and, fortuitously, additional funding of £900,000 was provided by English Partnership this resulted in only £510,000 being required from the 2007/08 programme.

3.3 Public Conveniences

Slippage into 2006/07 of £250,000 for spend on Public Conveniences was approved by Cabinet. By the end of 2006/07 there remained an unspent balance of £60,000. This will slip into 2007/08 to mop up any residual costs still to be incurred.

3.4 Clearance and Home Improvement Programme schemes

Significant progress has been made over the previous financial year this will continue into 2007/08 with an anticipated £8,946,000 being spent on clearance, actual spend to date being £636,000.

3.4.1 In 2006/07 The Home Improvement Programme enabled the completion of grant work to improve private sector and RSL properties in Tranmere to the Decent Homes Standard. Phase 1 of the Triangles Group Repair Scheme in Birkenhead is now complete. A total of 107 properties have benefited from the first phase of this scheme and a similar number will benefit from Phase 2, which is now in progress and will continue in 2007/08.

3.5 Objective 1

The Objective 1 European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) programme covers a number of individual schemes within the Authority with the majority of expenditure being incurred under the umbrella of the Strategic Investment Area. The programme will continue to the end of March 2008, and is currently on target.

3.6 Single Regeneration Budget

Wirral Waterfront is the Authority's only remaining live SRB. Funding for this scheme is received from the North West Development Agency (NWDA) and has been extended to 2007/8. The balance of capital expenditure (£1.4m) from 2006/07, has been carried forward to 2007/08.

3.7 **Mersey Waterfront Regional Park**

Wirral is the accountable body for this partnership, which involves a number of Local Authorities covering the Mersey Waterfront. The programme was completed in 2006/07. A Succession Programme to extend the partnership to 2009 is currently being finalised an offer of funding is currently being draw up, details of which will be reported separately to members at a later date.

3.8 **Birkenhead Park Restoration**

The Birkenhead Park Heritage Lottery funded restoration is now nearing completion with all of the major contracts having achieved or about to achieve practical completion. Package 5, which is the main landscape works and the largest contract, was completed in January. It has one year's landscape maintenance to follow as part of the contract. The contractor, Balfour Beatty has indicated in a draft claim that it is seeking an additional £180,000, which has been refuted by our consultants. Handover for the depot and fencing works is due before the end of May. Once all the final accounts have been assessed a small amount of additional work may be possible. There are still some additional improvements to be carried out, outside the HLF remit but within the initiative, over the next year to finish off the project.

3.9 **The Oval Sports Centre Refurbishment**

The contractor, Winstanleys, have now been appointed and will commence work on site from Monday 18th June. If the 26 week programme of works all goes to schedule the work should be complete before Christmas, which will hopefully allow us to re-open during the first week of January 2008.

3.10 **8 Five A Side Soccer Pitches at The Oval**

Planning permission has now been granted and the scheme is currently out to tender with a return date of 8th June. The 20 week programme of works is likely to commence on Monday 23rd July with an expected completion by 7th December 07. It is our intention to open this facility in conjunction with the main building completion.

3.11 **The Oval Grandstand/Changing Facilities**

In order to allow us to maintain some limited outdoor sports facilities for our valued user groups until the end of August, we have taken the decision to delay the Grandstand improvement works until September. Again, the intention will be to re-open this facility in conjunction with the other two main projects.

3.12 **Play Area Refurbishment**

Due to requests for further consultation from Councillors and Resident Groups we have had to delay the implementation of the new Play Area at Shorefields. If all issues can be resolved we are hopeful that work will commence this financial year.

3.13 **Transform Your Space**

This is a Big Lottery Fund (BLF) Grant initiative of £1.6m including match funding which is now complete. Final retention payments will be made during this financial year.

3.14 **Energy Efficiency Schemes**

The new air handling and dehumidification system has now been installed at West Kirby Concourse and was commissioned in mid May. The same technology will be used to re-new out dated equipment at Woodchurch Leisure Centre during the month of June.

3.15 **Borough Road Play Area**

This scheme will provide a play area using money provided by a developer under the Section 106 agreement.

