

MONITORING REPORT FROM DIRECTORS OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND ADULT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

DATE: 22 January 2009

PURPOSE

To update members on activity within the Children's Services and Adult and Community Service's Directorates during the period to 31 December 2008. This report refers to those services previously within the Learning and Care Directorate.

BACKGROUND

The total former Learning and Care Budget is projected to be overspent by £154k. This is an increase of £30k from the previous month arising mainly from an increase in projected expenditure on Elderly and Physical Disability Services and Housing Services, offset by a reduction in projected expenditure mainly on Children's Safeguarding.

SPECIFIC AREAS FOR ATTENTION

Revenue Budget

Children & Young People – Central Schools Budget (DSG)

The forecast expenditure funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is now expected to be overspent by £427k, an increase of £128k on the £299k reported last month. £80k of this increase relates to a new out-borough special school placement in the last month, further adding to this year's untypically large net increase in the number of children placed. Underspends elsewhere in the DSG funded Schools Budget, most notably in the contingency set aside for in-year school costs arising from a reassessment of rateable values in schools, continue to help offset some of the overspend on the SEN placement budget. Any over- or underspends against the ring-fenced DSG at the end of the year is carried forward into the following year's Schools Budget, and does not affect the Local Authority funded budget.

Children & Young People – LA funded Budget

The LA funded Children and Young People's budget currently shows a projected overspend of £428k, a decrease of £55k on the £483k forecast overspend reported last month. The main pressures remain, as before, in high-cost demand-led budgets such as Home to School Transport, and residential care for vulnerable children. The main change from last month relates to a reduction in the forecast cost of disbursements of childcare lawyers. This is a joint arrangement run by Reading Borough Council on behalf of all the Berkshire authorities.

Adult Social Care

Adult Social Care currently shows an underspend of £219k, a net increase in expenditure of £60k on the reported underspend last month of £279k. Income from service users and third party contributions for Residential and Nursing Placements have continued to increase above budgeted levels, however expenditure on Residential and Nursing Care Spot placements has risen, contributing to an overall £16k unfavourable change to the previously reported net underspend of £150k. There has been an increase in the projected cost of External Homecare provision due to the use of higher cost spot providers in order to meet demand within available capacity. Current projections of homecare income indicate that there are increased numbers of higher need service users which gives rise to a lower proportion of paid for hours. Overall this results in a £48k unfavourable variance to the previously reported overspend of £110k on the Homecare service.

Housing Services

There has been an increase in activity on Interest Free Loans for deposits on rental property combined with additional demand for temporary accommodation from larger families, which has resulted in extended stays in bed and breakfast accommodation while suitable rental premises are identified. This has increased pressure on the Housing Policy budget by an estimated £25k in the current year.

Capital Budget

There has been little change in the position of the former Learning and Care Directorate's capital programme. Since last month the Directorate's approved gross expenditure budget has increased by £11k from £19.917 million to £19.928. (This includes schools devolved formula capital projects and other devolved funding totalling £3.589 million). The additional budget relates to an increase of £11k in devolved capital to schools.

The projected outturn for the former Learning and Care Directorate's capital budget remains unchanged from last month at £16k above budget. This is mainly due to a handful of projects where the tender costs have come in higher than expected. The main contractor tenders are now in for the new Holyport Manor special school. The quotes received are still containable within budget

Slippage has increased by a further £77k this month to £1,155k. This relates to a part of the Extended Schools capital programme which now looks unlikely to be spent before Spring 2009.

MONITORING REPORT FROM DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

DATE: 22 January 2009

PURPOSE

To update members on activity within the Community Services Directorate during the period to December 2008.

BACKGROUND

The key issues identified in this month's Budget Monitoring Report are:

- Continual review by the directorate on income levels in the light of economic outlook.

SPECIFIC AREAS FOR ATTENTION

Revenue

1. The overall Directorate variance has reduced to a projected £75k through continued review of income and monitoring of costs.
2. There are no significant changes in other income levels as reported last month for Car Parking, Planning, Building Control and Leisure Services. All income levels are being carefully monitored for any fluctuations due to current market conditions.
3. Measures to address some of the Directorate's pressures identified to date are shown on the detailed budget monitoring sheets, with continued efforts to contain expenditure within the current budget. |

MONITORING REPORT FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

DATE: 22 January 2009

PURPOSE

To update Members on activity within the Corporate Services Directorate during the period to 31st December 2008.

BACKGROUND

The Chief Executive reports that projected expenditure for 2008-9 is likely to be £14,840, down £9k from last month (£14,849k).

The approved estimate has reduced by £50k to £14,705k (last month: £14,755k), after an adjustment to the Human Resources budget.

The expected overspend is therefore £135k against the approved estimate, an increase of £41k since last month.

