
**CAPITAL PROGRAMME
QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORT – APRIL - SEPTEMBER 2006**

**Responsible Cabinet Member(s) - Councillor Don Bristow,
Resource Management Portfolio**

Responsible Director(s) - Paul Wildsmith, Director of Corporate Services

Purpose of Report

1. This reports presents an update of the Capital Programme and looks at spending and resource levels.

Summary

2. The report confirms that the Authority requires capital receipts of £3.312m to fund capital expenditure commitments. This includes the additional resources which may be required to fund increased costs of the Pedestrian Heart. The 2006/07 asset disposal programme totals £3.401m, including £0.779m brought forward from 2005-06.

Information and Analysis

3. **Appendix 1** summarises the Council's capital commitments and resources position.
4. **Appendix 2** summarises departmental capital budgets, spend position of ongoing capital projects and projected under/over spends
5. **Appendix 3** details the current position of all previous and current year capital projects that are currently ongoing.

Capital Spend and Resources Monitoring

6. Movements within the capital programme since the approval of the Capital Medium Term Financial Plan: -

(a) Children Services

A major review of the Children's Services capital programme has identified a number of movements in the programme. A detailed report will be presented to Cabinet on the 7th November 2006.

(b) Housing

Current spending projections show that the Housing capital programme will overspend against the original budget. This is due to additional spending for remodelling works undertaken at a number of Flats throughout Darlington. Although final costs are not yet available, any additional spending will be financed through either additional Housing Capital Receipts or Departmental Borrowing.

(c) Development and Environment

- (i) Council approved additional corporate resources of £1.328m for the Pedestrian Heart on the 28th September 2006. This has been added to this years capital programme. The £1.328m includes £0.750m earmarked contingency for potential future risks.
- (ii) Cabinet approved the release of £12.040m of funding for the Darlington Eastern Corridor on the 10th October 2006 subject to the Department for Transport (DFT) (funding provider) upgrading the status of the scheme from conditional to full approval.
- (iii) Spending on the Crown Street Library works is projected to increase by £0.034m this is due to essential additional works in respect of Health and Safety issues. The overspend is to be covered by the Planned Maintenance scheme.
- (iv) Cabinet approved additional resources on the 10th October 2006 of £0.180m for the Hopetown Relocation scheme. The resources have been added to this years Capital Programme.
- (v) Cabinet approved the release of external funding for the Darlington Railway Centre and Museum totalling £1,626m on the 12th September 2006. This has been added to this years capital programme.
- (vi) A projected saving of £0.140m has been identified within the School Closures project.

(d) Corporate Services

- (i) Additional corporate resources of £0.133m were approved by Cabinet on the 11th July 2006 for work to be carried out on the Town Hall lifts. This project has been added to this years capital programme.
- (ii) The Finance and Human Resources System replacement project was approved by Cabinet on the 11th July 2006. This project has no effect on corporate resources and is to be funded by departmental revenue balances and departmental prudential borrowing. The project has been added to this year's capital programme.

Capital Programme Monitoring (Output

7. The following identifies the progress of a number of major Capital Schemes: -

(a) Children Services

Children's Services have prepared a mid year update report for Members outlining the capital investment programme. The report, elsewhere on this agenda highlights the progress made on major capital projects and seeks approval for changes to the previously agreed programme of works approved by Members in June 2006. The report lists all potential changes and explains the need and justification for any amendments.

(b) Housing Services

The first phases of internal planned maintenance and heating improvements are well underway. Remodelling work at Mount Pleasant House and Dinsdale Crescent Phase 3 is continuing. Additionally £0.392m and £0.230m has been expended in relation to disabled facility grants and private sector renovation grants respectively. Although the Council has adopted a new loans based system for Private Sector Financial Assistance, the expenditure thus far has been on outstanding grants based cases.

