

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

20th JULY 2016

Revenue & Capital Budget Monitoring Report 2015/16

To consider and comment on the following issues:

- That the Scrutiny Committee receives the budget monitoring report for the Housing, Regeneration, Planning and Leisure & Recreation Services and considers the budgetary position.

Reasons:

- To provide the Committee with the end of year position, in respect of the 2015/16 financial year.

To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: NO

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holders:

- Cllr. Linda Evans (Housing)
- Cllr. Meryl Gravell (Regeneration & Leisure)
- Cllr. David Jenkins (Resources)

Directorate: Corporate Services	Designation:	Tel No. / E-Mail Address:
Name of Head of Service: Owen Bowen	Interim Head of Financial Services	01267 224886 obowen@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Report Author: Owen Bowen		

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 20th JULY 2016

Revenue & Capital Budget Monitoring Report 2015/16

The year end position for the financial year 2015/16 is attached and indicates that:

Revenue Budgets

Community Scrutiny Summary (Appendix A)

Regeneration (Appendix B) – Regeneration is overspent by £33k overall. The West Wales European Centre has an overspend of £74k due to non achievement of consultancy income, Rural Carmarthenshire £44 mainly in relation to a revenue contribution needed towards Parry Thomas Centre and Nant Y Ci £34k due to running costs as a result of a proposed closure of building not taking place. These are largely offset by underspends in 3 Ts Community development -£53k and savings in employee costs -£56k.

Planning (Appendix C) – The Planning Division is underspent by £124k. An overspend of £29k within Development Management due to a reduction in planning fee income is offset by a £46k saving on vacant posts, 2 members of staff being charged out to an externally funded scheme -£74k as well as additional grant income of - £14k.

Leisure & Recreation (Appendix D) – The Leisure Services Division is showing an overspend of £49k. Archives is over by £61k as a result of expenditure relating to the mould eradication contract. Burry Port Harbour is over by £47k due to increased dredging costs and underachieved income. A reduction in end of year stock at Pembrey Ski Shop accounts for £23k. These overspends are offset by a number of in year staff vacancies across the Division.

Non-HRA Housing (Appendix E) – The non-HRA Housing service is showing an overspend of £125k. This is primarily on Supporting People services £125k, as the development fund is required in future years as service is being re-configured. An underspend of £50k within Homelessness offsets overspends in Temporary Accommodation and Social Lettings Agency.

Housing Revenue Account (Appendix F) – The HRA is showing an underspend of - £1.9M to the year end for 2015/16. Revenue repairs and maintenance -£167 due to poor weather conditions.

Supervision and Management -£78k, consisting of staff vacancies -£96k ,staff related travelling -£46k ,supplies & services costs of £291k (matchfunding contributions/legal costs/postages/telephones etc.) and premises related costs -£90k (energy charges), recharges -£138k. Affordable Homes delivery plan will require staffing resources, which will be factored into the 2016/17 budget.

Slightly higher than forecast interest applicable to existing borrowing and buy-out from HRAS £142k.

The capital programme is also underspent due to savings on some contracts (£1.9M) and the requirement to roll forward on some contracts due the adverse weather (£1.8M). This has impacted on the direct revenue funding required in the budget monitoring by -£1.42M. Improvement in delivering savings on void turnaround times etc. will save -£439k.

The requirement for provision for bad debt is -£394k based on current aged debt analysis and write offs and other income items increased by -£23k

Capital Budgets

Regeneration (Appendix G)

Community Development -£81k Grants awarded but 3rd party payments to made early in 2016/17.

Cross Hands East Strategic Employment Site +£572k Land values had originally been estimated at the start of the Compulsory Purchase Order process based on the land uses allocated within the Unitary Development Plan. This had been subsequently challenged by the owners and the Authority is in negotiation with the owners and District Valuer to agree final terms. (Additional costs in 16/17 to complete phase).

Ammanford Town Centre Regeneration -£447k Funding is committed for the Ammanford Master plan and recently launched Transformation Regeneration Strategy. Works currently being prepared to implement a programme of support commencing 2016. Funding to roll forward into 2016/17.

Rural Carmarthenshire – Physical Regeneration Projects –Laugharne Car Park - £219k Delay to project commencement due to technical studies, construction commencement now expected in April 16.

Opportunity Street (Llanelli) -£446k External funding to be used initially with CCC funding carried forward to 2016/17 in order to deliver the final year elements of the project.

Cross Hands East Office Development -£467k Project at early stage of development with concept currently being developed. Funding commitment required for implementation in 2016/17/18.

Pendine Iconic International Visitors Destination -£549k Funding package being worked up with Welsh Government and WEFO. Early decision expected in the new financial year and CCC funding to be slipped forward.

Carmarthen Town Regeneration - £80k Design work re-scheduled for 16/17 for Jacksons Lane / King Street scheme.

Building for the Future -£656k This project is currently at an early grant application stage and a decision to approve (by Welsh Government) is anticipated later this financial year. In order to secure external grant funding (circa £1.6m) the approved budget must be safeguarded for future years delivery. This year's expenditure can only reflect early survey and feasibility works which will progress following confirmation of project grant approval.

Health and Safety Remediation Works - £100k Survey only in 15/16 - Implementation slipped to 16/17.

Leisure (Appendix H)

Countryside Projects -£76k Due to monies being retained for match funding purposes.

Carmarthen Museum -£250k Scheme led by 3rd party - Payment to be made in 2016/17.

Private Sector Housing (Appendix I)

Renewal Assistance -£340k Due to delay with regional partners in agreeing a loan facility for householders.

Disabled Facilities Grant -£77k external works delayed due to adverse weather - works committed for 16/17.

County Steelwork -£201k Less interest than anticipated.

Public Sector Housing (Appendix J)

Fuel Switch – Gas Infrastructure -£248k -Installation of mains gas pipeline delayed due poor weather conditions affecting programme or works.

Planned M&E +£266k Higher than expected level of boiler failures at properties which were previously deemed to be compliant under the CHS, extra upgrades on Void works, additional costs linked to the sheltered scheme fire alarm upgrade works to connect to the Tunstall system. Additional costs to upgrade the sheltered complex heating plant (this needs to include new controls as well as the boiler plant itself).

Internal Refurbishment -£1,873k Due to postponement of various sites plus various tenant declines.

Housing Minor Works -£54k Delay in external works due to poor weather conditions.

External Rendering +£123k Additional remedial works to cavities.

External Insulation over Cavity -£188k Due to fewer properties being identified.

Re-Roofing Works -£211k Delays due to adverse weather conditions

Sheltered Housing Investment +£45k Health and Safety works identified – Fire management (legislative works).

Housing Development Programme -£1,486k Part of overarching Affordable Housing Delivery Plan. Money to be carried forward to support substantive programme over the next five years.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES – *A list of the main variances is attached to this report.*

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Signed: Owen Bowen Interim Head of Financial Services

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

3. Finance

Revenue – The non-HRA Housing, Regeneration, Planning and Leisure & Recreation Services show a net variance of £83k and the HRA Housing Service a net variance of -£1.971k against the 2015/16 approved budgets.

Capital – The capital programme shows a net variance of -£7,009k against the 2015/16 approved budget.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:

Signed: Owen Bowen Interim Head of Financial Services

1. Local Member(s) – N/A
2. Community / Town Council – N/A
3. Relevant Partners – N/A
4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – N/A

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW:

Title of Document	File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
2015/16 Budget	Corporate Services Department, County Hall, Carmarthen