
EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON 14 JUNE 2012

ROSP.40/12 PROVISIONAL CAPITAL OUTTURN 2011/12 AND REVISED CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2012/13

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder presented report RD.10/12 on the Provisional Outturn for the Council's Capital Budget, together with details of the revised Capital Programme for 2012/13. He informed Members that the Outturn showed that the net underspend for Council services as at 31 March 2012 once committed expenditure totalling £1,553,300 was taken into account was £268,541. He added that requests had been made for carry forwards for new items of expenditure totalling £139,500 which would change the underspend to £129,041.

The Portfolio Holder set out the position with regard to carry forward requests on the Capital Programme. He also identified for Members the resources which had been used to fund the 2011/12 Capital Programme and detailed the 5 year Capital Programme for the period 2012/13 to 2016/17. He reported that the programme for 2012/13 totalled £12,728,300 based upon the programme agreed by Council in February 2012 of £10,940,500; the commitments brought forward from 2011/12 of £1,553,300; an additional budget of £139,500 for continuing / new schemes subject to approval by Council; and additional budget for improvements and resurfacing of Talkin Tarn car parking facilities of £95,000 funded from surplus revenue income generated (Direct Revenue Funding).

It had been recognised that the carry forwards from 2011/12 had increased the 2012/13 capital programme and a further review was recommended to ensure that the Council had the capacity to deliver that level of capital programme. To that end, the 2012/13 programme needed to be reviewed by Project Officers to ensure that schemes could be completed in line with both the projected budget and projected timescales. The main challenge for 2012/13 and future years was the vehicle replacement programme and the uncertainty around the environmental enhancement work (currently planned to be funded by internal borrowing).

The Portfolio Holder further outlined the proposed funding arrangements for the revised 2012/13 programme.

The matter had been considered by Executive on 1 June 2012 (EX.059/12).

It was resolved:

“That the Executive:

- (i) Noted the net underspend as at 31 March 2012 of £268,541 which included committed expenditure to be met totalling £1,553,300 in 2012/13, which had been approved under delegated powers by the Director of Resources.
- (ii) Recommended that the City Council on 17 July 2012 approve the carry forward requests of £139,500 for new items of expenditure.
- (iii) Recommended that the City Council on 17 July 2012 approve the use of the Sheepmount Reserve in 2011/12 to fund expenditure on Sheepmount Drainage.
- (iv) Noted the use of the Conservation Fund to fund expenditure on the Central Plaza; the Energy Efficiency Advice Reserve to fund expenditure on Fuel Poverty; and the Asset Management Reserve to fund expenditure on Industrial Estates and Asset Management Plan in 2011/12.
- (v) Recommended that the City Council on 17 July 2012 approve the revised programme for 2012/13, together with the proposed methods of financing, as detailed at paragraph 5.2 and Appendix B of Report RD.10/12.”

In considering the Outturn Report Members raised the following comments and questions:

- Had the Council known that there would be an overspend on the Roman Frontier project?

The Town Clerk and Chief Executive (Dr Gooding) responded that he would submit a full report to the Panel when the project closed. He reminded the Panel that the North West Development Agency (NWDA) had placed a lot of pressure on the Council to spend the grant money before the NWDA ceased. As a result the authority had to rush to meet the new timescales and the ERDF auditors had carried out an extensive audit of the project. They concluded that some of the contracts should have been procured in a different way and clawed back some of the grant money resulting in some of the overspend.

In response to a Member’s question the Financial Services Manager (Miss Taylor) clarified that the budget for the Old Town Hall was £75,000 from the capital resources.

RESOLVED – 1) That the Provisional Capital Outturn 2011/12 and Revised Capital Programme 2012/13 report be noted.

2) That the Town Clerk and Chief Executive submit a close down report with regard to the Roman Frontier when the project ended.