(c) Transport

- (i) The following main areas of work have been undertaken within the Highways and Transport Portfolio: -
- (ii) 'Let's Get Cracking' – Delivery of the programme of works is now well under way and residents of areas where schemes have been carried out have been asked to complete a satisfaction survey. These surveys are now beginning to be returned and so far the vast majority are satisfied with the work carried out.
- (iii) Cabinet approved to vary the proposed expenditure of the 2006/07 budget for the Second Local Transport Plan, in order to bring forward a scheme which would help meet the objectives of the Plan. The scheme at Greenbank Road/Woodland Road traffic lights is to help traffic congestion and would be beneficial to all road users.
- (iv) Haughton Road Cycle/Footbridge – Outline design completed and planning application submitted.
- (v) The Travel Plan for Darlington College is now approved. Local Motion and Stagecoach staff attended the enrolment days for the full-time students (16-18 years) and the enrolment for part-time students. Students were offered advice with regard to bus travel and information was available with regard to walking and cycling routes to the college. Local Motion staff took the opportunity to sign up interested people to the Local Motion campaign.

- (vi) New bus stop arrangements and crossing points outside the Darlington College site is working well and undercover cycle stands were being well used for cycles and motorised two wheelers.
- (vii) The detailed design of the proposed Residents' Parking Schemes at Darlington College is underway to manage potential parking displacement from the new Darlington College. Consultation is due to commence.

(d) ***Pedestrian Heart***

- (i) The Life Pulse foundations in Blackwellgate are complete. The delivery of the Life Pulse structure itself is anticipated at the end of November.
- (ii) The works to allow block paving from High Row south to continue around the Binns corner and tie into the north side of Blackwellgate are due to commence imminently. This will entail extending the hoarding further around the Binns corner.
- (iii) There has been limited progress on the steps on High Row south due to health and safety limited resources. Works in this area are now progressing reasonably well with a view to opening up a new access between High Row and West Row. This will allow Birse to extend the hoarding around the water feature and keep this critical area progressing. The water feature plantroom concrete roof is complete together with the access hatch opening.
- (iv) The new bus shelters on Prebend Row are installed and ready to use once the paving is complete. Paving in this area has been slow as it is not a critical area of work and the resources planned by Birse were fully allocated elsewhere. An additional paving gang was recently brought in and good progress is now being made. This paving gang will remain on Prebend Row until it is complete.
- (v) Block paving to the road from Prospect Place, around the Event Space and up to Priestgate are well progressed. Once the kerb line to the bus loop from Priestgate is installed, the hoarding line can be moved back ready for the Christmas tree to be installed at the end of October.
- (vi) Construction of the curved planter around the exhibition space has commenced. The new manhole on the corner of Prospect Place (outside HSBC Bank) has been constructed, allowing the base slab for paving to be constructed. The road paving in the area will continue on once the tie-in to the bus loop on Priestgate is complete.
- (vii) Lower Northgate works are progressing well. A large proportion of the footpath works are complete together with the street lighting and the tie into Crown Street. The new seats in Northgate are now installed and in use, the installation of other street furniture has commenced.
- (viii) The planned repaving on the east side of Northgate will not commence until after Christmas. New bus shelters in this area will be installed in advance of the

paving works, in late October/November.

Legal Implications

8. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

9. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

Consultation

10. No formal consultation has been undertaken regarding this report.

Council Policy Framework

11. The issues contained within this report do not represent change to Council policy or the Council's policy framework

Decision Deadline

12. For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter.

Conclusion

13. The current projected outturn of the capital programme is £64.410m, the approved capital programme totals £64.396m leaving a current overspend of £0.014m.
14. A full report on the Children Service capital programme is also on this agenda.
15. General Fund Capital Receipts of £3.312m are required to fund capital commitments. Projected capital receipts are £3.401m, leaving a projected surplus of £0.089m to contribute to funding future capital programmes

Recommendation

16. It is recommended that:-
 - (a) The 2006/07 updated Capital Programme is noted.
 - (b) The projected under and over spends are noted.

Reasons

17. To allow Members to note the progress of the agreed Capital Programme and agree changes to the Capital Programme.

Paul Wildsmith
Director of Corporate Services

Background Papers

1. Capital Medium Term Financial Plan 2006/07 – 2009/10
2. Accounting Records

Richard Norris: Extension 2323