

Special Joint Overview & Scrutiny Select Committee

16 February 2010

Action and Responses

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Action and Responses

1. **Staff Pension Contributions**

To provide information on pension contributions included in the budget figures.

Response:

The employer contribution to the Local Government Pension Scheme is included within the salary budgets as an on cost of just over 15%. The total amount for current liabilities is £15 million.

This is in addition to the back funding contribution shown in corporate items.

Martin Donovan, Chief Finance Officer

2. **Area Boards Budget**

To provide a further financial breakdown on each Area Board budget to include all costs.

Attached response provided by *Martin Donovan, Chief Finance Officer*.

3. **Supporting People - 2009/10 Community Underspend of £300k**

To provide further details on how the £300k underspend (to be used for Community Projects) was spent.

Response:

As a result of negotiating reductions, re-tendering services and some contracts ceasing an underspend was identified at the end of last year. The Partnership Board that oversees this budget comprising representatives from Children and Families, Probation, and Adult Care agreed to invite existing providers to submit bids.

A breakdown of these is set out below. All of the bids received meet Supporting People eligibility criteria and the financial outlay was covered by the projected under spend for 09/10, and ongoing once the subsidy contracts have been capped at zero inflation.

The funding requirements amounted to a total spend of £316,400.

A. Angel Yard £13,400

The Angel Yard scheme in Marlborough is run by 'Together' and consists of three self contained flats for people with Mental Health problems. The project was to provide 7 hours of housing related support to each of the three clients per week. At present Supporting People pays £8,400 towards this scheme which falls short of the costs of the current provider in delivering the required service. In order for this service to continue at the level set out in the contract specification the Board are asked to agree the additional funding.

SPOG Recommendation: Approved

B. KeyRing £34,000

KeyRing is a low level and innovative model of community supported living. Using a Community Living Worker supported by a network of local people to support an individual living within the neighbourhood. This fits in with the 5 year strategy which identified the need for 'two jointly commissioned KeyRing schemes in Wiltshire'. £34,000 represents 50% of the cost of two schemes.

SPOG Recommendation: Approved

C. Turning Point £202,000

Turning Point have a number of properties in South Wiltshire which operate under their supported living programme and which are eligible for Supporting People funding. At present only one property receives funding from the programme; this sum represents an additional 12 units to be added to the existing contract. There remain a number of schemes for people with learning disabilities that remain outside of the programme, the Turning Point scheme has been selected for inclusion at this time because of the quality of the service and the willingness of the provider to work with the Supporting People team.

SPOG Recommendation: Approved

**D. Wiltshire County Council (WCC), Homeshare
£32,000**

WCC are looking to employ a 'Homeshare Coordinator' who would be used to match together two people with varying needs. The first person would be a homeowner, who is in need of support; the second person would be in need of accommodation and willing to provide the support needed. It is believed that this would provide a simple, effective and low cost way of meeting housing and social care needs. The £32k required would be for the first two years of the scheme and could be paid as a one off amount out of this years under spend. SPOG felt that this innovative scheme was worth trying for the two year period subject to careful monitoring and review.

SPOG Recommendation: Approved and Homeshare post appointed

E. Ridgeway Community Housing Association**£35,000**

Three years ago the Home Improvement Agencies were restructured within Wiltshire to provide coverage of the entire County for the first time. In order to part fund this new structure £65k was allocated by WCC for a two year period. This funding has now ceased and Ridgeway has been left with a deficit on its operating budget. SPOG felt that this money should be allocated in order to help preserve the current arrangements however it is not required on an on going basis because the contract has been re-tendered and a reduced price obtained.

SPOG Recommendation: Approved*Martin Donovan, Chief Finance Officer***4. Replacement Gym Equipment**

To provide clarification on the funding set aside for replacement gym equipment within Leisure Centres.

