Scrutiny Standing Panel Agenda



Finance and Performance Management Scrutiny Panel Monday, 15th January, 2007

Place:	Council Chamber, Civic Offices, High Street, Epping
Time:	7.00 pm
Democratic Services Officer:	A Hendry - Democratic Services Officer Tel: 01992 564246 Email: ahendryl@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

Members:

Councillors J M Whitehouse (Chairman), J Hart (Vice-Chairman), Mrs R Gadsby, R Church, M Colling, Mrs A Cooper, R D'Souza, P House, D Jacobs and R Morgan

WEBCASTING NOTICE

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1. WEBCASTING INTRODUCTION (Pages 5 - 8)

1. This meeting is to be webcast. Members are reminded of the need to activate their microphones before speaking.

2. The Chairman will read the following announcement:

Finance and Performance Management Scrutiny Panel

Monday, 15 January 2007

"I would like to remind everyone present that this meeting will be broadcast live to the Internet and will be capable of repeated viewing and copies of the recording could be made available for those that request it.

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2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (COUNCIL MINUTE 39 - 23.7.02)

(Head of Research and Democratic Services) To report the appointment of any substitute members for the meeting.

4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

(Head of Research and Democratic Services). To declare interests in any items on the agenda.

In considering whether to declare a personal or a prejudicial interest under the Code of Conduct, Overview & Scrutiny members are asked pay particular attention to paragraph 11 of the Code in addition to the more familiar requirements.

This requires the declaration of a personal and prejudicial interest in any matter before an OS Committee which relates to a decision of or action by another Committee or Sub Committee of the Council, a Joint Committee or Joint Sub Committee in which the Council is involved and of which the Councillor is also a member.

Paragraph 11 does not refer to Cabinet decisions or attendance at an OS meeting purely for the purpose of answering questions or providing information on such a matter.

5. NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING - 14 NOVEMBER 2006 (Pages 9 - 16)

To consider and agree the notes of the meeting the Panel held on 14 November 2006.

6. TERMS OF REFERENCE / WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 17 - 20)

(Chairman/Lead Officer) The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has agreed the Terms of Reference of this Panel and associated Work Programme. This is attached. The Panel are asked at each meeting to review both documents.

7. DRAFT DETAILED PORTFOLIO BUDGETS (Pages 21 - 176)

(Head of Finance) To consider the attached report.

8. REVISED FOUR YEAR FORCAST (Pages 177 - 184)

(Head of Finance) To consider the attached report.

Finance and Performance Management Scrutiny Panel

9. REPORTS TO BE MADE TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

To consider which reports are ready to be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its next meeting.

10. FUTURE MEETINGS

To consider the forward programme of meeting dates for the Panel, the next and last meeting programmed for this municipal year is scheduled for 12th February 2007.

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Agenda Item 1



EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

PROTOCOL FOR WEBCASTING OF COUNCIL AND OTHER MEETINGS

Introduction

The Council has agreed that certain meetings should be the subject of live web transmission ('web casting'), or recorded for subsequent transmission. Fixed cameras are located within the Council Chamber for this purpose and there is a mobile unit for use in other locations

This protocol has been produced to assist the conduct of web cast meetings and to ensure that in doing so the Council is compliant with its obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Human Rights Act 1998. Accordingly the following will apply to all meetings to be web cast by the Council:-

Main provisions:

1. The Chairman of the meeting has the discretion to request the termination or suspension of the webcast if in the opinion of the Chairman continuing to webcast would prejudice the proceedings of the meeting.

This would include:

- (i) Public disturbance or other suspension of the meeting;
- (ii) Exclusion of public and press being moved and supported;
- (iii) Any other reason moved and seconded and supported by the Council/Committee or Subcommittee.
- 2. No exempt or confidential agenda items shall be webcast.

3. Subject to paragraph 4 below all archived webcasts will be available to view on the Council's website for a period of six months. Council meetings are recorded onto DVD, which will be stored in accordance with records management procedures.

4. Archived webcasts or parts of webcasts shall only be removed from the Council's website if the Monitoring Officer considers that it is necessary because all or part of the content of the webcast is or is likely to be in breach of any statutory provision or common law doctrine, for example Data Protection and Human Rights legislation or provisions relating to confidential or exempt information.

If the Monitoring Officer has decided to take such action she must notify all elected Members in writing as soon as possible of her decision and the reasons for it via the Bulletin

Council expects the Chair of the Council and the Monitoring Officer to ensure that Council meetings are conducted lawfully. Therefore, Council anticipates that the need to exercise the power set out above will occur only on an exceptional basis.

5. Any elected Member who is concerned about any webcast should raise their concerns with the Head of Research and Democratic Services

Agenda Front Sheets and Signage at Meetings

On the front of each agenda and on signs to be displayed inside and outside the meeting room there will be the following notice:-

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Meetings of the Area Plans Subcommittees, District Development Control Committee, Licensing Committee and other 'Quasi Judicial' Hearings

In any correspondence notifying applicants, supporters or objectors of the meeting date on which an application will be heard, the following advice will be included if the particular meeting has been chosen to be web cast:-

"Please note that Council meetings may be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the Authority's Internet site. If you do not wish the hearing of your application to be filmed, please contact the Senior Democratic Services Officer to discuss their concerns. The Council will not film speakers if they do not wish to appear in the webcast"

Conduct of Meetings

At the start of each meeting to be filmed, an announcement will be made to the effect that the meeting is being or may be web cast, and that the Chairman may also terminate or suspend the web casting of the meeting, in accordance with this protocol. This will be confirmed by the Chairman making the following statement:-

"I would like to remind everyone present that this meeting will be broadcast live to the internet and will be capable of repeated viewing.

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Agenda Item 5

EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL NOTES OF A MEETING OF FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON TUESDAY, 14 NOVEMBER 2006 IN COMMITTEE ROOM 1, CIVIC OFFICES, HIGH STREET, EPPING AT 7.00 - 9.31 PM

Members Present:	J M Whitehouse (Chairman), Mrs R Gadsby, R Church, R D'Souza, P House, D Jacobs and R Morgan
Other members present:	J Knapman and Mrs M Sartin
Apologies for Absence:	M Colling
Officers Present	T Tidey (Head of Human Resources and Performance Management), S Tautz (Performance Improvement Manager), J Gilbert (Head of Environmental Services), A Hall (Head of Housing Services), D Macnab (Head of Leisure Services), P Maddock (Assistant Head of Finance), J Preston (Head of Planning and Economic Development), A Scott (Head of Information, Communications and Technology), C O'Boyle (Head of Legal, Administration and Estates), C Overend (Policy & Research Officer), Mrs J Tautz (Senior Local Land Charges Officer), A Hendry (Democratic Services Officer) and B Bassington (Senior Auditor)

Also in attendance:

11. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (COUNCIL MINUTE 39 - 23.7.02)

No Substitute members were reported.

12. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were made.

13. NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING - 15 AUGUST 2006

The notes of the previous meeting were agreed.

14. TERMS OF REFERENCE / WORK PROGRAMME

The current work programme was noted.

15. QUARTERLY KPI MONITORING REPORT - 2ND QUARTER.

The Panel noted that this was the second quarter when the new performance monitoring system had been used to provide information on KPI's.

On the specific KPI's the following questions were asked:

KPI 082a (i) Household Waste Management (recycling): it was noted that there were no accurate figures available for the first quarter because for the first six weeks

the Council was with the old supplier and the next six weeks the Council was with the new supplier. The figures given are based on Essex County Council figures. It was noted that in the district as a whole, recycling is running at the mid 30% mark, in the alternative collection areas it is running at just over 40%.

KPI 084a Household Waste Collection (kilograms per head): Noted that the actual figure for Q1/06/7 should read 110 and not 38.01.

KPI 091a – Kerbside Collection of Recyclables (one recyclable): Noted that there was a drop in household recycling. Now that about 90% of properties have wheeled bins the Council will next be looking at recycling from flats etc. to increase the percentage.

KPI 199a – Local Street and Environmental Cleanliness – Litter & Detritus: Noted that the actual figure for Q1/06/7 should be 6%.

KPI 199b - Local Street & Environmental Cleanliness – Graffiti: Noted that the target is 10% and we continue to achieve 0%. This means that the council has not seen any graffiti in the areas identified. The target of 10% will have to be reviewed.

KPI CEM1c - The number of Penalty Charge Notices issued during the year that were subject to an informal challenge: Noted that the figures should read as percentages.

KPI CEM1f – The percentage of challenges allowed against the issue of a **Penalty Charge Notice during the year:** To put some comparative figures against this chart.

KPI CEM1g - The percentage of Penalty Charge Notices issued during the year where collection was obtained: To put some comparative figures against this chart.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Performance Management and Corporate Support Services commented that he would like to see the KPI figures before they come to this Panel so that he could add his comments. He would also like to see more use made of the 'comments' and the 'corrective action' section. Also, perhaps the Panel should only see the KPIs that were going wrong. The Head of Human Resources and Performance Management replied that all KPIs are subject to an improvement plan and are monitored by Management Board.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Council's performance for the first six months of 2006/07, in relation to those Key Performance Indicators adopted by the Cabinet that are monitored on a quarterly basis be noted;

2. That, in future, performance in relation to Best Value Performance Indicators BV63 (energy efficiency of council dwellings) and BV184 (decent homes) be monitored by the Scrutiny Panel at year-end only; and

3. That, subject to the concurrence of the Cabinet, Best Value Performance Indicator BV164 (race equality in housing) be discontinued as a Key Performance Indicator from 2007/08.

16. COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT - IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Councillor Jacobs noted that the affordable housing numbers were lower than the target; the Head of Housing Services said that this was due to a lack of land availability, however there were a number there were a number of potential affordable housing schemes in the pipeline. The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Performance Management and Corporate Support Services commented that the District is very near to being a "negative affordable homes authority" (i.e. that the number of new affordable homes built was less than the number sold under the right to buy).

RESOLVED:

That, subject to the concurrence of the Cabinet:

- (a) Those actions contained within the Council's Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) Improvement Plan that have been achieved, be formally signed-off as having been completed;
- (b) That those outstanding service related actions within the CPA Improvement Plan be transferred to the Best Value Performance Plan, the relevant Business Plan, or identified for action by the appropriate Portfolio Holder(s) for completion; and
- (c) That, with effect from January 2007, progress towards the achievement of those outstanding corporate actions within the CPA Improvement Plan be monitored on a quarterly basis by this Scrutiny Panel.

17. ESSEX LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

The Head of Human Resources and Performance Management introduced the report on the Essex Local Area Agreement. The meeting noted that the Council is not required to subscribe to all the priorities listed, but have agreed to the following:

Priority 3 – Ensure development is designed to promote healthier living in the built environment;

Priority 8 – Keep vulnerable children and young people safe;

Priority 10 – Reduce crime, the harm caused by illegal drugs and to reassure the public reducing the fear of crime;

Priority 11 – Build respect in communities and reduce anti-social behaviour; and Priority 12 – Actively manage our environment.

Under target 2 in Priority 3 the Panel were unsure what a Lifetime home was, the Head of Planning and Economic Development explained that it was a house that could be lived in from the cradle to the grave. As the Council is already achieving 3%, it may need to raise its target.

Councillor Jacobs queried the recycling target for March 2008, he thought that the previous Panel agreed a 40% target instead of 36%.

It may be that some targets and actions need to be more precisely defined and more tangible targets need to be devised.

RESOLVED:

That the Scrutiny Panel:

(a) Considered and agreed the proposed actions and targets within the priority areas of the Essex Local Area Agreement adopted by the council, subject to some targets and actions being more closely defined; and

(b) Agreed the appropriate performance management arrangements for monitoring the achievement of targets within the priority areas of the Local Area Agreement.

18. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL MONITORING

The Assistant Head of Finance introduced the second quarterly report for 2006/07, covering the period from 1 April to 30 September 2006. The Panel noted that overspends were shown as positive numbers and underspends were shown as negative numbers.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Performance Management and Corporate Support Services commented that the figures on waste management made the Council look better than it really was, as the big bills would be coming in during the third and fourth quarters. The Council would need to find about a half million pounds in savings, as money would need to be found for an annual weekly waste collection and the Cabinet would need to say 'no' to further CSB Growth bids.

The Chairman asked about the underspend on the telephony system, the Head of Information and Communication Technology replied that the system had been delayed for 12 months and that this would provide future savings on the cost.

RESOLVED:

That the panel noted the financial monitoring report for the second quarter of 2006/07 including the Capital Monitoring reports.

19. FEES AND CHARGES - 2007/08

The Assistant Head of Finance introduced the report on Fees and Charges for the forthcoming financial year (2007/08). The general premise is that fees and charges would be increased by 3.5% in line with the retail price index. However where it could be justified a higher increase should be considered.

The meeting debated the relative merits of increasing the short stay car parking fees as opposed to raising the long stay fees and concluded that they would rather see the short term fees (for half an hour) kept the same.

The Head of Planning Services and Economic Development commented that a report would be written to detail and justify the increases in Building Control fees and that publicity should be given to this.

The Panel noted that Licensing now came under Environmental Protection and not Community Wellbeing and a new range of charges would be issued on licensing fees.

RESOLVED:

That the Panel considered the policy of increasing fees and charges for 2007/08, and recommended a general increase of 3.5% to the Finance and Performance Management Cabinet Committee.

20. CONSULTATION PLAN 2006/07

The Panel considered the Council's Consultation Plan for 2006/07. It noted that the web-based consultation on Waste Management had received around 70 to 80 responses and that no responses were against the use of wheeled bins. These responses would colour how the Portfolio holder would negotiate the new contract. Councillor Knapman expressed caution about using such a small number of respondents against the overall number in the district, as we currently cannot afford weekly collections. The Head of Environmental Services commented that a more involved form of public consultation would set back the procuring of a new waste management system some time, so this type of consultation was settled upon.

Councillor D'Souza argued that this was not a perfect way to consult with the public and councillors should talk to people in their wards. The Councillors should take more responsibility on themselves to find out the thoughts of their constitutents. Councillor Jacobs stressed that if people are not told the financial concequesnces of any actions they are being consulted on then they could not draw any valid conclusions.

In conclusion, the Chairman summed up the Panel's feeling that they were largely unhappy with the way the consultation was taking place, as it was restricted to people with computers or who read the local papers.

RESOLVED:

That the Panel noted the Consultation report, but were unhappy with the limited type of methods of consultation being undertaken by the Council.

21. VALUE FOR MONEY ANALYSIS

The Head of Housing Services introduced the Value for Money Analysis 2005/06 report. He reported that the Audit Commission undertakes an annual Use of Resources (UoR) Assessment, which evaluates how well councils manage and use their financial resources. The Audit Commission's overall score for EFDC's use of resources in 2005/06 was '2' and had identified a number of actions that needed to be undertaken to improve its use of resources. In response the Management Board had set up a working party to consider how to bring up the Council's score by one level.

The Working Party, Project Team and individual officers had been working through the Work Programme since June 2006 and had made significant progress in completing its tasks. This has included:

- Production and approval of a Value for Money Strategy, Data Quality Strategy and Staff Code of Conduct;
- Formulation of the Council's Value for Money Self-Assessment;
- Introduction of many new approaches and procedures (e.g. procedure note for closure of accounts processes and a proposed consultation on the Medium Term Financial Strategy);

- Production and approval of a Business and Internal Control Assurance Framework;
- Formulation of proposals for the introduction of an independent Audit and Governance Committee from May 2007;
- Approval of the Corporate Risk Register and Risk Management Strategy by members, and the embedding of risk management within the organisation; and
- Improved budgetary information to members and monitoring by officers.

In order to better understand the Council's unit costs for services and how they relate to the Council's performance and compare with other organisations, the Working Party had formulated a Value for Money (VFM) Analysis, which was attached as an appendix to the Head of Housing Services report. He explained the approach adopted with the Analysis.

He explained that the VFM analysis would need refining and updating on an annual basis and that the purpose of the analysis is to provide an indicator; it would therefore be unwise to take any action based solely on this analysis.

The Chairman noted that this was an important and massive piece of work that should be looked at in greater detail. In order to do this the meeting agreed that a sub group from this Panel, comprising of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman and Councillor Jacobs be convened to look at the report in detail and make any comments.

RESOLVED:

(1) That a Sub-Group be formed to look in detail the Value for Money Analysis report, including the outstanding information from Housing and Environmental Services. The Sub-Group is to be comprised of the Chairman (Councillor J Whitehouse), the Vice Chairman (Councillor J Hart) and Councillor D Jacobs. The sub group is to be assisted by The Head of Housing Services and the Head of Human Resources and Performance Management.

(2) That the Sub-Group considers whether any of the information provided by the VFM Analysis should be brought to the attention of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to help inform the Committee's Work Programme for 2007/08.

22. EVALUATION OF RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION STRATEGY

The Head of Human Resources and Performance Management introduced the report on the evaluation of recruitment and retention strategy. Currently the Council was in a better position than it has been in for a while. It is successful in the area of attracting trainees and having them continue on in post once they have been trained up. It would like to extend the health checks currently offered to staff over the age of 40 to staff of all ages.

The Council would now like to concentrate on the managing of absences and bring those figures down.

RESOLVED:

(1) That the progress that has been made with the implementation of the Council's recruitment and retention strategy be noted;

(2) That further publicity be made available to staff on the existence of subsidised Leisure Centre membership, health checks, the Banked Holiday Scheme and the Busy Bees childcare voucher scheme;

(3) That the provision of health checks to staff at or over the age of 40 be extended to all staff in the light of the success of the scheme and the age discrimination legislation now in force, and

(4) That this Scrutiny Standing Panel recommends to Cabinet that the current initiatives continue but that attention is refocused on the issue of the Council's increasing sickness absence levels, in terms of future HR activity and focus.

23. LOCAL LAND CHARGES

The Head of Legal, Administration and Estates updated the Panel on the current performance of the Local Land Charges Section, following the report presented to the Panel at its meeting on 1 June 2006 regarding income generated from Local Land Charge searches and personal searches, the performance in respect of standard searches and actions taken to address the current situation at that time.

The Panel noted that the table in paragraph 2 of the report had a typographical error in it. Under the column headed 2004/05 the first figure should read 458,471 and not 548,471.

The Panel was advised that, since the last report, Local Land Charges had succeeded in improving the turnround time for Searches from fourteen working days to between six and eight days.

It was reported that the Head of Legal, Administration and Estates and the Senior Local Land Charges Officer had recently met with the Acting Area Highways Manager at Essex County Council to discuss the speed of highways search replies. Members noted that, following this meeting, the County Council had provided an additional resource of one FTE to support the Technical Officer that had previously had sole responsibility for the search replies, which had improved turnround time for highways replies to six days. The Senior Local Land Charges Officer reported that the email link to Essex County Council's Area Highways Office was still to be put in place, but that once this was done the turnround time for highways search replies should be reduced by a further two days.

The Head of Legal, Administration and Estates reported that Essex County Council were not at present prepared to enter into a service level agreement to reflect the five day guaranteed turnround time referred to by the County Council's Portfolio Holder for Highways and Transportation, Councillor R. Bass, at a meeting held with the council's Joint Chief Executive (Community) earlier in the year.

The Panel also noted that the new Local Land Charges ICT System which was to be integrated with the Planning and Building Control systems, was due to be implemented within the next few months, and that from 1 April 2007 the current LLC1 fees were to be deregulated and that from then all registering authorities (includes district councils) would set their own fees based on the actual cost of providing the Local Land Charges service. The Senior Local Land Charges Officer advised the

Panel that the Home Information Pack (HIP) was due to be introduced on 1 June 2007 and that, as the Local Land Charge Search would be required to be included in the pack, current processes would have to be reviewed over the next six months.

RESOLVED:

That the panel noted the updating report on Local Land Charges.

24. FUTURE MEETINGS

Noted that the next meeting would be held on 15 January 2007, at 7pm.

TERMS OF REFERENCE - STANDING PANEL

Title: Finance and Performance Management

Status: Standing Panel Terms of Reference: **Performance Management** 1. To review Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI) and Local Performance Indicator (LPI) outturns for the previous year at the commencement of each municipal year, and to determine the following on an annual basis: The criteria for deciding which BVPIs and LPIs should be formally monitored (a) by the Panel throughout the remainder of the year, based upon the 'traffic light' system of performance reporting, Comprehensive Performance Assessment improvements, and existing council and member priorities; A 'basket' of priority BVPIs and LPIs, performance against which will be (b) reported to the Panel throughout the year; (c) The monitoring frequency of those priority BVPIs and LPIs identified by the Panel: Arrangements for the wider member reporting and monitoring of performance (d) against those BVPIs and LPIs that are not contained in the Panel's 'basket' of high priority indicators; 2. To consider proposals and make recommendations for corrective action in relation to poorly performing BVPIs and LPIs: **Best Value Performance Plan** 3. To consider and make recommendations as appropriate on the format and content of the Council's annual Best Value Performance Plan: **Council Plan** To undertake a full review of the existing Council Plan and to make 4. recommendations to the Cabinet on the overall strategic vision to be adopted, within the context of how the authority intends to prioritise resources and develop services in the medium term; **Public Consultation** To develop arrangements to directly engage the community in commenting on and 5. shaping the future direction of services to make them more responsive to local needs, including the development of proposals for effective consultation through an annual community conference;

6. To annually review the consultation exercises undertaken by the council over the previous year.

Finance

- 7. To consider the draft budgets for each portfolio and in so doing to evaluate and rank proposals for either enhancing or reducing services. Members will need to ensure consistency between wider policy objectives and financial demands.
- 8. To consider financial monitoring reports on key areas of income and expenditure for each portfolio.

Work Programme 2006/07- Draft as at 15 January 2007

	Finance and Perfor	erformance Management Standing Panel	
ltem	Report Deadline/Priority	Progress/Comments	Programme of Future Meetings
(1) Best Value Performance Data	Quarterly	 Underway: Monitoring of BVPP basket was undertaken on 1 June 2006. The Panels recommendations on KPIs went to Cabinet. Draft Best Value Performance Plan 2006/07 was considered on 25 April 2006. Ongoing KPI Scrutiny 	1 June, 15 August, 14 November 2006, 15 January, 12 February 2007
(2) Performance (Services to be scrutinised in Rotation)		 Underway: Land Charges and Legal and Administration Land Charges and Legal and Administration Services to be scrutinised at next meeting. Local Land Charges was considered at the June meeting. A further updating report to come back to the Panel in November. 	14 November 2006
(3) Quarterly Financial Monitoring	2006/07	 Underway: Date for period up to December 2005 last reviewed by Panel on 7 February 2006. First quarter went to 15 August meeting. – done. Second quarter went to 14 November meeting – done. Third quarter to go to 12 Feb 07 meeting. 	

