
CAPITAL PROGRAMME OUT-TURN 2005/06

Responsible Cabinet Member(s) – Councillor Don Bristow,
Resources Management Portfolio

Responsible Director(s) – Paul Wildsmith – Director of Corporate Services

Purpose of Report

1. This report provides information on the Capital Programme out-turn position as at 31st March 2006.

Summary

2. The total resources available for Capital schemes during 2005/06 totalled £59.103m, however not all of the resources were planned to be expended during 2005/06. Total capital expenditure planned to be incurred in 2005-06 was £40.340M. The total capital spend incurred during 2005/06 was £37.171M, which equates to 92% of the planned spend. All single year supported capital expenditure has been utilised and any single year grants have been maximised. The slippage into 2006/07 will be financed by unsupported borrowing, grants that can be carried forward, Usable Capital Receipts and Capital Contributions.

Information and Analysis

3. The Capital out-turn for 2005/06 totalled £37.171M compared to £29.864M in 2004/05. The financing of the 2004/05 and 2005/06 expenditure is as follows.

	2004/05 £m	2005/06 £m
Capital Expenditure	29.864	37.171
Financing of Capital Expenditure		
Supported Capital Expenditure (Borrowing)	6.850	6.923
Corporate Unsupported Capital Expenditure (Borrowing)	3.448	1.878
Departmental Unsupported Expenditure (Borrowing)	1.598	1.394
Capital Grants	13.763	17.077
Capital Contributions	0.369	0.993
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Receipts	1.640	1.441
General Fund – Capital Receipts	2.184	4.365
Revenue Contributions	<u>0.012</u>	<u>3.100</u>
Total Capital Financing	29.864	37.171

2005/06 Capital Spend and Resources

4. **Appendix 1** details the progress of the 2005/06 Capital Programme. Column A details the resources available and Columns B and C identifies the capital spend incurred during 2005/06 and virements within programmes respectively. With major programmes there are a number of virements where resources have been moved to meet changed commitments throughout the year. Column D details the resources carried forward.
5. **Appendix 2** summarises all 2005/06 capital spend by department; detailing how all-capital expenditure was financed.

2005/06 Capital Programme

6. The following identifies major areas of work undertaken in 2005/06.

Children Services

7. A number of replacement school projects were undertaken during 2005/06. They were as follows :-
 - (a) Harrowgate Hill Primary School premises (opened in September 2005 and fully operational).
 - (b) Skerne Park Primary premises (opened in February 2005 and fully operational).
 - (c) Building work on the Education Village and the replacement St George's CE Primary School were underway and substantially completed during 2005/06, the actual handover dates being achieved during April 2006.
8. A wide range of projects were undertaken in partnership with schools. This included a rolling programme of electrical rewiring. The following work was undertaken: -
 - (a) Fire alarm and emergency lighting works carried out at Bishopton/Redmarshall Primary School, North Road Primary School, Redhall Primary School and Hurworth Comprehensive School.
 - (b) General rewiring works were carried out at Abbey Infant School, Gurney Pease Primary School, Hurworth Primary School, Mount Pleasant Primary School and Mowden Junior School. Works to heating systems were undertaken at Abbey Junior School, Gurney Pease Primary School, Mowden Infant School and Mowden Junior School.
 - (c) Significant building alterations and adaptation works to improve and enhance the existing teaching environment were undertaken at Gurney Pease Primary School, Heathfield Primary School and North Road Primary School.
9. Schools Access Initiative funding enabled a diverse range of projects to be carried out within schools to make them more accessible to children with disabilities and special educational needs. Such works included the construction of DDA compliant ramps at Abbey Infant School, Heighington Primary School, Mowden Infant School and Reid Street Primary. Other works included the remodelling of the pupil entrance and the associated access route at Hummersknott Comprehensive and the formation of disabled toilet/change compartments

at George Dent Nursery, Gurney Pease Primary School, Heathfield Primary School and Hurworth Primary School.