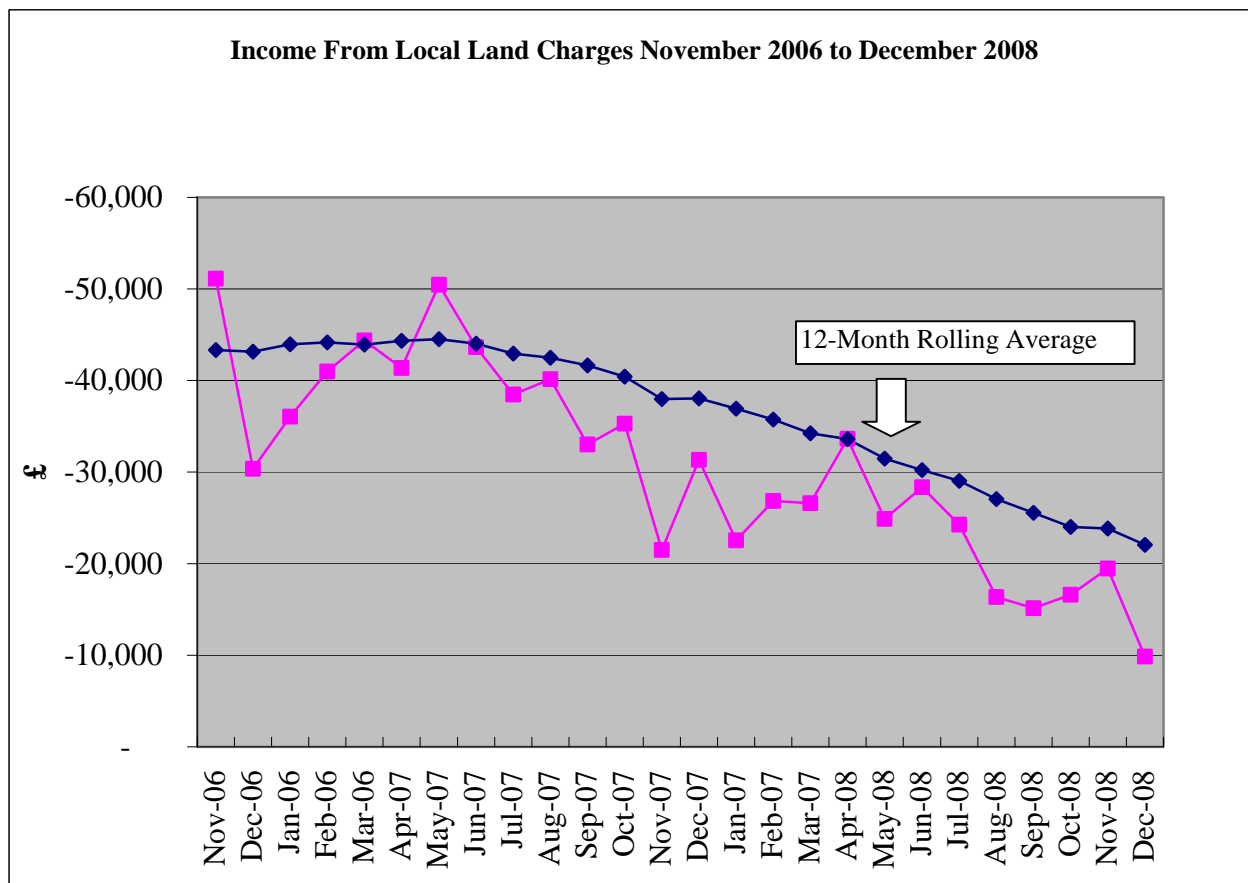
SPECIFIC AREAS FOR ATTENTION

Revenue

Following the adjustment to the Human Resources budget this month, the underspend of £50k on supplementary pension costs within corporate human resources first reported to Cabinet in August 2008 has been changed to £nil.

An underspend of £24k has arisen within the Chief Executive's budget due to a staff vacancy.

There is an overspend within the Youth Offending Team of £15k. Anger management classes which had previously been run by Norfolk House (now closed) had to be provided by an external supplier at a higher cost to the authority.



Council Tax Collection

The Council Tax collection rate at month-end for December is 86.13% which is 0.48% ahead of last year's figures and 0.21% ahead of target.

Business Rates Collection

The percentage of Business Rates collected, as at December is 86.72%, which is 0.26% ahead of last year's figures and 0.46% below target.

Capital Programme

There have been no changes to the corporate services capital gross budget of £1.97m since last month. Anticipated slippage remains at £262k. No additional expenditure has been identified.