(4) Annual Audit Plan	February 2007	Referred by OSC on 2 March 2006	
(5) Review of Local Land charges		Underway: Report went to 1 st June meeting, another (updating) report was presented to the 14 th November meeting.	
(6) Local Area Agreements		New item added by OSC on 16 March 2006. Considered in November 2006.	
(7) Draft Council Plan 2006-2010		Underway	
(8) Budget Papers		To be reported at the November, January and February meetings.	
		Nov. meeting to consider growth/savings;	
		Jan. meeting to consider the detailed budget; Feb. meeting for last comments prior to formal tax setting.	
(9) Value for Money Strategy		Reported to Panel on 15 August 06	15 August 2006
(9a) Value for Money analysis		Reported to Panel on 14 November 2006 – agreed that a sub-droug he formed to consider in detail	
(10) Data Quality Audit. Self Assessment		Reported to Panel on 15 August 06	15 August 2006
(11) Fees and Charges	Financial Year 2007/08	Considered at the November 2006 meeting.	
(12) Consultation Plan		Considered at the November 2006 meeting	

Agenda Item 7

Report to the Finance & Performance Management Scrutiny Panel

Date of meeting: 15 January 2007

Portfolio: Finance & Performance Management

Subject: Draft Detailed Portfolio Budgets



Officer contact for further information: Bob Palmer (01992 - 56 4279)

Democratic Services Officer: Adrian Hendry (01992 56 4246)

Recommendations:

That the Panel consider the draft detailed budgets for each Portfolio and recommend them, as amended if necessary, to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Report:

1. The Panel has within its terms of reference to consider detailed budget proposals. This is the second set of budget proposals to be considered by the Panel, as prior to 2006/07 the detailed proposals were taken to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2. The timetable for the approval of the 2007/08 budgets is as follows:

Finance & Performance Management Scrutiny Panel	15 January 2007
Finance & Performance Management Cabinet Committee	29 January 2007
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	1 February 2007
Cabinet	5 February 2007
Full Council	20 February 2007

3. It is intended that the recommendations from this Panel will go to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 1 February. Cabinet will then consider the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Finance and Performance Management Cabinet Committee on 5 February. Cabinet will then recommend a budget and Council Tax to Full Council for approval on 20 February.

Draft Detailed Portfolio Budgets:

4. Bids for both Continuing Service Budget (CSB) and District Development Fund (DDF) growth have been made to Cabinet in recent months. The growth bids were grouped together and reported to the Finance and Performance Management Cabinet Committee on 11 December 2006. Here the bids are presented by Portfolio rather than in total.

- 5. The following detailed information is provided for each Portfolio:
 - (i) Estimate Summary containing actual figures for 2005/06, original and revised estimates for 2006/07 and gross and net figures for 2007/08.

- (ii) Development Fund & Growth Items containing development fund and growth proposals, original and revised for 2006/07 and original 2007/08.
- (iii) Detailed Estimates containing figures and comments on each distinct area of the Portfolio.

LEADERS PORTFOLIO

ESTIMATES 2007/08

Revenue Budget 2007/08

Introduction

The Portfolio is responsible for the following services.

Elections and Electoral Registration Corporate Activities Civic and Members Activities Local Council Liaison Democratic Services Large scale Property Transactions

Further detail of the services and the related CSB growth and DDF items are shown on the appropriate budget page.

Capital Charges

In previous years accounting standards have required that a notional charge be made to service revenue accounts to reflect the cost of fixed assets used in the provision of services. These charges were then reversed through the asset management revenue account so that they had no effect on the Council Tax. The latest version of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) that local authorities are required to follow in producing their budgets and accounts has removed the requirement for capital charges and the asset management revenue account.

Compliance with CIPFA Standards

The budget has been prepared in accordance with the latest CIPFA guidance, in particular the Best Value Accounting Code of Practice 2006 The code of practice has the status of statutory "proper practice". It is also expected that members of CIPFA will comply with all the requirements of the Code as it defines best professional practice in terms of financial reporting. The only divergence from the code in these budget papers occurs where the portfolio service groupings differ from those required by the Code of Practice. The portfolio groupings are given precedence in these papers.

Budget format

The format of the attached budget papers is the same as that adopted last year. The summary page is split into three groups: Direct Services, Regulatory Services and Support & Trading Services. Not all portfolios will have all three types of service grouping.

Direct Services – these are self-explanatory and reflect the headline services provided by the portfolio.

Regulatory Services – The Cabinet has no part to play in the exercise of regulatory functions such as planning and licensing. However the Cabinet is responsible for the totality of the Council's budget. The costs of the regulatory functions therefore have been included in the appropriate portfolio budgets.

Support and Trading Services - Responsibility for support services and trading type arrangements has been split across a number of portfolios. In order to be transparent about the costs associated with these areas, they have been included in the relevant portfolios. However the net cost of these services is recharged to the direct and regulatory functions, either within the same portfolio or across a number of portfolios. Therefore to avoid double counting the costs are reversed out so as to arrive back at the true net cost of the portfolio.

General Fund Estimate Summary

2005/0	6 200	06/07			2007/08	
Actua £00				Gross Expend £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000
			Direct Services			
210) 285	307	Elections	344	25	319
1,360	1,605	1,506	Corporate Activities	1,524	0	1,524
867	7 996	912	Member Activities	894	0	894
90) 117	105	Other Activities	449	400	49
2,527	7 3,003	2,830	Total (Transferred to GF Summary)	3,211	425	2,786
			Support and Trading Services			
232	2 300	290	Democratic Services	300	0	300
(68	3) (88)	(85)	Recharged to this Portfolio	(88)	0	(88)
(164	4) (212)	(205)	Recharged to other Portfolios	(212)	0	(212)
0) 0	0	Total	0	0	0
2,527	7 3,003	2,830	Portfolio Total	3,211	425	2,786
			-			
2,575	5 2,906	2,718	Continuing Services Budget			2,776
42		91	Continuing Services Budget - Growth			10
(79		(30)	Continuing Services Budget - Savings			(12)
		. ,	-		-	
2,538		2,779			-	2,774
25	5 40	51	District Development Fund - Expenditure			12
(36	S) O	0	District Development Fund - Savings			0

(36)	0	0	District Development Fund - Savings	0
(11)	40	51	Total District Development Fund	12
2,527	3,003	2,830	Portfolio Total	2,786

Leaders Development Fund & Growth Items

		Orginal 2006/07 £000's	Revised 2006/07 £000's	Orginal 2007/08 £000's
CSB Growth Items				
Civic and Member	Members Allowances- Basic	18	18	
Civic and Member	Members Allowances- SRA Chair Scrutiny Panels	4	4	
Civic and Member	Member Electronic Services	9	9	(12)
Civic and Member	Member Electronic Services Training	5	5	~ /
Civic Ceremonial	Civic Awards	2	2	
Civic Ceremonial	Additional Officer Support for Chairman			5
Civic Ceremonial	Civic Transport			2
Electoral Registration	Changes in arrangements	11	17	
Elections	Changes in arrangements	9	21	
Elections	Running costs for new software			3
Democratic Services	Scrutiny Support Officer- new post	14	15	
Democratic Services	Savings resulting from new Cttee minute/report system	(15)	(15)	
Local Land Charges	Additional Income from increase in searches		(15)	
		57	61	(2)
		Orginal 2006/07 £000's	Revised 2006/07 £000's	Orginal 2007/08 £000's
Development Fund Items				
Corporate Policy Making	Dev of Community Strategy-consulting & printing	10	10	10
Corporate Policy Making	Top Man Structure Salary Increases	30	30	
Local Land Charges	New IT System		11	
Civic and Member	Audit & Governance Cttee Training			2
		40	51	12
			~	12

Elections

Electoral Registration

The CSB Growth items include £17,000 in the current year relating to the cost of changes in legal requirements for electoral registration and postal voting.

Other increases relate to a reallocation of overhead costs and inflationary increases on running costs including postages.

Elections

The future funding of elections is a matter currently being considered by Central Government and it is possible that future funding will be controlled centrally rather than locally. The current year budget includes CSB Growth of £21,000 relating to the additional costs brought about by the new legislative requirements.

CSB Growth of £3,000 is included for 2006/07 for the running costs relating to the postal vote identifier software.

Elections

2005/06	2006	6/07			2007/08	
Actual £000	Original Estimate £000	Revised Estimate £000		Gross Expend £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000
122	139	145	Electoral Registration	152	2	150
88	146	162	Elections	192	23	169
210	285	307	Total (Transferred to Summary)	344	25	319

236	265	269	Continuing Services Budget	316
10	20	38	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	3
0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
246	285	307	Total Continuing Services Budget	319
0	0	0	District Development Fund - Expenditure	0
(36)	0	0	District Development Fund - Savings	0
(36)	0	0	_ Total District Development Fund	0
210	285	307	_ Portfolio Total	319

Corporate Activities

Corporate Policy Making

The current year includes a DDF item of £10,000 relating to the development of the Community Strategy, and £30,000 for the second phase of the Top management restructuring. The budget for 2007/08 includes a further DDF item of £10,000 for continuation of the development of Community Strategy.

Corporate Public Accountability

There are no significant variations other than inflation.

Subscriptions

This heading relates to the Council subscriptions that are paid to various organisations including the Local Government Association, Association of Essex Councils, CIPFA Best Value advisory service and East of England Regional Assembly.

Corporate Activites

2005/06 Actual £000	2006 Original Estimate £000	07 Revised Estimate £000		Gross Expend £000	2007/08 Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000
1,114	1,370	1,268	Corporate Policy Making	1,288	0	1,288
215	202	206	Corporate Public Accountability	203	0	203
31	33	32	Subscriptions	33	0	33
1,360	1,605	1,506	Total (Transferred to Summary)	1,524	0	1,524

1,414	1,565	1,466	Continuing Services Budget	1,514
0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	0
(79)	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
1,335	1,565	1,466	Total Continuing Services Budget	1,514
25	40	40	District Development Fund - Expenditure	10
0	0	0	District Development Fund - Savings	0
25	40	40	Total District Development Fund	10
1,360	1,605	1,506	Portfolio Total	1,524

Member Activities

Civic Ceremonial

The budget for 2006/07 includes CSB Growth of £2,000 for the increased cost of holding the Civic Awards evening. CSB Growth of £5,000 is also included in 2007/08 for additional officer support for the Chairman of Council, and £2,500 for the hire of civic transport.

Civic and Member

CSB Growth of £9,000 is included in the current year for Member's electronic services. CSB Growth of £5,000 is also included in the current year for member's training relating to electronic services. Other changes relate to a reduction in the recharged cost of office accommodation resulting from the changes in accounting for capital, explained in the introduction. A CSB saving of £12,000 is included in 2007/08 relating to a reduction in allowances paid to Member's for electronic services support. A DDF item of £2,000 is included in 2007/08 for member training relating to the new Audit and Governance Committee.

Members Allowances

CSB Growth is included in the current year for an increase in Basic Allowances of £18,000 for 90% implementation, and Special Responsibility Allowances for the Chairmen of Scrutiny Panels of £4,000. Allowances for 2007/08 are retained at the current year level.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Operations

The reduction in the current year and 2007/08 budgets reflects the removal from this budget of the CSB Growth item for the salary cost of the new post of Scrutiny Support Officer. This budget is now included in Democratic Services in readiness for a review of the service.

Standards Committee Operations

There is no change to this budget which was approved to meet any costs incurred in respect of local adjudication on complaints against councillors by the Standards Committee.