10. The Big Lottery Fund for PE & Sports in Schools enabled Multi-Use Games Areas to be created at Alderman Leach Primary, Dodmire Infant and Junior Schools, Skerne Park Primary School and Whinfield Primary School. The fund also enabled outdoor activity areas to be created at Firthmoor Primary School, Red Hall Primary School and Reid Street Primary School.
11. Children's Centre funding made it possible for external play areas to be created at Firthmoor Primary School/Maidendale House Community Centre and Mount Pleasant Primary School and to be enhanced at Red Hall Primary School. In addition, the funding enabled physical adaptations and improvements works to be undertaken within the nursery areas at Firthmoor Primary School, Mount Pleasant Primary School and Redhall Primary School.

Housing

12. In practical terms a total of 284 properties benefited from Internal Planned Maintenance during 2005/06, including kitchen and bathroom improvements, electrical rewiring and security lighting. These properties were predominantly in the Albert Hill, Bishopton, Branksome, Faverdale, Harrowgate Hill, Hundens Lane, Lascelles, Middleton St George and Rise Carr areas of the town. Central heating systems have been replaced at 340 properties mainly at Albert Hill, Bank Top, Bishopton, Haughton, Hundens Lane and Springfield areas of the town. External improvements have also been completed at 93 properties at Firthmoor. A major programme of 'Extra Care' improvements including extension and full refurbishment has been completed at Oban Court sheltered housing scheme and have begun in partnership with Home Group at the Rosemary Court scheme. Flat remodelling works have been completed at Dinsdale Crescent (Phase II) and Ramsgill House, which rolled in from 2004/05, and also at Coxwold House and Sherbourne House, which were part of the 2005/06 programme. Remodeling has also commenced at Dinsdale Crescent (Phase III) and Mount Pleasant house, which are expected to be completed by the summer 2006.
13. In addition to the above, Disabled Facility Grants of £0.5M and Renovation Grants of £0.813M were paid out to improve living conditions within the private sector, along with a highly successful energy efficiency programme for the private sector, which delivered improved insulation to over 1000 private dwellings, and brought in over £0.4M of utility company investment.

Transport

14. The Council continued to implement the first Local Transport Plan during 2005/06, delivering a wide range of schemes that improve the physical nature of the local transport network. Highlights include: -
 - (a) Helping improve the physical condition of the transport network. Seventeen schemes improving both the condition of pavements and roads added to similar work funded from revenue and "Let's Get Cracking" funding programmes. Examples include Haughton and West Auckland Road carriageway maintenance and Grange Road pavements (phased scheme).
 - (b) Continuing to improve safety and quality of life. Work in the year included the introduction of a 20mph zone at Newton Lane, Cockerton, the laying of noise reducing

road surfaces at West Auckland Road and the completion of various local safety schemes, including that at Coombe Drive, Red Hall. It also included bridge strengthening at Bishopton Bridge and the initial element of the reconstruction of Leadyard Bridge in the town centre. The School Travel Plan programme also continued to be successful with 7 schools introducing travel plans to help pupils get to school.

- (c) Continuing to help pedestrians and cyclists. The Council was successful in winning prestigious Cycle Demonstration Town status, thus making it a national leader in transport due to its existing sustainable travel demonstration town status. Work in the year included connecting the Argos employment site to the cycle network and further work on pavements along Haughton Road. It also included the provision of more dropped kerbs at pedestrian crossing points throughout the town, to help those in wheelchairs and other mobility issues.