Programme Status

The following progress on Corporate Services schemes is reported as at December 2008

	November Monitoring	December Monitoring
Number of Schemes in Programme	24	24
Yet to Start	8%	8%
In Progress	75%	75%
Completed	13%	13%
Ongoing Annual Programme	4%	4%

REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING STATEMENT

SUMMARY	Budget	2008/09	
		Approved Estimate	Variance
	£000	£000	£000
Learning & Care			
Children & Young People - DSG funded	73,160	73,040	427
Dedicated Schools Grant	(73,432)	(73,269)	(427)
Children & Young People - LA funded	13,280	16,085	428
Adult Social Care	29,143	29,522	(219)
Director's Office	393	291	0
Strategy & Resources	1,897	2,422	(60)
Housing	908	949	5
Specific Government Grants	(1,835)	(534)	0
Total Learning & Care	43,514	48,506	154
Community Services			
Highways & Engineering	3,540	3,890	(5)
Streetcare & Operations	4,215	4,215	(30)
Planning Services	2,291	2,291	(20)
Public Protection & Sustainability	9,767	9,924	0
Asset Management	(760)	(732)	(20)
Leisure Services	2,563	2,606	(30)
Libraries, Information, Arts & Heritage	2,902	2,917	0
Parking Services	(2,812)	(2,772)	180
Corporate Management	512	471	0
Total Community Services	22,218	22,810	75
Corporate Services			
Corporate Management	651	650	(24)
Democratic Services	2,818	2,791	4
Legal Services	1,049	1,065	82
Corporate Performance and Development	875	1,256	(50)
Business Improvement	2,753	2,716	60
Customer Service Centre	1,115	1,209	34
Finance	2,932	2,984	44
Human Resources	1,696	1,646	(15)
Procurement	347	388	0
Total Corporate Services	14,236	14,705	135
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	79,968	86,021	364
Contribution from Earmarked Reserve	0	(625)	0
Contribution to Capital Reserve	0	200	0
Corporate Initiatives	(376)	(331)	202
Levies-			
Environment Agency	130	130	0
Capital Financing inc Interest Receipts	5,414	5,414	(1,100)
NET REQUIREMENTS	85,136	90,809	(534)
Less - Special Expenses	(1,075)	(1,075)	0
Transfer (from)/ to balances	0	(471)	534
GROSS COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT	84,061	89,263	0
Working Balances	5,735	5,755	5,284
Transfer from/to balances	0	(471)	534
	<u>5,735</u>	<u>5,284</u>	<u>5,818</u>

* With effect from 1st April 2008, area based grants are treated as general grants and are used to fund the overall gross council tax requirement. The approved estimate has been adjusted to reflect this requirement, and the £5,205k is now incorporated with formula grant and non-domestic rates income in order to achieve a balanced budget. The transfers to and from the balances have been adjusted accordingly.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2008/2009

Monitoring as at 12/12/08

	2008/2009 ORIGINAL BUDGET			2008/2009 APPROVED ESTIMATE				PROJECTIONS – GROSS EXPENDITURE					
	Gross	Income	Net	Gross	Income	Net	Gross Actual	2008/09 Gross Expenditure Projected	2009/10 SLIPPAGE Projected	TOTAL Gross EXPENDITURE Projected	VARIANCE Projected	VARIANCE Projected	
	(£'000)	(£'000)	(£'000)	(£'000)	(£'000)	(£'000)	(£'000)	(£'000)	(£'000)	(£'000)	(£'000)	(£'000)	(%)
Portfolio Summary													
Corporate Services													
Business Improvement	1,196	0	1,196	1,300	0	1,300	735	1,250	50	1,300	0	0	
CSC	154	0	154	320	(59)	261	62	170	150	320	0	0.0	
Other	225	(10)	215	347	(16)	331	325	285	62	347	0	0.0	
Total Corporate Services	1,575	(10)	1,565	1,967	(75)	1,892	1,122	1,705	262	1,967	0	0.0	
Community Services													
Local Transport Plan	4,534	(1,540)	2,994	4,874	(1,639)	3,235	1,918	4,758	116	4,874	0	0.0	
Operations	685	(25)	660	982	(25)	957	237	624	58	682	(300)	(30.5)	
Public Protection	760	(510)	250	842	(554)	288	502	842	0	842	0	0.0	
Planning	147	(11)	136	165	(31)	134	42	196	0	196	31	18.8	
Library & Information Service	1,584	(470)	1,114	2,094	(696)	1,398	495	1,115	979	2,094	0	0.0	
Leisure Centres	595	(225)	370	626	(225)	401	472	546	80	626	0	0.0	
Outdoor Facilities	2,285	(2,250)	35	2,901	(2,851)	50	1,695	2,565	336	2,901	0	0.0	
Asset Management	1,647	0	1,647	1,826	0	1,826	263	831	986	1,817	(9)	(66.7)	
Car Park Schemes	1,585	(1,485)	100	1,408	(1,298)	110	334	588	650	1,238	(170)	(12.1)	
Total Community Services	13,822	(6,516)	7,306	15,718	(7,319)	8,399	5,958	12,065	3,205	15,270	(448)	(90.5)	
Learning & Care													
Adult Social Care	146	(80)	66	137	(59)	78	(4)	137	0	137	0	0.0	
Children & Young People – General	0	0	0	2,561	(1,178)	1,383	1,234	1,634	927	2,561	0	0.0	
Children & Young People – Schools (Form)	3,180	(3,180)	0	3,589	(3,588)	1	2,680	3,589	100	3,589	0	0.0	
Children & Young People – Schools (Other)	10,922	(9,080)	1,842	11,300	(9,934)	1,366	3,708	11,216	100	11,316	16	0.1	
Housing	1,764	(1,724)	40	2,039	(1,999)	40	0	2,039	0	2,039	0	0.0	
Learning & Care – General	171	(121)	50	302	(252)	50	48	174	128	302	0	0.0	
Total Learning & Care	16,183	(14,185)	1,998	19,928	(17,010)	2,918	7,666	18,789	1,155	19,944	16	0.1	
Total Committed Schemes	31,580	(20,711)	10,869	37,613	(24,404)	13,209	14,746	32,559	4,622	37,181	(432)	(1.1)	
External Funding	(£'000)			(£'000)				(£'000)					
Government Grants	(13,470)			(15,689)				(14,584)					
Developers' Contributions	(6,829)			(8,242)				(6,893)					
Other Contributions	(412)			(473)				(472)					
Total External Funding Sources	(20,711)			(24,404)				(21,949)					
Total Corporate Funding	10,869			13,209				10,610					