Member Activities

2005/06 Actual £000	2006 Original Estimate £000	07 Revised Estimate £000		Gross Expend £000	2007/08 Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000
76	82	80	Civic Ceremonial	86	0	86
623	699	630	Civic & Member	603	0	603
147	187	188	Members Allowances	191	0	191
15	21	7	O & S Cttee Operational Budget	7	0	7
6	7	7	Standards Cttee Operational Budget	7	0	7
867	996	912	Total (Transferred to Summary)	894	0	894

 867	996	912	_ Portfolio Total	894
 0	0	0	Total District Development Fund	2
0	0	0	District Development Fund - Savings	0
0	0	0	District Development Fund - Expenditure	2
 867	996	912	_ Total Continuing Services Budget	892
0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	(12)
32	38	38	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	7
835	958	874	Continuing Services Budget	897

Other Activities

Local Council Liaison

The reduction in this budget relates to lower overhead charges from Legal Services for advice and liaison in respect of the transfer of functions to the South of the District Parishes and Town Councils. A Legal Services post was unfilled and was originally identified to work relating to the Roding Valley area (Loughton Town Council), and various Waltham Abbey land and building matters (Waltham Abbey Town Council).

Local Land Charges

The increase in the current year between Original and Revised relates to additional costs arising from the recharges from Planning Services for the new computer system , and associated support. A CSB saving of $\pounds 15,000$ is included in the current year for additional income arising from searches, which have been at a higher level than 2005/06.

Other Activities

2005/06	2006/07				2007/08	
Actual £000	Original Estimate £000	Revised Estimate £000		Gross Expend £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000
83	94	30	Local Council Liaison	34	0	34
7	23	75	Local Land Charges	415	400	15
90	117	105	Total (Transferred to Summary)	449	400	49

90	117	109	Continuing Services Budget	49
0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	0
0	0	(15)	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
90	117	94	Total Continuing Services Budget	49
0	0	11	District Development Fund - Expenditure	0
0	0	0	District Development Fund - Savings	0
0	0	11	Total District Development Fund	0
90	117	105	_ Portfolio Total	49

Support Services

Democratic Services

A CSB saving for 2006/07 of £15,000 is included relating to a reduction in costs resulting from the new committee minute and report system.

Support Services

2005/06	005/06 2006/07				2007/08		
Actual £000	Original Estimate £000	Revised Estimate £000		Gross Expend £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000	
232	300	290	Democratic Services	300	0	300	
232	300	290	Total (Transferred to Summary)	300	0	300	

_	232	300	290	Portfolio Total	300
_	0	0	0	Total District Development Fund	0
	0	0	0	District Development Fund - Savings	0
	0	0	0	District Development Fund - Expenditure	0
_	232	300	290	Total Continuing Services Budget	300
	0	(15)	(15)	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
	0	14	15	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	0
	232	301	290	Continuing Services Budget	300

				SUBJE	LEADERS PORTFOLIO	PORTF NALYSI	LEADERS PORTFOLIO UBJECTIVE ANALYSIS 2007/08	ß					
Cost Centre	Employees	Premises Related Expenses	Transport	Supplies Related Expenses	Third Party	Support Services	Depreciation Charges	(Internally Recharged)	Gross Expenditure	Fees & Charges	Other Income	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
	ы	ч	ч	ч	ч	ч	म	ч	ч	ч	ч	ы	я
Electoral Registration	49,300		1,510	65,940		34,860			151,610	2,070		2,070	149,540
Elections	35,100		1,580	105,140		49,920			191,740		22,500	22,500	169,240
Corporate Policy Making	388, 150		11,970	36,470		1,185,990	58,880	(393,100)	1,288,360				1,288,360
Corporate Public Accountability	82, 190		2,850	2,930		165,490		(50,700)	202,760				202,760
Subscriptions				30,520		2,040			32,560				32,560
Civic Ceremonial	5,000		3,630	31,500		65,710		(19,530)	86,310				86,310
Civic and Member	55,070		1,630	50,900		649,040		(153,310)	603,330				603,330
Members Allowances	2,540			231,630		11,250		(53,980)	191,440				191,440
O & S Ctte Operational Budget				5,130		1,550			6,680				6,680
Standards Cttee Operational Budget				5,130		2,040			7,170				7,170
Local Council Liaison	11,900		750	310		21,250			34,210				34,210
Local Land Charges	222,800		1,890	87,550		101,130	1,490		414,860	400,000		400,000	14,860
Total	852,050		25,810	653,150		2,290,270	60,370	(670,620)	3,211,030	402,070	22,500	424,570	2,786,460
Support Services													
Democratic Services	282,410	1,260	4,990	65,710		109,710		(463,980)	100	100		100	•
Total	1,134,460	1,260	30,800	718,860		2,399,980	60,370	(1,134,600)	3,211,130	402,170	22,500	424,670	2,786,460

Third Party Payments								
Corporate Services	402,620	12,010	5,560	97,140	(517,330)			

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COMMUNITY WELLBEING PORTFOLIO

ESTIMATES 2007/08

Revenue Budget 2007/08

Introduction

The portfolio is responsible for the following services

Emergency Planning Grants to Voluntary Organisations and Voluntary Sector Support Safer Communities and Crime and Disorder Initiatives Welfare Transport and Concessionary Fares Hackney Carriages and Licensing and Registrations

Further detail of the services and the related CSB growth and DDF items are shown on the appropriate budget page.

Capital Charges

In previous years accounting standards have required that a notional charge be made to service revenue accounts to reflect the cost of fixed assets used in the provision of services. These charges were then reversed through the asset management revenue account so that they had no effect on the Council Tax. The latest version of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) that local authorities are required to follow in producing their budgets and accounts has removed the requirement for capital charges and the asset management revenue account.

Compliance with CIPFA Standards

The budget has been prepared in accordance with the latest CIPFA guidance, in particular the Best Value Accounting Code of Practice 2006 The code of practice has the status of statutory "proper practice". It is also expected that members of CIPFA will comply with all the requirements of the Code as it defines best professional practice in terms of financial reporting. The only divergence from the code in these budget papers occurs where the portfolio service groupings differ from those required by the Code of Practice. The portfolio groupings are given precedence in these papers.

Budget format

The format of the attached budget papers is the same as that adopted last year. The summary page is split into three groups: Direct Services, Regulatory Services and Support & Trading Services. Not all portfolios will have all three types of service grouping.

Direct Services – these are self-explanatory and reflect the headline services provided by the portfolio.

Regulatory Services –The Cabinet has no part to play in the exercise of regulatory functions such as planning and licensing. However the Cabinet is responsible for the totality of the Council's budget. The costs of the regulatory functions therefore have been included in the appropriate portfolio budgets.

Support and Trading Services - Responsibility for support services and trading type arrangements has been split across a number of portfolios. In order to be transparent about the costs associated with these areas, they have been included in the relevant portfolios. However the net cost of these services is recharged to the direct and regulatory functions, either within the same portfolio or across a number of portfolios. Therefore to avoid double counting the costs are reversed out so as to arrive back at the true net cost of the portfolio.

The summary page then includes the traditional re-analysis of the budget in terms of its' opening Continuing Services Budget, CSB growth and savings, and District Development Fund expenditure and savings.

General Fund Estimate Summary

2	2005/06 Actual £000	2006/ Original Estimate £000	07 Revised Estimate £000		Gross Expend £000	2007/08 Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000
				Direct Services			
	123	151	148	Emergency Planning	150	0	150
	341	377	379	Voluntary Sector	405	10	395
	265	345	326	Safer Communities	337	0	337
	371	941	741	Travel Schemes	850	14	836
_	1,100	1,814	1,594	Total Direct	1,742	24	1,718
				Regulatory Services			
	(23)	43	61	Licensing and Registrations	127	69	58
	6	15	15	Hackney Carriages Licensing	126	112	14
_	(17)	58	76	Total Regulatory	253	181	72
_	1,083	1,872	1,670	Total (Transferred to GF Summary)	1,995	205	1,790

1,021	1,245	1,243	Continuing Services Budget	1,790
177	634	534	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	0
(99)	(7)	(7)	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
1,099	1,872	1,770	Total Continuing Services Budget	1,790
68	0	0	District Development Fund - Expenditure	0
(84)	0	(100)	District Development Fund - Savings	0
(16)	0	(100)	Total District Development Fund	0
1,083	1,872	1,670	Portfolio Total	1,790

Development Fund & Growth Items

		Orginal 2006/07	Revised 2006/07	Orginal 2007/08
CSB Growth Items		£000's	£000's	£000's
Concessionary Fares	Free local travel for over 60s	582	482	
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	Homestart rent	3	3	
Welfare Transport	Transfer of Mini Buses to Donors	(7)	(7)	
Safer Communities	Community Support Officers	20	20	
Safer Communities	Crime Reduction Assistant- Permanent F/T	17	17	
Safer Communities	Graffiti Removal	12	12	
		627	527	0

Development Fund Items		Orginal 2006/07 £000's	Revised 2006/07 £000's	Orginal 2007/08 £000's
Concessionary Fares	County wide scheme		(100)	
		0	(100)	0

Emergency Planning

Emergency Planning

The budget relates to the cost of providing for emergency response services in the event of a local or national civil disaster, and emergency response in the event of war. The Civil Contingencies Act now places a statutory responsibility on the Council to carry out risk based contingency planning and incident response.

The budgets include additional funding which was previously approved for the Council's statutory duties under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. Joint arrangements are in place with the Essex County Council in partnership with other authorities to provide a co-ordinated emergency planning service. The District contributes 50% of the costs of a joint Emergency Planning Officer, provided by the County Council.

Emergency Planning

2005/06 Actual £000	2006 Original Estimate £000	5/07 Revised Estimate £000		Gross Expend £000	2007/08 Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000
123	151	148	Emergency Planning	150	0	150
123	151	148	Total (Transferred to Summary)	150	0	150

107	151	148	Continuing Services Budget	150
16	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	0
0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
123	151	148	Total Continuing Services Budget	150
0	0	0	District Development Fund - Expenditure	0
0	0	0	District Development Fund - Savings	0
0	0	0	Total District Development Fund	0
123	151	148	Portfolio Total	150

Voluntary Sector

The following budgets represent the Council's support to outside voluntary and charitable bodies working in the community.

Grants to Voluntary Organisations

The general sum available for grants in the current year Revised Budget is £102,820, and for 2007/08 £105,550. Also included is £7,750 relating to HomeStart who have a re- approved grant to offset gross rent for 8 years relating to unit 36 Oakwood Hill Industrial Estate. A CSB Growth item of £3,000 is included in the current year for the additional rent payable by Epping Forest Homestart, which will be offset by grant aid to them. This relates to a market rental review on their unit number 36 at the Oakwood Hill Industrial Estate.

The budget also now includes £16,000 in respect of the Furniture Exchange Scheme which is similar to Homestart where a grant is being given to offset the gross rent for units at Town Mead Depot at Waltham Abbey.

Voluntary Sector Support

Voluntary Action Epping Forest

The budget relates to the support given by the Council towards the running costs of the Voluntary Action Epping Forest (VAEF) previously known as Council for Voluntary Services (CVS) located in Homefield

The grant for the current year is £31,520, with £32,360 earmarked for 2007/08.

The running costs of Homefield House, which is leased to VAEF, are included in this budget along with the costs of central computers and telephones, which directly benefit VAEF. Total gross cost of the budget for 2006/07 Revised including the grant is £50,590, and £52,650 for 2007/08 which is reduced by rent paid by VAEF of £10,100 Costs for 2007/08 comprise grant of £32,360, telephone systems £12,620, accommodation (Homefield House) £13,520 and Computers £4,250.

Essex Women's Refuge

The budget relates to a contribution towards the cost of the work of the Association of Essex Women's Refuges, which allows referrals to be made from this Authority to the Essex Refuge Network.

The Council has agreed previously that the authority should continue with an annual financial contribution to meet its full share of costs. The Estimate for the current year is £16,050 and £16,530 for 2007/08, and is based on all other local authorities continuing to contribute their full pro-rata share.