Response:

There is £206k in leisure centre revenue budgets to pay for the purchase of new equipment (analysis shown below). A proportion of this will be spent on new gym equipment.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Pewsey | 7,602 |
| Devizes | 55,750 |
| Marlborough | 62,600 |
| Tidworth | 6,500 |
| Five Rivers | 50,850 |
| Tisbury Sports Centre | 4,660 |
| Amesbury | 11,747 |
| Durrington Swimming | 6,880 |

206,589

In addition the contract with DC Leisure has the cost to pay for new equipment built into it.

Martin Donovan, Chief Finance Officer

5. **Targeted Services & Commissioning & Performance Budget - Department of Children and Education**

To provide a more detailed breakdown of the 'Targeted Services & Commissioning & Performance' budget, to include the Youth Service.

Attached response provided by *Liz Williams, Head of Finance and Schools Funding, DCE.*

6. **Invest to Save Budget - Department of Resources**

To provide further details on what is included within the 'Invest to Save' budget.

Response:

'Invest to save' comprises:

| | |
|--------|--|
| £2.2m | Investment in rationalisation of ICT which will deliver savings after 2 years. |
| £0.8m | One-off costs related to the re-letting of the Steria contract from which it is envisaged there will be savings. |
| £0.3m | Available for general bids. |
| £0.45m | Highways - One-off scheme funded through capital reserves. |

Martin Donovan, Chief Finance Officer

7. **Corporate Items**

To provide details on what is included within 'Corporate Items' as outlined on p.35 of the Cabinet papers.

Attached response provided by *Martin Donovan, Chief Finance Officer.*

8. **Waste - Treatment plan in Westbury**

To provide available (non commercially sensitive) details on the proposed contract with Hills Waste Solutions Ltd.

Response:

Q1. Will the proposed sub-contract to export the SRF to Germany result in more waste being delivered to the proposed MBT plant in Westbury?

A: The capacity of the plant that Hills are proposing to construct at Westbury has not increased. The Council's obligation is to deliver 60,000 tonnes per annum of residual waste to the plant. The original proposal for delivery of SRF to the Lafarge cement works in Westbury was based on production of 15,000 tonnes per annum of SRF. This would have been used as a coal

substitute in the cement manufacturing process and so the SRF would need to have a sufficiently high calorific value to fulfil this requirement. Following the cessation of cement manufacture at the Lafarge plant Hills have proposed an alternative outlet for the fuel which involves exporting the SRF to an energy from waste plant in Germany. This plant generates heat and power from waste derived fuels and has been designed to accept SRF with a wider range of calorific values than that required by the cement manufacturing process where the SRF replaces coal. As a consequence Hills will be able to produce 20,000 tonnes per annum of fuel which will meet this broader specification, thus enabling the Council to divert more of its waste from landfill.

Q2. What is the environmental impact of the proposal to export the SRF to Germany?

A. It is not possible to quantify the environmental impact of the proposal to export the SRF to Germany. Clearly the miles that the SRF would travel increases considerably from the original proposal. However, the proposal does enable the Council to divert waste from landfill and therefore reduces the production of methane, a potent greenhouse gas, which is 23 times as damaging a greenhouse gas as carbon dioxide. The plant will generate electricity and heat which would also compensate for the miles travelled. The Council's objective would be to move to a more sustainable solution so the proposed sub-contract for export of SRF is for a period of 5 years. This would give the Council time to work with Hills prior to the expiry of the proposed sub-contract to provide an alternative outlet for the fuel which would reduce the distance over which the SRF would be transported.

*Tracy Carter, Service Director
Operations, Transport, Environment and Leisure*

9. **Climate Change Breakdown**

To provide a breakdown on the aims of the climate change team.

Response:

The plan for the climate change team for 2010-11 is to put in place the capacity to deliver against our four objectives which have been agreed by the Climate Change Board, namely:

- 1) reduce the Council's carbon footprint (commitment to reduce by 5% per year until 2020);
- 2) reduce the County's carbon footprint;
- 3) prepare for unavoidable climate change (LAA target to have an adaptation plan in place by March 2011);

- 4) perform well under carbon trading (statutory CRC scheme starts April 2010).