Appendix C
Anticipated Slippage to 2009/10 at December 2008

	£'000	£'000	£'000	Detail
Community				
CF59	Traffic Management Schemes	16		See Report to Cabinet Prioritisation Sub-Committee 25th November 2008
CG08	Intelligent Traffic Systems	100		VMS signs to be delivered 2009/10
CE09	S106 King Street Maidenhead - Toilet Facilities	25		Toilet Facilities-Scheme under review. Fully S106 funded
CE51	River Street - PC Turnstile	10		Scheme under review
CE59	CCTV	23		See Report to cabinet 23.10.08
CL70	Library Management System Replacement	20		Linked to installation of RFID machines at Windsor Library 2009/10
CL77	Smith's Lane Community Project	600		Discussions with Health Partners to agree architect finalised. Awaiting conclusion of brief.
CR16	Heating/Ventilation Mhead Library	24		Design works still underway, due to necessity of English Heritage requirements
CR84	Maidenhead Library-Counter/RFID Self-Service	150		Counter/RFID Self-Service-Scheme reliant on success of Windsor self-service project
CR87	Windsor Library-Phased Improvements	185		Design works ongoing. Expected completion early 2009/10
CR57	Charters RC-Entrance, Car Parking and Signage	80		Other building works preventing this scheme from going ahead
CL30	P&OS-Purchase of Land re New Parks	120		Scheme dependant on Cox Green / Holyport Manor School project
CL31	P&OS-Thames-side Parks,Mhd: Guards Club etc	70		Not all S106 received in current year
CL36	P&OS-Fir Tree Walk Improvements	30		Scheme deferred as no funding
CL48	P&OS-Kidwells Parks Phases 2 + 3	116		Delays in S106 collection
CM10	Fire, H&S and Glazing Compliance	300		Undertaken by one Officer across all Council buildings including schools. The process is taking longer than envisaged.
CM12	Office Accommodation	157		Under active review - unlikely to be fully spent in 2008/9
CM18	Public Facilities	179		Awaiting further reports on Guildhall and Theatre Royal
CM37	Town Hall-Replace Heating Pipework	100		Under active review as part of overall maintenance / refurbishment plan
CM38	Council Buildings Re-wiring / Re-cabling	250		Under active review as part of overall maintenance / refurbishment plan
CE64	Additional Parking Provision for Windsor	650		Package of short term measures approved Cabinet 24/7/2008. Further Report in January 2009.
Total Community		3,205		
Learning & Care				
CKSY	Quality & Access Programme	550		Three year programme will not start until 2009
CKSX	Childrens Centre Phase III	300		Three year programme will not start until 2009
CKSZ	Extended Schools Grant	77		Clewer Scheme will not start until Spring 2009
CT18	IT Client Record Base	50		Programmes will not complete until March'10
CKSG	Modernisation of School Dining Facilities	100		Only able to complete work in summer holidays
CT34	Social Services IT	78		Programmes will not complete until March'10
Total Learning & Care		1,155		
Corporate				
CN14	Information and Data Management	50		Remainder of project due to be completed 2009/10
CN06	Customer Service Centre	150		Software projects to be undertaken this year. Remaining budget to be spent next year.
CM60	Grants - Outside Organisations	62		Payment of grant to some organisations has been deferred pending approval of grant condition.
Total Corporate		262		
Grand Total			4,622	