Citizens` Advice Bureaux

The budget relates to the contribution that the Council makes to its partnership with the Citizens` Advice Bureaux.

The Council's contribution to the CAB for the current year is £105,060 and £107,840 for 2007/08.

Voluntary Sector

2005/06	2006/	07			2007/08	
Actual £000	Original Estimate £000	Revised Estimate £000		Gross Expend £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000
169	201	205	Grants to Voluntary Organisations	215	0	215
172	176	174	Voluntary Sector Support	190	10	180
341	377	379	Total (Transferred to Summary)	405	10	395

335	374	376	Continuing Services Budget	395
6	3	3	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	0
0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
341	377	379	Total Continuing Services Budget	395
0	0	0	District Development Fund - Expenditure	0
0	0	0	District Development Fund - Savings	0
0	0	0	Total District Development Fund	0
341	377	379	Portfolio Total	395

Safer Communities and Crime and Disorder Initiatives

The budget relates to the Council's involvement in the improvement to community safety within the District by working in partnership with the public services, the private sector, and voluntary groups to reduce crime, the fear of crime, offending and criminality in the local community.

Crime and Disorder Initiatives

CSB funding of £25,630 is included for the current year and for 2007/08 for the continuation of initiatives relating to Crime and Disorder. The budget now includes provision of £30,250 for graffiti removal.

Safer Communities Programme

A sum of £6,000 is included in this budget for the current year and for 2007/08 for ongoing general project work. The other costs in this budget relate to Policy Unit central overhead charges for running the various initiatives and programmes.

The budget now includes a contribution of £90,000 towards the provision of six Community Police Support Officers to work within the Epping Forest District adding to the current operating police strength.

The budget also includes the costs of an Anti Social Behaviour Coordinator.

Safer Communities

2005/06	2006/	07			2007/08	
Actual £000	Original Estimate £000	Revised Estimate £000		Gross Expend £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000
55	65	66	Crime & Disorder Initiatives	65	0	65
210	280	260	Safer Communities Programme	272	0	272
265	345	326	Total (Transferred to Summary)	337	0	337

164	296	277	Continuing Services Budget	337
81	49	49	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	0
0	0		Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
245	345	326	Total Continuing Services Budget	337
45	0	0	District Development Fund - Expenditure	0
(25)	0	0	District Development Fund - Savings	0
20	0	0	Total District Development Fund	0
265	345	326	Portfolio Total	337

Travel Schemes

Welfare Transport

This budget originally related to the provision of a mini bus service, comprising five vehicles, available for hire by voluntary groups within the District. In June 2005 the minibuses reverted to their respective owners, namely the Rotary Club of Waltham Abbey and Ongar Parish Council. The decision was taken following a consultation exercise with user groups about the future of the vehicles.

It was agreed on transfer that the remaining budget would be used to meet the annual cost of funding a Community Transport driver costing £15,000. This action resulted in a CSB saving of £7,000, with the residual budget now earmarked for the annual contribution to VAEF for funding the Community Transport

Concessionary Fares

This budget includes the costs of the Essex Countywide scheme and the scheme run in conjunction with Transport for London. CSB growth of £582,000 was originally included in the current year relating to the new scheme of free travel for all over sixties, and those with disabilities. This has been revised down to \pounds 482,000 as a result of a lower than anticipated take up of passes. A DDF saving of £100,000 is also included in the current year.

The new system of formula grant incorporates the original estimated costs of implementing the new concessionary fares scheme, thus the saving achieved accrues to the Council.

Travel Schemes

2005/06	5 2006/07				2007/08	
Actual £000	Original Estimate £000	Revised Estimate £000		Gross Expend £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000
27	18	17	Welfare Transport	18	0	18
344	923	724	Concessionary Fares	832	14	818
371	941	741	Total (Transferred to Summary)	850	14	836

336	366	366	Continuing Services Budget	836
59	582	482	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	0
(47)	(7)	(7)	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
348	941	841	Total Continuing Services Budget	836
23	0	0	District Development Fund - Expenditure	0
0	0	(100)	District Development Fund - Savings	0
23	0	(100)	Total District Development Fund	0
371	941	741	Portfolio Total	836

Regulatory Services

Licensing Policy

The service for Hackney Carriages relates to the various aspects of regulatory licensing for public hire vehicles, and drivers, including taxi and hire cars (mini cabs).

The Council have adopted powers to enable it to undertake this responsibility and as such there is now a statutory requirement. Fees are set by the Council, but Home Office guidance directs that the Council should not make a surplus.

The service for Licensing and Registration relates to a range of premises Licensing applications (including renewal, variation, cancellation, transfer or imposition of conditions) are for public entertainment including music and dancing, sporting entertainment, theatres and cinemas, pet shops, animal breeding and boarding establishments, and riding establishments. Fees are set by the Council, but Home Office guidance suggests that they should be set at a level which covers the Council's costs of enforcement and administration. These responsibilities are statutory.

The Licensing Act 2003 modernises the legislation governing the sale and supply of alcohol and control of public entertainment. Responsibility for licensing personnel and premises transferred on 7 January 2005 from Magistrates and became the sole responsibility of District Councils who are now the designated Licensing Authorities for the purposes of the Act.

The Gambling Act 2005 modernises the legislation governing gambling by creating a single regulatory body, the Gambling Commission, and giving responsibility for licensing premises where gambling takes place to local authorities. The responsibilities will be effective from January 2007.

Licensing and Registration

The licences granted under the Gambling Act 2005 are currently administered by other bodies and the fees are set by statute. The resource implications of the Act are still unclear and therefore have not been taken into account in this budget.

Hackney Carriages

Fees have been increased by 3.5%.

Regulatory Services

2005/06	2006	/07			2007/08	
Actual £000	Original Estimate £000	Revised Estimate £000		Gross Expend £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000
(23)	43	61	Licensing and Registration	127	69	58
6	15	15	Hackney Carriages Licensing	126	112	14
(17)	58	76	Total (Transferred to Summary)	253	181	72

(17)	58	76	Portfolio Total	72
(59)	0	0	Total District Development Fund	0
(59)	0	0	District Development Fund - Savings	0
0	0	0	District Development Fund - Expenditure	0
42	58	76	Total Continuing Services Budget	72
(52)	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
15	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	0
79	58	76	Continuing Services Budget	72

				COMMUNI SUBJECTIV	INITY W	TY WELLBEING PORTFOLIO /E ANALYSIS 2007/08 Original	G PORTI 2007/08 C	FOLIO)riginal					
BUDGET	Employees	Premises	Transport	Supplies	Support Services	Depreciation Charges	(Internally Recharged)	Gross Expenditure	Gross Expenditure Direct	Fees & Charges	Other Income	Other Income Gross Income	Net Expenditure
	£	પ્ર	ы	બ	£	£	મ	ત્મ		£	બ	પ્ર	ત્મ
Emergency Planning	43,850		5,840	51,900	46,470	1,960		150,020	ı		20	20	150,000
Emergency Expenditure								ı	I			1	ı
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	50,660		2,580	133,050	28,540			214,830	ı			'	214,830
Voluntary Sector Support				169,860	19,800	ı		189,660	I		10,100	10,100	179,560
Crime & Disorder Initiatives				55,880	9,570			65,450	I			'	65,450
Safer Communities Programme	114,670		5,110	106,420	45,490			271,690	ı			'	271,690
Welfare Transport				15,250	2,610			17,860	I			ı	17,860
Concessionary Fares	5,130		ı	790,990	36,160	ı	ı	832,280	I	13,590	'	13,590	818,690
Lucensing and Registration	67,400		4,010	5,290	50,470			127,170	I	69,200		69,200	57,970
ackney Carriage Licensing	84,040		4,710	8,320	29,010			126,080	1	111,780		111,780	14,300
(Jptal	365,750		22,250	1,336,960	268,120	1,960		1,995,040		194,570	10,120	204,690	1,790,350
3													
Third Party Payment Policy Unit	312,450		13,940	10,640	83,590		(420,620)	1	420,620		1	1	

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FINANCE, PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT & CORPORATE SUPPORT SERVICES PORTFOLIO

ESTIMATES 2007/08

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Revenue Budget 2007/08

Introduction

The Portfolio is responsible for the following services.

Housing Benefits and Fraud Investigation Local Taxation Industrial Estates and Land and Property Finance Support Services Other Support Services

Further detail of the services and the related CSB growth and DDF items are shown on the appropriate budget page.

Capital Charges

In previous years accounting standards have required that a notional charge be made to service revenue accounts to reflect the cost of fixed assets used in the provision of services. These charges were then reversed through the asset management revenue account so that they had no effect on the Council Tax. The latest version of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) that local authorities are required to follow in producing their budgets and accounts has removed the requirement for capital charges and the asset management revenue account.

Compliance with CIPFA Standards

The budget has been prepared in accordance with the latest CIPFA guidance, in particular the Best Value Accounting Code of Practice 2006. The code of practice has the status of statutory "proper practice". It is also expected that members of CIPFA will comply with all the requirements of the Code as it defines best professional practice in terms of financial reporting. The only divergence from the code in these budget papers occurs where the portfolio service groupings differ from those required by the Code of Practice. The portfolio groupings are given precedence in these papers.

Budget format

The format of the attached budget papers is the same as that adopted last year. The summary page is split into three groups: Direct Services, Regulatory Services and Support & Trading Services. Not all portfolios will have all three types of service grouping.

Direct Services – these are self-explanatory and reflect the headline services provided by the portfolio.

Regulatory Services – The Cabinet has no part to play in the exercise of regulatory functions such as planning and licensing. However the Cabinet is responsible for the totality of the Council's budget. The costs of the regulatory functions therefore have been included in the appropriate portfolio budgets.

Support and Trading Services - Responsibility for support services and trading type arrangements has been split across a number of portfolios. In order to be transparent about the costs associated with these areas, they have been included in the relevant portfolios. However the net cost of these services is recharged to the direct and regulatory functions, either within the same portfolio or across a number of portfolios. Therefore to avoid double counting the costs are reversed out so as to arrive back at the true net cost of the portfolio

The summary page then includes the traditional re-analysis of the budget in terms of its' opening Continuing Services Budget, CSB growth and savings, and District Development Fund expenditure and savings.

