

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Planning Portfolio Holder
AUTHOR/S: Chief Executive/ Accountant

7 July 2009

FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT FINAL PLANNING PORTFOLIO EXPENDITURE FOR 2008-09

Purpose

1. This report compares the final actual revenue and capital expenditure for the Planning Services Portfolio with the working budget for the year ending 31 March 2009, and seeks comments from the Portfolio Holder and officers.

Background

2. There was one previous monitoring report to the portfolio holder in the 2008-09 year covering expenditure up to the end of January 2009. In addition, the Planning revised estimates were reported to the Portfolio Holder in January.
3. The format of this report is consistent with the monitoring report during the year, in that it concentrates on the direct costs. The final recharges and other year-end transactions are shown separately in the summary. These recharges are calculated for the original estimates in December before the start of the financial year, then recalculated for the revised estimates and finalised at the year-end.
4. The reported figures are summarised in Appendix A. Appendix B shows the full detail of the revenue expenditure. The working budget figures are the revised estimates, adjusted for additional virements.
5. Grant expenditure is shown on a commitments basis to 31 March, whereas other expenditure is on an accruals basis.

Considerations

6. Total Revenue Net Direct Costs: over by £55K
The revenue net direct costs (net of grant) show £594,783 spent out of a budget of £660,240 (90%). Income from fees and charges amounted to £1,457,875 towards budgeted income of £1,578,050 (92%) The main areas of under spending are Economic Development and Concessionary Fares (these are covered below). This is offset by the shortfall in income (detailed below) resulting in the net overspend.
7. Economic Development: under by £24K
A rollover of £20,000 into 2009/10 has been requested as work on phase 2 of the Economic Development Business Strategy was delayed. The relevant Portfolio Holder will form part of the rollover approval process, but the Finance and Staffing Portfolio Holder will consider final approval. The remaining balance is no longer required.
8. Concessionary Fares: under by £6K
This was mainly due to the contribution to the County Council being lower than budgeted by £4,097.

9. Income from Fees and Charges: under by £120K
 Planning fees were £88,068 less than budgeted and Building Control fees £32,050 less. Although the original budgets had been reduced in the revised estimates (see page G2 and G3 of Appendix B) the effect of the economic downturn was difficult to predict.
10. Capital Grant Expenditure (Conservation and Planning grants):
 The capital grant was fully allocated for Conservation with the exception of the Tree/Hedge Partnership Scheme. The balance of the Heritage Initiative Fund (£29,061) and the Historic Buildings Preservation Fund (£54,622) have been carried forward to 2009/10 as agreed at the portfolio meeting on the 10 March 2009. The budget for the ICT Development (£125,000) was underspent by £124,357 as the expenditure was charged to revenue (included within the figure of £142,325 on page G2 of Appendix B).

Implications

11.	Financial	None
	Legal	None
	Staffing	None
	Risk Management	None
	Equal Opportunities	None

Consultations

12. The cost centre managers have been informed of the expenditure and grant details and budgets.

Effect on Strategic Aims

13.	Commitment to being a listening council, providing first class services accessible to all.	None
	Commitment to ensuring that South Cambridgeshire continues to be a safe and healthy place for all.	None
	Commitment to making South Cambridgeshire a place in which residents can feel proud to live.	None
	Commitment to assisting provision for local jobs for all.	None
	Commitment to providing a voice for rural life.	None

Conclusions/Summary

14. The revenue expenditure comments are in paragraphs 6 to 9. Direct costs were overspent by £54,718 (6.3%) and Recharges/Deferred Capital Grant were overspent by £58,329 (1.9%) resulting in £113,047 (5%) overall. The overall overspend however, includes £86,567 in respect of Deferred Capital grant, which is netted off in the General fund summary. A rollover for the unspent expenditure on the Economic Development budget amounting to £20,000 is being sought.

15. The capital underspend of £158,989 has been covered in the comments in paragraph 10.

Recommendations

16. The Planning Portfolio Holder is asked to comment on the final actual revenue and capital expenditure for the Planning Portfolio compared with the working budget for the year ending 31 March 2009

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

Budget files, grant decisions and the financial management system.

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