

WIRRAL COUNCIL

REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

15 SEPTEMBER 2015

SUBJECT	FINANCIAL MONITORING 2015/16 QUARTER 1 (APRIL - JUNE 2015)
WARD/S AFFECTED	ALL
REPORT OF	ACTING SECTION 151 OFFICER

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report sets out the financial monitoring information for this Committee in a format consistent across the Policy and Performance Committees. The report aims to give Members sufficient detail to scrutinise budget performance for the Directorate. The financial information is for Quarter 1 (April-June 2015) and was reported to Cabinet on 27 July.

2 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 Members of the Policy and Performance Committees have previously requested that financial monitoring information is provided as a standard item at each Committee.
- 2.2 Since September 2012 regular revenue and capital monitoring reports have been submitted to Cabinet as a means of providing regular, detailed updates on budget performance.
- 2.3 The Coordinating Committee has agreed that in order to fulfil its corporate and strategic scrutiny role, it will continue to review the full versions of the most up to date monitor reports at its future scheduled meetings.
- 2.4 The relevant sections from the most recent revenue and capital monitoring reports reported to Cabinet are summarised into a bespoke report for each Policy and Performance Committee. This will include the following:
- Performance against revenue budget
 - Performance against in year efficiency targets
 - Performance against capital budget

3 PERFORMANCE AGAINST REVENUE BUDGETS QUARTER 1 (APRIL-JUNE 2015)

CHANGES TO THE AGREED BUDGET

3.1 Changes to the agreed Regeneration & Environment Budget for 2015-16

	Original Net Budget	Approved Budget Changes Prior Mths	Approved Budget Changes Quarter 1	Proposed Budget Changes Quarter 1	Revised Net Budget
Regeneration & Environment	90,287	-	-664	-	89,623
Net Cost of Services	90,287	-	-664	-	89,623

3.1.1 The approved budget changes take account of the following adjustments:

- the completion of remodelling and restructuring of Council services
- adjustments between Children & Young People and Regeneration & Environment
- the allocation of Corporate Growth, Savings and Grant budgets

4 BUDGET VARIATIONS

4.1 The report will use RAGBY ratings that will highlight under and overspends and place them into 'risk bands'. The 'risk band' classification is:

- Extreme: Overspends - **Red** (over +£301k), Underspend **Yellow** (over -£301k)
- Acceptable: Amber (+£141k to +£300k), Green (range from +£140k to -£140k); Blue (-£141k to -£300k)

4.2 2015/16 Projected Budget variations £000's

Directorates	Revised Budget	Forecast Outturn	(Under) Overspend Quarter 1	RAGBY Class	Change from prev
Regeneration & Environment	89,623	89,323	-300	B	-
TOTAL	89,623	89,323	-300		-

4.3 An underspend of £0.3 million is currently forecast relating to further contract efficiencies within Supported Housing.

5 IMPLEMENTATION OF SAVINGS

5.1 The delivery of the agreed savings is key to the Council's financial health and is tracked at both Council and Directorate level. The Budget for 2015/16 included £38 million of efficiency measures and it was recognised that the delivery of the savings, particularly within Adults and Children's Services was challenging being more of a transformational / change nature.

Budget Implementation Plan 2015/16 (£000's)

BRAG	Number of Options	Approved Budget Reduction	Amount Delivered at Q1	To be Delivered see T4
B - delivered	8	1,595	1,595	0
G – on track	9	794	463	331
A - concerns	3	470	200	270
R - high risk/ not achieved	0	0	0	0
Total at Quarter 1 2015-16	20	2,859	2,258	601

6 PERFORMANCE AGAINST CAPITAL BUDGETS QUARTER 1 (APRIL-JUNE 2015)

6.1 Capital Programme 2015/16 at end of Quarter 1 (30 June)

	Capital Strategy	Revisions Since Budget Cabinet	Revised Capital Programme	Actual Spend June 2015
	£000	£000	£000	£000
R&E– Env & Regulation	12,633	2,491	15,124	180
R&E– Hsg & Comm Safety	6,412	2,381	8,793	374
R& E – Regeneration	1,808	3,751	5,559	4,322
Total expenditure	20,853	8,623	29,476	4,876

Note: revisions reflect re-profiling of schemes from 2014/15 plus additional grant funding

6.2 Regeneration and Environment – Environment and Regulation

This element of the capital programme will involve £15.1 million of investment.

The largest element of the programme is LED lighting scheme. The tender process for the installation has been completed, and installation will commence mid-August. The scheme remains on schedule and the budget savings are expected to be achieved.

Cabinet 20 July 2015 received reports detailing planned use of Integrated Transport Block and Sustainable Transport Enhancements Package (STEP) funding.

6.3 Regeneration and Environment – Housing and Community Safety

Investment of £8.8 million is planned for this element of the programme. This includes support for the provision and re-provision of new housing through the clearance programme with £1.8 million deferred to 2015/16 from 2014/15 as well as approximately half of the 2014/15 Home Improvement allocation.