Other 2005/06 Capital Programme Schemes

Pedestrian Heart

- 15. Phase 1 enabled works including the provision of bus priority on Stonebridge, Stonebridge Roundabout and St. Cuthbert's Way and junction improvements at Stonebridge/St. Cuthbert's Way and Freeman's Place/St. Cuthbert's Way; work was completed in early 2005/06.
- 16. Following this, Phase 2 commenced construction of the pedestrianised town centre area beginning with Blackwellgate and Bondgate. During construction of the Blackwellgate area, a gas main was discovered under the paving at a shallower depth than that shown on the survey of the area. The entire gas main, which runs from Blackwellgate along the length of High Row/West Row, needed replacing. Birse CL, the project's contractors, were redeployed to excavate gas main trenches through the centre of town to allow Balfour Beattie to replace the pipe.
- 17. This unexpected work had a detrimental effect on the project timetable, adding 20 weeks to the expected completion date. In order to compensate, Phase 3 works on Northgate and Tubwell Row, planned for the end of the programme, were brought forward to be undertaken simultaneously with the gas main works.
- 18. The gas main replacement is now complete and construction of the Pedestrian Heart is progressing.

South Park

- 19. The continuing development of South Park that saw the start of the Heritage Lottery Funded Restoration project, with work starting in late August 2004 and was programmed to finish in September 2005. However due to the poor weather conditions during the first few months of the project, the completion date of the project was pushed back into early 2006. The project, involved work in the following areas: -
 - (a) Lake - involving silt removal and construction of new outfalls and boundary walling

- (b) Rose Garden - involving new DDA accessible footpaths and both hard and soft landscaping to the garden
- (c) Fothergill Fountain - relocation of the original fountain to the main entrance of the Park
- (d) Tree works - removal of dead /diseased trees to the park and replanting approx 250 new trees throughout.
- (e) Boundary Railing - restoration of the main boundary railing to the perimeter of the park and restoration of the main gates.
- (f) Children's Play area - Removal of old play equipment and creation of a new modern play facility and the provision of a new skateboarding rink.

Central Park Access

20. Central Park is a major Brownfield redevelopment site in Darlington. The northern section of this site will accommodate the relocated College of Technology, which is currently under construction, and a residential development. Access to the site, presently via Vicarage Road, is to be provided by a new signalised junction with pedestrian and cycle crossing facilities at the junction and along Haughton Road. The scheme comprises the widening and partial reconstruction of Haughton Road with associated embankment works, and the normal kerbing, drainage, signing, road marking, surfacing and barrier works usually found on an urban road improvement scheme.

E-Government

21. The following areas of work were undertaken during 2005/06: -

- (a) Website and related developments, e.g. Leisure services text messaging, multi-lingual sites, planning changes, on-line licensing, on-line schools admissions, e-forms payment integration, introduction of an A to Z that meets the LGCL standard and improved searching and events diary.
- (b) Purchase of modules and services relating to the CRM system.
- (c) Purchase of the queuing system for the Customer Services Centre.
- (d) Purchase of intranet based training package for ECDL.
- (e) Purchase of an on-line bookings module.

Drinkfield Civic Amenity Site

22. The improvements to the Drinkfield Civic Amenity Site involved enlarging the site and improving its layout to provide for the separation of materials delivered to facilitate subsequent recycling.

Railway Museum

23. The project has involved the propping of defective trusses at the Railway Museum and its subsequent repair and associated remedial work to the roof. The work is now complete.

Equal Pay Claims

24. In relation to the Equal Pay claim, the Authority has incurred £1.613M during 2005/06, which the ODPM have given the Authority express authorisation to capitalise, due to the size of the payments.

General Fund Capital Receipts

25. **Appendix 3** details the general fund capital receipts of £4.672M that have been received during 2005/06 of which £4.496m has been utilised.

Conclusion

26. The total capital spend incurred during 2005-06 was £37.171M. Overall a balanced programme has been achieved with a wide variety of capital improvements undertaken throughout the Borough during 2005-06.

Legal Implications

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

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

28. 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 placed 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

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

Council Policy Framework

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

Decision Deadline

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

Recommendation

32. It is recommended that the 2005/06 Capital Programme out-turn be noted.

Reason

33. To allow Members to note the progress of the 2005-06 Capital Programme.

Paul Wildsmith
Director of Corporate Services

Background Papers

Accounting records

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TAB/JB