Finance and Performance Management

General Fund Estimate Summary

				£000	Income £000	Expend £000
			Direct Services			
579	616	875	Housing Benefits	33,920	33,166	754
910	1,019	1,086	Local Taxation	1,651	560	1,091
(824)	(805)	(804)	Land & Property	257	1,086	(829)
(320)	77	(176)	Other Activities	(201)	0	(201)
345	907	981	Total (Transferred to GF Summary)	35,627	34,812	815
			Support and Trading Services			
1,286	1,382	1,368	Finance Support Services	1,530	103	1,427
1,019	1,180	1,103	Legal & Administration Services	1,252	56	1,196
1,402	1,466	1,629	Accomodation Services	1,619	17	1,602
1,843	1,901	1,790	Other Support Services	1,880	17	1,863
(1,789)	(1,912)	(1,899)	Recharged to this Portfolio	(2,025)	(62)	(1,963)
(3,761)	(4,017)	(3,991)	Recharged to other Portfolios	(4,256)	(131)	(4,125)
0	0	0	Total	0	0	0
345	907	981	Portfolio Total	35,627	34,812	815

	682	833	1,008	Continuing Services Budget	739
	113	105	98	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	61
((393)	(214)	(281)	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	(100)
	402	724	825	Total Continuing Services Budget	700
	333	395	443	District Development Fund - Expenditure	282
((390)	(212)	(287)	District Development Fund - Savings	(167)
	(57)	183	156	Total District Development Fund	115
	345	907	981	Portfolio Total	815

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Finance and Performance Management

Development Fund & Growth Items

CSB Growth Items		Original 2006/07 £000's	Revised 2006/07 £000's	Orginal 2007/08 £000's
Quality	A	(4.0)	(22)	(10)
Car Leasing Investment Income	Amendments to scheme* Lost Interest Income**	(10) 15	(32)	(10)
Energy Sites	Energy costs	38	46	44
Finance & General Admin	Staff savings re HB Scanning & Indexing	(15)	(15)	
Finance Miscellaneous Finance Miscellaneous	Savings on Office Computer Equipment			(38) (4)
Finance Miscellaneous	Saving on photocopier contract Saving on Mobile phone contract			(4)
Housing Benefits	Electronic Document management	15	15	()
Local Taxation	NDR Increase in Court Cost Fees	()	(==)	(2)
Local Taxation Local Taxation	Council Tax Increase in Court Costs	(50) 20	(50) 20	(21)
Housing Benefits/Local Taxation	Additional Staffing New Revenues and Benefits system	20	20	16
Brooker Road Industrial Estate	Rent Income	(8)	(3)	
Oakwood Hill Industrial Estate	Rent Income	(17)	(17)	
Office Accomodation	Refuse Collection/Disposal & Recycling	4	2	
Office Accomodation Office Accomodation	Additional Cleaning Materials Additional costs of reletting office cleaning contra	2 11	2 15	7
Human Resources	Recruitment & Retention		(50)	,
Other Support Services	Building Maintenance			4
Other Support Services	Potential Central Support Savings	(114)	(114)	
	-	(109)	(183)	(39)
		Original	Revised	Orginal
		2006/07	2006/07	2007/08
		£000's	£000's	£000's
Development Fund Items				
Estates Management	Property Management System			
Estates Management	Langston Road Industrial Estate- Development P	50	50	
Unappropriated Land Finance Miscellaneous	Consultants fees Dev potential CI Car parks Finance System Outstanding Commitments	37	5 17	20
Finance Miscellaneous	Performance Reward Grant	(52)	(52)	20
Finance Miscellaneous	Extra Interest Income	(-)	(100)	
Housing Benefits	Housing Benefit Admin Grant (New Formula)	30	(18)	(44)
Housing Benefits	Grant - Verification Framework	(119)	(117)	(123)
Housing Benefits Housing Benefits	Grant-Admin- Welfare Reforms Welfare Reform Start up costs	(39)	42	
Housing Benefits	Electronic Document management		15	
Housing Benefits	Rent Allowances	(2)		
Housing Benefits	Cover for Maternity Leave		40	40
Housing Benefits/Local Taxation Housing Benefits/Local Taxation	New Revenues and Benefits system Replacement Revenues & Benefits ICT system		26	80
Insurance/Risk Management	Implementation of Risk Management Strategy		2	9
Legal Services	Data capture re Land Terrier	7	2	9
Legal Services	Computerisation of Land Terrier Records	11		17
Legal Services Legal Services	Registration of Unregistered Titles	24	2	41
Legal Services	Planning Delivery Grant re Legal Officer Office Equipment	24	5	
Local Taxation	Introduce E Billing	10		
Office Accommodation	Civic Offices Atrium Works	8	23	
Office Accommodation	Potential Accomodation Changes		14	
Office Accommodation Office Accommodation	Off-site Storage Facility Essential Works to Civic Offices	112	1 88	66
Office Accommodation	Comfort Cooling	50	50	00
Office Accommodation	Works to Committee Rooms for Scrutiny meetings		4	
Payroll/HR	New ICT System		2	
Other Support Services	Potential Central Support Savings	56	55	
	-	183	156	115

* This item relates to an overhead account, and as such does not appear as a separate item on any individual sheet.

** This item does not appear as a separate item on any individual sheet as it does not relate to a specific Portfolio budget.



Housing Benefits

Rent Rebates

The estimate for Rent Rebates granted in the current year has increased by nearly 4%, and for 2007/08 this figure has been increased for inflation of 5%. This increase in volume is a result of rent increases resulting from rent restructuring as per social rent reform guidelines with the related grant entitlement reassessed on the basis of the mid year estimate provided to DWP. There is no significant net change to the budget.

Council Tax Benefits

The estimate for Council Tax Benefits granted in the current year and 2007/08 has increased by around 17% in volume with the related grant entitlement reassessed on the basis of the mid year estimate provided to DWP. This figure has been increased for inflation by 5%. The increase relates to the general increase in Council Tax, and an increase in case load. There is no significant net change to the budget.

Rent Allowances

The estimate for Rent Allowances granted in the current year and 2007/08 has increased by around 8% in volume with the related grant entitlement reassessed on the basis of the mid year estimate provided to DWP. This figure has been increased for inflation by 5%, which is in line with general increases in the private rented sector.

Non HRA Rent Rebates

These relate to homeless people in Bed and Breakfast accommodation, which is provided in hotels. The estimates for the current year Revised and 2007/08 show an increase of 34% in volume, which is due to the longer stays necessary prior to establishing placements in permanent accommodation such as Housing Associations.

Benefits Administration

From 2006/07 administration subsidy has been distributed as a single figure and will include Verification Framework funding. The combined funding gives Local Authorities flexibility to fund their administration and security of benefits in accordance with local circumstances. A CSB Growth item of £15,000 is included in the current year for the costs of Electronic Document Management. A DDF item of £42,000 for Welfare Reform Start up costs, is included having been brought forward from 2005/06. DDF is also included for £40,000 in 2006/07 and 2007/08 for staff cover for maternity leave. A DDF item is included in 2007/08 relating to a replacement ICT system. CSB Growth is also included for the new system.

Verification Framework

The increased costs on current year Revised and 2007/08 relate to a reapportionment of overhead costs relating to the Housing Benefit Group.

Fraud Investigation

The increased costs on current year Revised and 2007/08 relate to a reapportionment of overhead costs relating to the Housing Benefit Group, which has been necessary due to a change in legislation.

2005/06	2006	6/07			2007/08	
Actual £000	Original Estimate £000	Revised Estimate £000		Gross Expend £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000
(94)	(94)	(91)	Rent Rebates	12,312	12,408	(96)
(108)	(76)	(80)	Council Tax Benefit	8,085	8,169	(84)
(129)	(127)	(154)	Rent Allowances	11,415	11,576	(161)
112	139	186	Non-HRA Rent Rebates	379	184	195
(219)	(158)	(139)	Total Benefits	32,191	32,337	(146)
427	447	530	Benefit Administration	1,060	600	460
170	188	288	Verification Framework	387	123	264
201	139	196	Fraud Investigation	282	106	176
798	774	1,014	Total Administration	1,729	829	900
579	616	875	Total (Transferred to Summary)	33,920	33,166	754

Housing Benefits

561	731	885	Continuing Services Budget	833
22	15	15	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	8
0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
583	746	900	Total Continuing Services Budget	841
160	30	110	District Development Fund - Expenditure	80
(164)	(160)	(135)	District Development Fund - Savings	(167)
(4)	(130)	(25)	Total District Development Fund	(87)
579	616	875	_ Portfolio Total	754

Local Taxation

Council Tax & NNDR Collection

The budget comprises the administration costs relating to the collection of Council Tax, and Non-Domestic Rates.

A CSB saving of £50,000 is included in the current year for an increase in court costs. A further saving of £21,000 is included for 2007/08. CSB Growth of £20,000 is included in the current year for the costs of two additional staff. The Revenues Division has experienced a large increase in workload during the previous and current financial years, due to recovery action and the additional telephone calls and correspondence generated.

The additional income and improved cash flow benefits have more than offset the additional costs related to the new staff required.

A DDF item is included in 2007/08 relating to a replacement Local Taxation and Benefits ICT system. CSB Growth is also included for the new system.

Local Taxation

2005/06	2006	/07			2007/08	
Actual £000	Original Estimate £000	Revised Estimate £000		Gross Expend £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000
889	982	1,047	Council Tax Collection	1,414	362	1,052
21	37	39	NNDR Collection	237	198	39
910	1,019	1,086	Total (Transferred to Summary)	1,651	560	1,091

1,029	1,039	1,103	Continuing Services Budget	1,066
0	20	20	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	8
(122)	(50)	(50)	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	(23)
907	1,009	1,073	Total Continuing Services Budget	1,051
3	10	13	District Development Fund - Expenditure	40
0	0	0	District Development Fund - Savings	0
3	10	13	Total District Development Fund	40
910	1,019	1,086	Portfolio Total	1,091

Land and Property

Industrial Estates

The budget comprises commercial property at Oakwood Hill, Brooker Road, North Weald, and Langston Road industrial estates.

Revised CSB savings are included in the current year of £20,000, relating to additional rent income at Brooker Road Industrial Estate, and Oakwood Hill Industrial Estate. This is down from the original estimate of £25,000.

Income of £26,000 continues to be included in the current year and 2007/08 relating to temporary car parking on the T11 site. A DDF item of £50,000 is included in the current year for initial costs relating to development proposals for Langston Road Industrial Estate.

Unallocated Land and Buildings Management

The budget contains the cost of unallocated land, depot and office space, This is land that is no longer required by the Service and will be considered for alternative use, or sale.

External letting Income from Waltham Abbey Town Council, Essex County Libraries, Gristwood and Toms, and WRVS, is included in respect of external charges for use of depot space at various locations. There is a reduction in budgets relating to the change in accounting for capital, explained in the introduction, and for 2007/08 there is an increase in unallocated Civic Office space resulting from the transfer of Highways to the County.

David Lloyd Centre

This budget relates to the Council's share of income and expenditure relating to the David Lloyd Centre. The agreement entitles the Council to receive a basic rent and 1.5% commission on turnover.

Other Land and Property

This budget relates to general way-leaves receivable, the property at Greenyard, Waltham Abbey and Service dwellings.

Land and Property

2005/06	2006	6/07			2007/08	
Actual £000	Original Estimate £000	Revised Estimate £000		Gross Expend £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000
(176)	(180)	(171)	Brooker Road	28	200	(172)
(155)	(99)	(94)	Langston Road	11	156	(145)
(325)	(342)	(342)	Oakwood Hill	17	359	(342)
(143)	(142)	(139)	Oakwood Hill Workshops	27	167	(140)
11	12	0	North Weald	0	0	0
(788)	(751)	(746)	Total Industrial Estates	83	882	(799)
71	59	49	Unappropriated Land & Buildings	162	85	77
(102)	(102)	(98)	David Lloyd Centre	5	103	(98)
(5)	(11)	(9)	Other Land & Property	7	16	(9)
(36)	(54)	(58)	Total Land & Property	174	204	(30)
(824)	(805)	(804)	Total (Transferred to Summary)	257	1,086	(829)

(803)	(830)	(839)	Continuing Services Budget	(829)
17	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	0
(61)	(25)	(20)	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
(847)	(855)	(859)	Total Continuing Services Budget	(829)
23	50	55	District Development Fund - Expenditure	0
0	0	0	District Development Fund - Savings	0
23	50	55	Total District Development Fund	0
(824)	(805)	(804)	Portfolio Total	(829)

Other Activities

Outdoor Youth Facilities

This budget relates to the write off of Grants expenditure from the Capital Programme provision of £100,000 per annum for three years (2005/06 to 2007/08) for grants to Town and Parish Councils in the Epping Forest District to assist in the provision of outdoor facilities. This expenditure is properly included as capital but as no asset arises from the transaction it should be written off to revenue in the year of spend.

