

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Cabinet		
MEETING DATE:	13th July 2011	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:	
		E	2292
TITLE:	Revenue Budget Contingency 2011/2012 - Allocation of Funding		
WARD:	All		
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM			
List of attachments to this report: None			

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 As part of the Approved Budget for 2011/2012, additional funding was set aside in the Revenue Budget Contingency for future allocation once the full implications of government grant decisions for the financial year were clarified. This report sets out details of the allocations which have been approved from the Revenue Budget Contingency.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Cabinet is asked to note the report.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Revenue Budget Contingency for 2011/2012 included £1.736M of funding set aside to cover the risks arising from changes to specific government grants which were unknown at the time the Budget was approved by the Council on 15th February 2011, together with potential costs of emerging priorities.
- 3.2 The position in respect of the specific government grants has been fully clarified and this funding is available for allocation from the Revenue Budget Contingency for emerging priorities in accordance with the agreed approval process.
- 3.3 The allocations of funding set out in section 4 of the report below have been approved and are for one-off items of expenditure totalling £491,000 in 2011/2012.
- 3.4 Potential on-going financial implications identified of up to £150k will be included as a priority within the 2012/2013 Budget.
- 3.5 The balance of this funding totalling £1.245M will continue to be held in the Revenue Budget Contingency for further review and allocation to emerging Council priorities including those in respect of Culverhay School and the Bath Transport Package. It is unlikely that the Revenue Budget Contingency will be sufficient to meet these in full and any further costs arising from these would fall to be met from the Council's General Fund Balances.

4 THE REPORT

- 4.1 The following allocations of funding have been approved from the Revenue Budget Contingency:

ITEM	Funding Allocated
Homes and Planning	
<u>HMO Article 4 Direction over Student Accommodation</u>	£45,000
The direction withdraws permitted development rights for change of use from a house to a small HMO. This work is a priority for the new administration but it could not previously be progressed due to lack of resources. A brief has been prepared setting out the scope and programme which was used to ascertain the likely costs of the work. The extra costs of managing the preparation of this work will have to be absorbed by the Planning Service. Introduction of an article 4 direction can have significant implications on the City and the 1st part of the project will be to ascertain the costs and implications with Members before a Direction is implemented. The Direction is likely to increase the workload in Development Management due to the additional planning applications and the ongoing resourcing implications will need to be considered.	
<u>Locally Important buildings List SPD</u>	£2,500
Preparation of this Supplementary Planning Document began in response to Government advice in 2008 to introduce a list of locally	

important buildings. However the work could not be progressed as there were insufficient resources. The ongoing maintenance of this list will marginally increase the workload of the heritage officers/Development Management function.

Site for Nature Conservation Importance SDP

£2,500

This supplementary Planning Document was also progressed in 2008 but was held in abeyance in light of lack of resources. However the work was well advanced and will be relatively inexpensive to complete and may be reconfigured as a technical 'protocol' rather than a full blown SPD.

Hotel Accommodation Strategy Consultation

£20,000

Prior to the Visitor Accommodation Strategy being adopted as Council policy, it needs to undergo public consultation which will cost an estimated £20,000. The comments received will then be taken into account as part of the approval process.

The consultation can be arranged for a 6-8 week period within the current financial year and the costs will cover printing, publicity, analysis of comments and amending the strategy. The work will be led by the Tourism, Culture and Leisure Service.

Transport

Increase Frequency of the 6/7 Bus Service

£85,000

To provide additional funding to First to improve service frequency on the 6/7 bus route. The funding covers the cost of one additional bus to increase frequency of the service from a combined 20 minute frequency to a combined 15 minute frequency.

The continuation of this arrangement beyond the current financial year will require the identification of recurring funding as part of the 2012/2013 budget process.

Feasibility Study into Frome/Radstock Rail Link

£15,000

This funding will be used to secure appropriate professional resources to review and update the previous feasibility report into this rail link undertaken as part of Radstock Regeneration Scheme.

Environmental Improvements to include but not limited to:

- Bryant Rd/Glebelands Rd, Westfield £30,000
- Elm Rd/Rudgery Rd, Paulton £30,000
- Landscaping around shops at Westfield £20,000

Any ongoing maintenance costs to be included within 2012/2013 Budget.

20 mph Schemes

£25,000

For the prioritised introduction of 20mph speed limit zones across B&NES. Any ongoing maintenance costs will be included within the 2012/2013 Budget.

Early Years, School and Youth

Primary School Meals - Price Freeze

£31,000

As detailed elsewhere on this Cabinet Agenda, this funding is being provided to avoid raising the price of school meals from 1 September 2011 to offset the rising costs. The recommended price increase would have increased income by £22,000 in 2011-12 and £31,000 in a full financial year; a price increase would offset rising costs.

In 2012-13 there will be a shortfall in income that will need to be reflected in the charges to the Dedicated Schools Grant.

Peasedown Youth Arts Room

£20,000

To be used to completely refurbish the art room in Peasedown youth hub. Staff & young people have recently visited the new Southside Youth Hub and this has led to many requests as it gives people a real vision of what quality spaces for young people look like. Officers believe this is a very achievable project, which will come in on budget and within the agreed timescale.

Radstock Youth Centre (youth worker hours)

£10,000

Consultation to be undertaken with the local community to prioritise the allocation of this funding for additional youth worker support.

Community Resources

Redundant Toilets

£50,000

Funding to ensure these facilities are appropriately secured and maintained as redundant assets. Detailed proposals will be developed for each of the three sites within B&NES.

Neighbourhoods

Play Area Equipment

£50,000

Acceleration of the planned replacement programme with areas progressed on the basis of greatest need in as many play areas throughout B&NES as possible.

As we are accelerating planned replacement, this will not increase revenue costs.

Radstock Playscheme Funding

£10,000

Officers are currently considering options for the application of this funding to support the playscheme.

Internet Café in Paulton Library £20,000
 This project is to relocate Paulton Library to new premises in Paulton, and to extend the offer to a community building to include an internet café and other partner agencies. This relocation meets a number of the needs expressed in the Paulton Community Plan.

The Library service is working closely with Paulton Parish Council, Ward Councillors and the community to agree the best offer to place this library at the centre of community life. This funding will be specifically used to fit out the building with up to 6 PC's, computer furniture, library furniture, shelving and signage.

Street Cleaning £25,000
 To be allocated on a one-off basis to priority areas in discussion with officers.

TOTAL FUNDING ALLOCATED **£491,000**

5 RISK MANAGEMENT

5.1 Officers are requested to ensure the application of funding for the purposes identified is undertaken with full regard to appropriate risk management arrangements and guidance.

6 EQUALITIES

6.1 Officers are requested to ensure the application of funding for the purposes identified takes account of equalities in accordance with corporate guidelines.

7 CONSULTATION

7.1 Officers are requested to ensure appropriate consultation with stakeholders will be undertaken as part of the implementation arrangements for each of these projects.

8 ADVICE SOUGHT

8.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer (Divisional Director – Legal and Democratic Services) and Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director - Finance) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

Contact person	<i>Andrew Pate – Strategic Director of Resources 01225 477300</i>
Background papers	<i>Medium Term Service & Resource Planning 2011/12 – 2013/14, & Budget and Council Tax 2011/12</i>
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	