
**EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE
RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL
HELD ON 23 FEBRUARY 2017**

**ROSP.18/17 CAPITAL BUDGET OVERVIEW AND MONITORING REPORT – APRIL TO
DECEMBER 2016**

The Chief Finance Officer submitted report RD.55/16 providing an overview of the budgetary position of the City Council's capital programme for the period April to December 2016. She outlined for Members the overall budget position of the various Directorates and the financing of the 2016/17 Capital Programme, details of which were set out in the report.

Paragraph 3.3 recorded that an initial review of the 2016/17 capital programme had been undertaken and the Executive had been asked to recommend to Council the re-profiling of £1,164,300 from 2016/17 to 2017/18, further details of which were set out at Appendix A.

The unspent balance remaining of the revised annual budget of £10,803,600 was £6,339,496 as at December 2016.

The Executive had considered the matter at their meeting on 13 February 2017 (EX.18/17 refers) and resolved:

“That the Executive:

- (i) Noted and had commented on the budgetary position and performance aspects of the capital programme for the period April to December 2016;
- (ii) Approved the release of the balance of £72,672.13 from the Conservation Reserve to fund emergency work in relation to the Central Plaza as per OD.144/16;
- (iii) Approved a virement of £47,300 to fund emergency work at the Central Plaza, thus fulfilling the Council's legal obligations, with the funding being provided from underspends within the 2016/17 Capital Programme;
- (iv) Made recommendations to Council to approve re-profiling of £1,164,300 as detailed in paragraph 3.3 and Appendix A from 2016/17 into 2017/18.”

In considering the report Members raised the following comments and questions:

- A Member commented that he understood the issues regarding the Central Plaza but asked if there was something more positive that could be done.

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder explained that a lot of work was being undertaken behind the scenes by the Economic Development team to try and reach a satisfactory outcome for the future of the Central Plaza.

- Why was the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) budget underspent?

The Chief Finance Officer responded that there was a number of reasons for the underspend including an increase in funding and challenges in respect of Occupational Therapist referrals. The funding mechanism had changed and was now distributed through the Better Care Fund.

The Town Clerk and Chief Executive explained that there had been some early stage discussions between District Councils and Cumbria County Council on how the money could be best used across the whole of Cumbria. Part of the discussions would be to determine how Homelife resources could be used in a better proactive way. At its meeting in January 2017 full Council had agreed the Scheme of Housing Assistance which detailed the move to discretionary DFGs and the relevant categories.

In response to a Members' question the Chief Finance Officer clarified where the additional DFG funding had come from and the Town Clerk and Chief Executive agreed to provide a written response to Members on the contribution to Durranhill Industrial Estate.

RESOLVED – 1) That the Capital Budget Overview and Monitoring Report: April to December 2016 (RD.55/16) be noted.

2) That the Town Clerk and Chief Executive provide a written response regarding the additional contributions to the Durranhill Industrial Estate project.