NNDR Discretionary Relief

This budget relates to the National Non Domestic Rate relief for charities and organisations not established or conducted for profit. The relief under section 47 of the LG Finance Act gives the Council power to grant up to a further 20% discretionary relief to those receiving mandatory relief. There is no change in the level of relief.

Finance Miscellaneous

This budget comprises various miscellaneous finance activities, provisions and contingencies which are identified independently within this Portfolio for information.

The main change to Finance Miscellaneous in the current year and for 2007/08 relates to a reduction in the surplus on the Insurance Fund, as a result of a general reduction in the premium costs charged. The CSB saving originally included in the current year of £114,000 relating to the Central Support savings arising from the transfer of Highways to Essex County Council from 1 April 2005, and the change in management of Leisure Centres to SLM on 4 January 2006, is now accounted for within the services. A DDF item in the current year of £55,000 is also included for restructuring costs linked to the loss of these services, and this is now accounted for within the relevant services.

A DDF saving of £52,000 is included for the current year relating to the Performance Reward Grant earned by this Council as a result of achieving predetermined performance targets.

Vacancy Allowance

The Revised Estimate for the current year includes a credit for a vacancy allowance of £140,000. The Estimate for 2007/08 includes a vacancy allowance of £420,000, which is equivalent to 3% of gross non HRA salaries

Provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts

Due to the significant improvement in the collection of Sundry Debtors, the provision has been reduced.

Other Activities

2005/06	2006	6/07			2007/08	
Actual £000	Original Estimate £000	Revised Estimate £000		Gross Expend £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000
55	100	129	Outdoor Youth Facilities	126	0	126
32	30	32	NNDR Discretionary Relief	32	0	32
(433)	(11)	(197)	Finance Miscellaneous	41	0	41
(346)	119	(36)	Total Other Activities	199	0	199
0	(165)	(140)	Vacancy Allowance	(420)	0	(420)
26	123	0	Provision for Bad & Doubtful Debts	20	0	20
26	(42)	(140)	Total Contingency Items	(400)	0	(400)
(320)	77	(176)	Total (Transferred to Summary)	(201)	0	(201)

(278)	150	(141)	Continuing Services Budget	(144)
0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	0
0	(114)	0	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	(77)
(278)	36	(141)	Total Continuing Services Budget	(221)
10	93	17	District Development Fund - Expenditure	20
(52)	(52)	(52)	District Development Fund - Savings	0
(42)	41	(35)	Total District Development Fund	20
(320)	77	(176)	Portfolio Total	(201)

Finance Support Services

The Support Services for the portfolio are now shown independently in order to give a fair view of all directly related resources for the Portfolio.

Financial Policy Group

There are no significant variations, other than inflation.

Accountancy

There are no significant variations, other than inflation.

Accounts Payable

There are no significant variations, other than inflation.

Insurance and Credit control

A DDF item of £2,000 is included in the current year Revised Estimate for the implementation of the Risk Management Strategy, and a further £9,000 for 2007/08.

Treasury Management

There are no significant variations, other than inflation.

Cashiers

There are no significant variations, other than inflation.

District Audit and Bank Charges

The Audit Commission District Audit Fees have been revised and are now geared to the CPA process. There are no significant variations, other than inflation

2005/06					2007/08			
Actual £000	Original Estimate £000	Revised Estimate £000		Gross Expend £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000		
297	304	315	Financial Policy Group	325	0	325		
462	529	497	Accountancy	522	0	522		
75	79	79	Accounts Payable	85	0	85		
55	49	53	Insurance and Financial Control	168	103	65		
9	9	9	Treasury Management	9	0	9		
195	209	210	Cashiers	216	0	216		
193	203	205	District Audit / Bank Charges	205	0	205		
1,286	1,382	1,368	Total (Transferred to Summary)	1,530	103	1,427		

Finance Support Services

	1,455	1,382	1,366	Continuing Services Budget	1,418
	16	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	0
	(190)	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
	1,281	1,382	1,366	Total Continuing Services Budget	1,418
	5	0	2	District Development Fund - Expenditure	9
	0	0	0	District Development Fund - Savings	0
_	5	0	2	Total District Development Fund	9
_	1,286	1,382	1,368	Portfolio Total	1,427

Legal and Administration Services

Legal Services

DDF items for the current year relate to £2,000 for data capture for the land terrier system, £2,000 for the registration of unregistered titles relating to Council property, and £5,000 for office equipment. DDF items for 2007/08 relate to a further £9,000 for data capture for the land terrier system, £17,000 for the computerisation of Land Terrier records, and £41,000 for the registration of unregistered titles relating to Council property.

Legal General Administration

There are no significant variations, other than inflation.

Secretarial Services

There are no significant variations, other than inflation.

Reprographics

There are no significant variations, other than inflation.

2005/06 Actual £000	2006 Original Estimate £000	07 Revised Estimate £000		Gross Expend £000	2007/08 Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000
456	536	496	Legal Services	612	45	567
200	212	183	Legal General Administration	211	10	201
134	190	186	Secretarial Services	187	0	187
229	242	238	Reprographics	242	1	241
1,019	1,180	1,103	Total (Transferred to Summary)	1,252	56	1,196

Legal and Administration Services

961	1,138	1,094	Continuing Services Budget	1,129
22	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	0
0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
983	1,138	1,094	Total Continuing Services Budget	1,129
36	42	9	District Development Fund - Expenditure	67
0	0	0	District Development Fund - Savings	0
36	42	9	Total District Development Fund	67
1,019	1,180	1,103	Portfolio Total	1,196

Accommodation Services

Office Accommodation

CSB Growth originally included in the current year relating to Civic Office refuse collection disposal and recycling, is now contained within the existing budget. The current year includes CSB Growth of £2,000 for additional office cleaning materials, and £15,000 for the additional costs of re-letting the office cleaning contract, with a further £7,000 in 2007/08. Growth is also included in both years for the significant increases in gas and electricity prices.

DDF items are included in the current year for £1,000 relating to off-site storage facilities, £14,000 for various potential accommodation changes, and £138,000 for Civic Offices essential works and comfort cooling, £4,000 for works to committee rooms for scrutiny meetings, and £23,000 for Civic Office Atrium

DDF items for 2007/08 relate to £66,000 for the programme of essential work to Civic Offices.

Superintendents/Duty Officers

The increase in the budget for the current year relates to additional overtime worked as a result of long term staff sickness for a Superintendent and a Duty Officer.

Catering

There are no variations.

Depots

Growth is included in both years for the significant increases in gas and electricity prices.

Accommodation Services

2005/06	2006	6/07			2007/08	
Actual £000	Original Estimate £000	Revised Estimate £000		Gross Expend £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000
945	1,012	1,155	Office Accommodation	1,132	17	1,115
92	94	99	Superintendents	99	0	99
112	110	117	Duty Officers	113	0	113
10	14	14	Catering (Civic Offices)	14	0	14
1,159	1,230	1,385	Total Office Accommodation	1,358	17	1,341
243	236	244	Depot Accommodation	261	0	261
1,402	1,466	1,629	Total (Transferred to Summary)	1,619	17	1,602

-	1,402	1,466	1,629	Portfolio Total	1,602
-	89	170	180	Total District Development Fund	66
	0	0	0	District Development Fund - Savings	0
	89	170	180	District Development Fund - Expenditure	66
-	1,313	1,296	1,449	Total Continuing Services Budget	1,536
	(20)	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
	36	55	63	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	51
	1,297	1,241	1,386	Continuing Services Budget	1,485

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Finance, Performance Management & Corporate Support Services

Other Support Services

The non Finance Support Services for the portfolio are now shown and include Estates and Valuation, Building Maintenance, Performance Management Unit and Internal Audit.

Finance General Administration

A CSB saving of £15,000 is included in the current year for the deletion of a post which has been held vacant pending the introduction of the approved Scanning and Indexing system for Housing Benefits.

Payroll

A DDF item of £2,000 is included in the current year for the residual costs relating to the implementation of a new HR/Payroll IT package. The reduction in the budgets for the current year and 2007/08 is due to the reduction in establishment resulting from a redundancy brought about by the transfer of Leisure Centre Management to SLM and Highways agency to the Essex County Council.

Human Resources

A CSB saving of £50,000 is included in the current year relating to staff recruitment and retention. A saving is also now included arising from the reduction in establishment, brought about by the transfer of Leisure Centre Management to SLM and Highways agency to the Essex County Council.

Estates and Valuation

There are no significant variations, other than inflation.

Building Maintenance

A CSB Growth item of £4,000 relating to inflation, is included in the planned maintenance programme.

Performance Management

The actual for 2005/06 reflects the significant savings resulting from staff vacancies and consultants fees. The current year Revised Estimate reflects the savings arising from the vacant posts of Corporate Support Officer, and a trainee Performance Improvement Officer post, which have now been filled.

Internal Audit

The reduced costs relate to salary savings.

Finance, Performance Management and Corporate Support Services

Other Support Servcies

2005/06	2006	6/07			2007/08	
Actual £000	Original Estimate £000	Revised Estimate £000		Gross Expend £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000
108	103	105	Finance General Admin	110	1	109
110	108	93	Payroll	83	1	82
445	612	529	Human Resources	553	0	553
355	359	369	Estates & Valuation	390	15	375
404	256	256	Building Maintenance	260	0	260
185	221	206	Performance Management	247	0	247
236	242	232	Internal Audit	237	0	237
1,843	1,901	1,790	Total (Transferred to Summary)	1,880	17	1,863

1,843	1,901	1,790	_ Portfolio Total	1,863
(167)	0	57	Total District Development Fund	0
(174)	0	0	District Development Fund - Savings	0
7	0	57	District Development Fund - Expenditure	0
2,010	1,901	1,733	Total Continuing Services Budget	1,863
0	(15)	(179)	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	4
2,010	1,916	1,912	Continuing Services Budget	1,859

	FINAN	ICE, PEF	FINANCE, PERFORMANCE		ANAGE SUB,	MENT A	AGEMENT AND CORPORATE SI SUBJECTIVE ANALYSIS 2007/08	PORATE SIS 2007	E SUPPO //08	RT SER	VICES F	MANAGEMENT AND CORPORATE SUPPORT SERVICES PORTFOLIO SUBJECTIVE ANALYSIS 2007/08	<u>0</u>		
Cost Centre	Employees	Premises Related Expenses	Transport	Supplies Related Expenses	Transfer Payments	Support Services	Depreciation Charges	(Internally Recharged)	Gross Revenue Expenditure	Fees & Charges	Rental Income	Government Grant	Other Income	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
	મ	ε	ы	ы	ы	ы	ы	ы	£	ε	£	£	£	મ	ы
Rent Rebates					12,312,300				12,312,300			12,407,850		12,407,850	(95,550)
Council Tax Benefit					8,085,000				8,085,000			8,169,000		8,169,000	(84,000)
Rent Allowances					11,414,550				11,414,550			11,576,410		11,576,410	(161,860)
Non-HRA Rent Rebates					379,050				379,050			183,750		183,750	195,300
Benefit Administration	577,620	770	16,470	127,980		336,710			1,059,550			600,040		600,040	459,510
Verification Framework	277,150		7,900	20,920		81,100			387,070			123,000		123,000	264,070
Fraud Investigation	172,310		4,910	22,200		82,480			281,900			106,000		106,000	175,900
Council Tax Collection	671,760	210	14,800	216,000		511,120			1,413,890	362,000				362,000	1,051,890
NNDR Collection	129,740		2,910	13,620		91,170			237,440	32,000		166,000		198,000	39,440
Brooker Road Industrial Estate		5,820				22,330			28,150		200,000			200,000	(171,850)
Langston Road Industrial Estate						11,434			11,434		156,000			156,000	(144,566)
Oakwood Hill Industrial Estate		770				16,490			17,260		359,000			359,000	(341,740)
Oakwood Hill Workshops Units		15,920				10,950			26,870		167,000			167,000	(140,130)
North Weald Industrial Estate															•
Unappropriated Land & Building	•	122,760		58,380		4,460		(23,320)	162,280		85,400	•	•	85,400	76,880
David Lloyd Centre						4,720			4,720		102,990			102,990	(98,270)
Other Land & Property	ı	·		ı		6,930	I		6,930	ı	16,000	I	ı	16,000	(0,070)
North Weald Airfield Stratedv															
Outdoor Youth Facilities	4,050		190	130		1,080	121,000		126,450						126,450
NNDR Discretionary Relief		32,000							32,000					•	32,000
Finance Miscellaneous				(46,690)		87,370			40,680					'	40,680
Job Evaluation														1	1
Pension Costs	2,504,000							(2,504,000)	ı					ı	ī
Vacancy Allowance	(420,000)								(420,000)						(420,000)
Provision for Bad Debts	•			20,000					20,000						20,000
Total	3,916,630	178,250	47,180	432,540	32,190,900	1,268,344	121,000	(2,527,320)	35,627,524	394,000	1,086,390	33,332,050		34,812,440	815,084