3.16 Cemeteries and Crematorium

Council on the 1 March 2007 approved prudential borrowing of £300,000 towards an extension to the existing cemetery at Frankby. The work will include drainage, kerbs and new road links plus other minor improvements.

3.17 Other Schemes

There are a number of schemes that have incurred slippage from 2006/07 including the football facilities improvements and The Oval running track. These schemes are mainly grant funded and should be completed this financial year.

4.0 FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Regeneration Department Capital Programme is based upon resources expected from Central Government, use of reserves and assumes the use of capital receipts generated from the sale of assets.

4.2 Chief Officers are responsible for ensuring that their expenditure has been incurred on projects within the approved capital programme. All expenditure detailed in this report is approved.

4.3 Chief Officers, in consultation with the Director of Finance, are responsible for reporting all overspends and underspends on capital schemes to Cabinet. At this early stage in the financial year I am not aware of any other likely overspends or underspends.

4.4 There are no immediate staffing implications arising directly from this report.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES, HUMAN RIGHTS, COMMUNITY SAFETY, LOCAL AGENDA 21, LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

6.0 PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are none specific to this report with individual schemes being submitted for statutory approvals as and when necessary.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None used in the preparation of this report.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

Alan Stennard
Director of Regeneration

This report has been written by Nigel Kent who can be contacted on tel 666 3446.

Programme Details – Regeneration Department

| | Original Approval (as Estimate Book) 2007/08 £ | 2007/08 Latest Forecast 2007/08 £ | 2008/09 Forecast Expenditure 2008/09 £ | 2009/10 Forecast Expenditure 2009/10 £ |
|--|---|---|--|--|
| Expenditure | | | | |
| REGENERATION SCHEMES | | | | |
| Renovation Grants | 2,500,000 | 2,500,000 | 2,500,000 | 2,500,000 |
| Slum Clearance | 15,800,000 | 15,800,000 | 15,800,000 | 15,800,000 |
| Disabled Facilities Grants | 1,250,000 | 1,250,000 | 1,250,000 | 1,250,000 |
| Single Programme | 300,000 | 300,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Objective 1 | 3,200,000 | 3,200,000 | 0 | 0 |
| SRB | 1,432,000 | 1,432,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Public Conveniences - slippage | 0 | 60,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Business Rates Support | 300,000 | 300,000 | 300,000 | 300,000 |
| CULTURAL SERVICES SCHEMES | | | | |
| Expenditure | | | | |
| Birkenhead Park restoration | 1,820,000 | 1,310,000 | 0 | 0 |
| The Oval refurbishment | 2,200,000 | 2,115,800 | 0 | 0 |
| The Oval soccer pitches | 550,000 | 590,700 | 0 | 0 |
| The Oval Grandstand/ changing facilities | 150,000 | 150,000 | 0 | 0 |
| The Oval Running Track | 0 | 6,600 | 0 | 0 |
| Play area refurbishment | 70,000 | 70,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Transform Your Space | 0 | 38,500 | 0 | 0 |
| Football facilities | 27,400 | 27,400 | 17,000 | 0 |
| Energy efficiency schemes | 250,000 | 399,300 | 0 | 0 |
| Borough Road S106 Play Area | 0 | 75,200 | 0 | 0 |
| Frankby Cemetery | 300,000 | 300,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Landican Cemetery | 0 | 42,500 | 300,000 | 0 |
| Other Schemes | 0 | 17,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Total expenditure | 30,149,400 | 29,985,000 | 20,167,000 | 19,850,000 |
| Resources | | | | |
| General Resources | 10,314,600 | 10,335,700 | 7,700,000 | 7,700,000 |
| Prudential Borrowing | 1,250,000 | 1,482,500 | 300,000 | 0 |
| Grant – HMRI | 9,800,000 | 9,800,000 | 9,800,000 | 9,800,000 |
| Grants – Other | 8,714,800 | 8,221,600 | 2,367,000 | 2,350,000 |
| Revenue / Reserves | 70,000 | 145,200 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Identified Resources | 30,149,400 | 29,985,000 | 20,167,000 | 19,850,000 |