

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO:	Planning Portfolio Holder	1 September 2009
AUTHOR/S:	Executive Director (Corporate Services)/ Accountant	

FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT PLANNING PORTFOLIO EXPENDITURE TO 31 JULY 2009

Purpose

1. This report compares the actual revenue and capital expenditure to 31 July for the Planning Services Portfolio with the annual budget for the year ending 31 March 2010, and seeks comments from the Portfolio Holder and officers.

Background

2. In general, it is intended that financial reports will be presented to portfolio holders approximately every three months, depending on meeting dates. This report is the first monitoring report to the portfolio holder for the 2009-10 year.
3. The reports exclude recharges and other year-end transactions. 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 as soon as possible after 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 original estimates. A possible rollover up to £20,000 for the Economic Development Business Strategy has been approved in principle by the Finance and Staffing Portfolio Holder, but this will not be included in the budget figures unless or until it is proved to be absolutely necessary and the Chief Financial Officer agrees to approve the addition.
5. Grant expenditure is shown on a commitments basis to 31 July, whereas other expenditure is on a payments/receipts basis.
6. The financial position of the Council as a whole up to 31 July will have been reported to the Finance and Staffing Portfolio on 25 August. This projected a substantial potential overspend, mainly due to shortfalls of Development Control income and interest on balances. This position intensifies the need to find savings (see paragraph 7 below), both in the current year and in the years ahead. The report was based on certain major budgets, selected because of their size, risk or history of large under or over spending.
7. Urgent identification of possible budget reductions towards the £325,000 Council target for efficiency savings has been taking place over recent weeks. This will include reductions in some service budgets in the current year. All corporate managers have been involved in scrutinising their budgets both for the current and future years. At the time of writing this report, reductions in budgets in this Portfolio are expected to be from staffing and data capture costs. However, the up to date position will be reported verbally at the meeting.

Considerations

8. **Total Revenue Expenditure:**

The portfolio revenue expenditure to 31.07.09 shows (£250,639) spent out of a budget of (£875,400) (29% spent).

9. **Development Control:**

The revenue expenditure to 31.07.09 shows £85,402 spent out of a budget of £126,750 (67%). The budget for Appeals is 82% spent and judicial review costs of £18,887 have been incurred for which there is no budget. The income from planning fees of £201,938 is 19% of the budget of £1,083,000, which equates to a predicted overspend of around £400,000.

10. **Building Control Service:**

The income from Building Control fees of £110,044 is 24% of the budget of £460,000. The current shortfall equates to a predicted overspend of £170,000. However, this will be offset at the end of the financial year by a transfer from reserves.

11. **Economic Development:**

The revenue expenditure to 31.07.09 shows £5,450 spent out of a budget of £55,800 (10%). The remaining budget, less any savings found (see paragraph 7) is expected to be spent. In addition the Finance and Staffing Portfolio Holder approved a rollover of £20,000 into 2009/10 for phase 2 of the Economic Development Business Strategy on the 7 July 2009 subject to final confirmation by the section 151 officer being given on an individual basis at the appropriate time during the year.

12. **Concessionary Fares:**

The revenue expenditure to 31.07.09 shows £3,354 spent out of a budget of £614,100 (1%) mainly due to the County Council not yet submitting an invoice for our contribution to the scheme.

Implications

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

Consultations

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

Effect on Strategic Aims

15.	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

16. The revenue expenditure comments are in paragraphs 8 to 12.
17. Capital grants should be fully allocated before the end of the year.

Recommendations

18. The Planning Portfolio Holder is requested to comment on the report, as appropriate.

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

Budget files, grant decisions and the financial management system.

Contact Officer: David Grimster – Accountant
Telephone: (01954) 713075