As of 16 February we will have 3.6 FTE on the team, plus an embedded 0.5FTE Climate Change Community Officer based with the Area Boards team (funded by DCS).

The proposed budget for 2010-11 would enable us to pay a total of 7.6 permanent FTE and one 2 year fixed term post (1 FTE) at a total cost of £323k for staffing (see attached staffing structure). Originally a growth bid for £480k was submitted for 2009-10; this has now been reduced to £400k for 2010-11. Costs should be seen in the context of the authority's overall spend on energy and transport of over £12m per year, which the team will be working to reduce.

The balance of the budget will be used to obtain ISO 14001 accreditation, for project implementation and match funding for bids, as well as staff training and expenses/supplies and service/team set up costs.

The projects that the team will be working on in 2010 are as follows (please note many of these cut across carbon reduction and climate change adaptation so will meet objectives 2 and 3 above.

Developing an over arching **climate change strategy** for the Council, to ensure that we meet our obligations under the Climate Change Act 2009 and Renewable Energy Strategy 2009 (all Objectives).

Implementing the **carbon management plan** for the authority – in particular coordinating projects to reduce emissions from buildings, streetlights and transport (Obj 1).

Developing a steady stream of **energy efficiency projects** for funding from the new £1m ring-fenced capital loan fund for all council properties, including schools projects (provided £500k capital bid is approved for this purpose and Salix finance match with further £500k) (Obj 1).

Building capacity in **partner organisations** for them to contribute to the low carbon and climate change adaptation agendas, in particular through the LSP and thematic partnerships (will be the focus of CAA in 2010) (Objs 2 and 3).

Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy to **businesses** across the county, to develop the green economy and generate resource efficiencies in the private sector, as well as getting them to think about how they need to prepare for more extreme weather in future (CC adaptation) (Objs 2 and 3).

Working with Area Boards and community groups across the county to develop energy efficiency and renewable energy projects at a local level, as well as developing capacity at a grass roots level for dealing with unavoidable climate change (Objs 2 and 3).

Greening the army by working with 43 Wessex Brigade and the military civilian programme board (2 year programme) on carbon reduction and climate change adaptation (Objs 2 and 3).

Developing a **climate change adaptation plan** for Wiltshire, working with public sector partners (LAA target). This is a major piece of work which from the experience of other councils will take up approx 2 FTE for the coming year (Obj 3).

Obtaining ISO 14001 accreditation for key services in Neighbourhood and Planning (building on WCC's accreditation which lapsed in August 2008) (Objs 1 and 3).

Embedding carbon reduction and climate change adaptation through all council **policies** which will enable Wiltshire to meet the Government's aspirations under the Low Carbon Transition plan (Obj 2).

Members may be interested to note that during 2009-10 the Climate Change team has already been successful in leveraging in £350k capital investment from Salix Finance in the form of 0% loans for energy efficiency projects and £52k revenue funding from the Carbon Trust for energy efficiency surveys across 44 key sites. Further funding is being sought from Salix and it is expected that a further £500k capital will be made available during 2010-11. Both the Carbon Trust and the Energy Saving Trust are also providing one to one support to the climate change team, bringing valuable technical expertise to the authority for free.

Alastair Cunningham, Service Director Economy and Enterprise.

10. **HGV Parking**

To provide clarification on what proportion of the parking budget would be applicable for HGV parking across the County.

Response:

The total projected income for 2009-10 as requested:

Pay & Display income (on & off street) = £6,123,684

Currently we allow 3 car parks to be used for overnight HGV parking (Kings Street Melksham - 8 bays Free parking, Georges Lane Marlborough - 4 bays £4.00 per night & Station Road Devizes - 11 bays £4.00 per night). Therefore we do not record the very small amount of income separately. However, if all bays were filled and all vehicles paid (very unlikely as the level of historical enforcement is low) the total income would be in the region of £15k per annum, 0.24% of P&D income.

Mark Smith, Service Director Neighbourhood Services.