The authority has received DCLG funding via Liverpool City Council (acting as the accountable body) of £1.2m for a grant scheme entitled “Cluster of Empty Homes Fund”. This capital funding is to be used in accordance with the bid

conditions to bring empty property (including commercial property) into use as housing. £31,657 has been used to support the Council's Empty Homes Grant programme. The remaining funding has been allocated to contribute to the overall costs of renovating and converting the Old Court House in Manor Road and The Ark, Birkenhead.

Disabled Facilities Grants/Aids and Adaptations continue to be approved and the spend committed but the incurring of this spend is determined by the grant applicants which may result in delays.

6.4 Regeneration and Environment – Regeneration

Approximately £5.6 million of expenditure is forecast in the year for this area. £4.3 million has been incurred to date in respect of Regional Growth Fund activity.

7 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 There are none relating to this report.

8 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 Any option to improve the monitoring and budget accuracy will be considered.

9 CONSULTATION

9.1 No consultation has been carried out in relation to this report.

10 OUTSTANDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ACTIONS

10.1 There is an ongoing requirement to identify during the financial year necessary actions to mitigate any forecast overspend.

11 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

11.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

12 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL, IT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

12.1 In respect of the Revenue Budget the Regeneration and Environment Directorate is projecting a £0.3m underspend as at the 30 June 2015.

13 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

13.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

14 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

14.1 The report is for information and there are no direct equalities implications at this stage.

15 CARBON REDUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

15.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

16 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

16.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

17 RECOMMENDATIONS

17.1 Members are requested to review the information presented to determine if they have any specific questions relating to the budget for the Regeneration and Environment Directorate.

18 REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

18.1 To ensure Members have the appropriate information to review the budget performance of the directorate.

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APPENDICES

Extracted from the Capital Monitoring report to Cabinet on 27 July 2015:-
Annex 1 Revised Capital Programme and Funding 2015/16

SUBJECT HISTORY

Council Meeting	Date
Regular financial monitoring reports for Revenue and Capital have been presented to Cabinet since September 2012.	

Annex 1 Revised Capital Programme

Regeneration and Environment - Environment & Regulation	Revised Programme £000	Spend to Date £000	Council Resources £000	Revenue/Reserves £000	Grants £000	Total Funding £000
Road Safety	157	14	84	-	73	157
Active Travel	185	13	185	-	-	185
Transportation	104	11	104	-	-	104
Bridges	1,566	-	728	-	838	1,566
Street Lighting	76	18	26	-	50	76
Highway Maintenance	3,105	80	400	-	2,705	3,105
Integrated Transport	1,558	-	-	-	1,558	1,558
Start Active, Play Active, Stay active	34	6	24	10	-	34
Wirral Way - widening and safety improvements	14	-	14	-	-	14
Cemetery Extensions and Improvements	171	-	171	-	-	171
Coast Protection	251	4	251	-	-	251
Energy schemes (LED Street Lighting)	4,236	-	4,236	-	-	4,236
Allotments	165	-	165	-	-	165
Parks Improvements	13	8	-	13	-	13
Royden Park	2	-	-	-	2	2
Parks vehicles replacement	684	23	684	-	-	684
Reeds Lane Play Area	23	3	-	-	23	23
West Kirby Flood Alleviation	1,500	-	-	200	1,300	1,500
Dock Bridges Replacement	280	-	280	-	-	280
Preventative Maintenance to Unclassified and Residential Streets	500	-	500	-	-	500
Preventative Maintenance to Classified Roads	500	-	500	-	-	500
	15,124	180	8,352	223	6,549	15,124

Regeneration and Environment - Housing & Community Safety	Revised Programme £000	Spend to Date £000	Council Resources £000	Revenue/Reserves £000	Grants £000	Total Funding £000
Aids, Adaptations and Disabled Facility Grants	3,235	263	1,162	-	2,073	3,235
LIFT	298	2	298	-	-	298
Clearance	1,840	16	755	350	735	1,840
Home Improvement	854	66	485	369	-	854
Improvement for sale grants	180	-	-	180	-	180
Empty Property Interventions	236	27	190	46	-	236
New House Building Programme	1,500	-	1,500	-	-	1,500
Cluster of Empty Homes Fund	650	-	-	-	650	650
	8,793	374	4,390	945	3,458	8,793

Regeneration and Environment - Regeneration	Revised Programme £000	Spend to Date £000	Council Resources £000	Revenue/Reserves £000	Grants £000	Total Funding £000
Other Regional Growth Fund Schemes	3,208	3,208	-	-	3,208	3,208
LEP Regional Growth Fund Schemes - Targeted Assistance	1,102	1,102	-	-	1,102	1,102
Business Investment Grants	780	-	780	-	-	780
The Priory	69	12	-	-	69	69
Hamilton Square Accessibility Improvements	400	-	-	-	400	400
	5,559	4,322	780	-	4,779	5,559