

CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING

Report By: DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To advise Scrutiny Committee on the progress of 2008/09 Capital Programme for Environment within the overall context of the Herefordshire Council's Capital Programme.

Summary

2. This report is largely based on the latest round of capital monitoring, which involved the examination of all schemes at the end of January 2009. The Environment Capital Working Group is keeping the overall spending position under careful review.
3. The total spent and committed at 31st January 2009 is £19.3 million or 91.5% of the Revised Forecast. The actual amount spent to date is £15.7 million.

Financial Implications

4. The Capital Budgets for Environment for 2008/09 are shown in Appendix I, on an individual scheme basis with funding arrangements indicated in overall terms.
5. The total of the Capital Programme has reduced to £21,056,000 from £21,951,000 notified to the previous meeting (see Appendix I). This is a net reduction of £895,000 and relates to:
 - i) An increase of £116,000 on Ross Flood Alleviation Scheme to agree to profiled expenditure in line with the latest grant claim from DEFRA relating to additional costs associated with tunnelling and shaft sinking works costs. This scheme is being funded by Environment Agency and following the submission of engineer reports to them to support the increase in costs, they have agreed to fund additional costs based on the latest estimates.
 - ii) A reduction of £398,000 in relation to Enhancements to High Street, Hereford. This relates to Widemarsh Street repaving and has been moved to January 2010 to allow time for a Public Realm Design Guide to be produced in conjunction with Edgar Street Grid. This will aim to provide a design that will link Edgar Street Grid to the current city centre. Actual works will not start until January 2010 so this budget will slip into 2009-10.
 - iii) An addition of £85,000 in relation to Public Toilet improvements at Upper Wyche, Malvern funded by Malvern Hill Conservators.
 - iv) A reduction of £32,000 in relation to improvements to Grafton Travellers site. This scheme has now been completed but agreement has been received from Department of Communities and Local Government that the remaining grant funding

can be used for additional improvements to this or other travellers' sites. Schemes will be considered and programmed in 2009/10.

- v) A reduction of £240,000 in current year capital programme in relation to slippage in the Connect 2 project and will be carried forward into subsequent years. The project is estimated to cost £1.75m with £350,000 funding from Lottery Fund and is scheduled for completion in 2012/13.
- vi) A reduction of 390,000 in relation to Waste Infrastructure which is funded by grant from DEFRA. This has been earmarked to be spent in 2009/10 on the purchase of wheelie bins and equipment relating to the new waste collection contract.
- vii) A reduction of £36,000 in the current year capital programme for Pedestrian Improvements in Ledbury Road, Hereford. Funding of £76,000 was received from Festival Housing in the current year and any funding not utilised in 2008/09 will be carried forward into 2009/10 capital programme.
- viii) Minor changes have been made within the Local Transport Plan budget schemes but overall are still expected to come in on budget. These include the re-allocation of additional budget of £145,000 to Rural Transport schemes which includes Pedestrian and Disabled Access Improvements, Footway Improvement and Cycle Routes and Parking schemes, and a reduction of £100,000 on the 2008/09 maintenance budget in relation to Embankments.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be noted.