	FINAN	ICE, PEI	FINANCE, PERFORMANCE M				AGEMENT AND CORPORATE SU SUBJECTIVE ANALYSIS 2007/08	PORATE SIS 2007	E SUPPO 7/08	RT SER	VICES	ANAGEMENT AND CORPORATE SUPPORT SERVICES PORTFOLIO SUBJECTIVE ANALYSIS 2007/08	<u>o</u>		
Cost Centre	Employees	Premises Related Expenses	Transport	Supplies Related Expenses	Transfer Payments	Support Services	Depreciation Charges	(Internally Recharged)	Gross Revenue Expenditure	Fees & Charges	Rental Income	Government Grant	Other Income	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
	£	£	÷	ч	£	÷	ε	÷	ч	÷	÷	μ	÷	÷	£
Finance Services	1	1			!	1	1	,	1	1		I	1		ı
Financial Policy Group	301,250		22,940	3,080		46,210		(373,480)	ı						,
Accountancy	471,420		11,470	45,760		156,690		(685,340)							
Accounts Payable	77,860	'	,	10,010		76,850		(164,720)	·						,
Insurance and Financial Control	146,130		1,910	23,420		56,910		(125,100)	103,270	103,270				103,270	
Treasury Management				8,690		50,190		(58,880)	I						,
Cashiers	179,410		1,130	41,920		93,710		(316,170)						ı	
District Audit / Bank Charges				204,690		7,170		(211,860)						•	•
Finance General Admin	73,080		006	36,430		55,030		(164,920)	520	520				520	
Payroll	81,420		100	4,340		39,120		(123,810)	1,170	1,170				1,170	
Other Support Services														•	
Estates & Valuation	343,690		16,850	35,690		107,320		(488,620)	14,930	14,930				14,930	
Building Maintenance		259,860				161,480		(421,340)						•	
Performance Management Unit	168,690		650	81,140		108,830		(359,310)						•	•
Internal Audit	227,170		4,790	8,030		42,070		(282,060)							•
Human Resources	506,160		10,180	51,220		122,510		(690,000)	20	20				20	
Legal & Admin									ı						
Legal Services	461,510		1,630	162,160		213,480		(793,910)	44,870	44,870				44,870	
Legal General Admin	136,380		15,000	65,250		69,900		(276,790)	9,740	9,740				9,740	
Secretarial Services	178,410		10	9,590		46,310		(234,320)	I					•	ı
Reprographics	127,390		60	116,150		56,020		(298,940)	680	680				680	
Corporate Filing Facility						1,870		(1,870)							
Office Accommodation	34,390	855,780	210	78,260		275,010	164,870	(1,391,210)	17,310	17,310		'		17,310	
Superintendents	98,140		10	2,140		17,340		(117,630)						•	
Duty Officers	113,010		10	2,050		9,060		(124,130)						•	•
Catering	590			13,870		9,680		(24,140)						ı	
Depot Accommodation	20,990	259,080	960	6,860		35,820	45,320	(368,820)	210	210				210	
	3,747,090	1,374,720	88,810	1,010,750		1,858,580	210,190	(8,097,370)	192,770	192,770				192,770	
Note: The costs shown above represent total actual costs whereas the	ove repres	ent total act	ual costs w		costs ident	lified on the	summary sh	leets repres	costs identified on the summary sheets represent the directly controllable expenses.	ly controlla	ble expens	ses.			
Third Party Payments															Γ
Legal & Administration	385,010		2,320	7,440		63,230		(458,000)							

Third Party Payments											
Legal & Administration	385,010		2,320	7,440	63,230	(458,000)					
Corporate Training	57,630	8,510		320	108,920	(175,380)					
Car Leasing	25,660		350,760	7,520	60,740	(345,680)	99,000		000'66	99,000	
Revenue & Benefit New IT System											
Revenue Group	789,990		17,480	27,730	204,480	(1,039,680)					
Housing Benefit Group	1,025,220		28,960	76,670	298,450	(1,429,300)					
	2.283.510		8,510 399,520 119,680	119,680	735,820	-3,448,040	99,000		000'66	000'66	

CUSTOMER SERVICES, MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS & ICT PORTFOLIO ESTIMATES 2007/08

Revenue Budget 2007/08

Introduction

The Portfolio is responsible for the following services.

Customer Services Compliments & Complaints Public Relations & Information Information Communications Technology & E-Government

Further detail of the services and the related CSB growth and DDF items are shown on the appropriate budget page.

Capital Charges

In previous years accounting standards have required that a notional charge be made to service revenue accounts to reflect the cost of fixed assets used in the provision of services. These charges were then reversed through the asset management revenue account so that they had no effect on the Council Tax. The latest version of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) that local authorities are required to follow in producing their budgets and accounts has removed the requirement for capital charges and the asset management revenue account.

Compliance with CIPFA Standards

The budget has been prepared in accordance with the latest CIPFA guidance, in particular the Best Value Accounting Code of Practice 2006 The code of practice has the status of statutory "proper practice". It is also expected that members of CIPFA will comply with all the requirements of the Code as it defines best professional practice in terms of financial reporting. The only divergence from the code in these budget papers occurs where the portfolio service groupings differ from those required by the Code of Practice. The portfolio groupings are given precedence in these papers.

Budget format

The format of the attached budget papers is the same as that adopted last year. The summary page is split into three groups: Direct Services, Regulatory Services and Support & Trading Services. Not all portfolios will have all three types of service grouping.

Direct Services - these are self-explanatory and reflect the headline services provided by the portfolio.

Regulatory Services – The Cabinet has no part to play in the exercise of regulatory functions such as planning and licensing. However the Cabinet is responsible for the totality of the Council's budget. The costs of the regulatory functions therefore have been included in the appropriate portfolio budgets.

Support and Trading Services - Responsibility for support services and trading type arrangements has been split across a number of portfolios. In order to be transparent about the costs associated with these areas, they have been included in the relevant portfolios. However the net cost of these services is recharged to the direct and regulatory functions, either within the same portfolio or across a number of portfolios. Therefore to avoid double counting the costs are reversed out so as to arrive back at the true net cost of the portfolio.

The summary page then includes the traditional re-analysis of the budget in terms of its' opening Continuing Services Budget, CSB growth and savings, and District Development Fund expenditure and savings.

General Fund Estimate Summary

2005/06	2006	6/07			2007/08	
Actual £000	Original Estimate £000	Revised Estimate £000		Gross Expend £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000
			Direct Services			
111	90	112	Customer Services	105	0	105
51	61	63	Compliments & Complaints	63	0	63
162	151	175	Total (Transferred to GF Summary)	168	0	168
			Support and Trading Services			
1,749	2,313	2,392	Information Technology	2,065	0	2,065
295	352	331	Public Relations & Information	368	0	368
(47)	(61)	(62)	Recharged to this Portfolio	(55)	0	(55)
(1,997)	(2,604)	(2,661)	Recharged to other Portfolios	(2,378)	0	(2,378)
0	0	0	Total	0	0	0
162	151	175	Portfolio Total	168	0	168

(12)	14	69	Continuing Services Budget	137
70	106	106	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	0
0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
58	120	175	Total Continuing Services Budget	137
104	31	0	District Development Fund - Expenditure	31
0	0	0	District Development Fund - Savings	0
104	31	0	_ Total District Development Fund	31
162	151	175	Total	168

Customer Services, Media, Communications & ICT Development Fund & Growth Items

		Original 2006/07 £000's	Revised 2006/07 £000's	Orginal 2007/08 £000's
CSB Growth Items				
ICT ICT ICT ICT	Service restructure - Corporate ICT Strategy Revenue Growth arising from IEG Initiatives Training - Staff Restructuring Essex eMarket Place Subscription	60 18 10 18	60 18 10 18	
		106	106	0
		Original 2006/07 £000's	Revised 2006/07 £000's	Orginal 2007/08 £000's
Development Fund Items		2000 0	2000 0	2000 0
Public Relations	Improvements to Main Reception Area	31		31
		31	0	31

Direct Services

Customer Services

The budget relates to general liaison with the public. The increases in the budget relate to a reallocation of overhead charges for computers and the web site.

Compliments & Complaints

The budget relates to the operation of the compliments and complaints procedure. The increases relate only to inflation.

Direct Services

2006	6/07			2007/08	
Original Estimate £000	Estimate		Gross Expend £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000
90	112	Customer Services	105	0	105
61	63	Compliments & Complaints	63	0	63
151	175	Total (Transferred to Summary)	168	0	168
	Original Estimate £000 90 61	Estimate Estimate £000 £000 90 112 61 63	Original Estimate £000Revised Estimate £0009011290112616363	Original Estimate £000Revised Estimate £000Gross Expend £00090112Customer Services1056163Compliments & Complaints63	Original Estimate £000Revised Estimate £000Gross Expend £000Gross

162	151	175	_ Portfolio Total _	168
14	0	0	Total District Development Fund	0
0	0	0	District Development Fund - Savings	0
14	0	0	District Development Fund - Expenditure	0
148	151	175	Total Continuing Services Budget	168
0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	0
148	151	175	Continuing Services Budget	168

Information Communications Technology & E-Govt

Information Technology

The current year budget includes CSB Growth of £60,000 for the service restructuring as part of the Corporate ICT Strategy. CSB Growth is also included for IEG initiatives, with £18,000 included for the current year. Growth of £10,000 is also included in the current year for training relating to the restructuring and £18,000 for the Essex eMarket Place subscription.

Other significant changes relate to a high level of charges in the current year Revised Estimate arising from the funding of IT software from capital resources. This expenditure is written off to the revenue account in the year of spend.

Telephones

The reduction in this budget from the Original current year estimate relates to an internal accounting change only. Direct salaries costs are now included centrally within the main IT account and then recharged out to specific cost centres, appearing in those budgets as support services.

Website

The reduction in this budget from the Original current year estimate relates to an internal accounting change only. Direct salaries costs are now included centrally within the main IT account and then recharged out to specific cost centres, appearing in those budgets as support services.

Information Communications Technology & E- Govt

2005/06	2006	6/07			2007/08	
Actual £000	Original Estimate £000	Revised Estimate £000		Gross Expend £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000
1,365	1,888	2,175	Information Technology	1,843	0	1,843
328	366	200	Telephones	205	0	205
56	59	17	Website	17	0	17
1,749	2,313	2,392	Total (Transferred to Summary)	2,065	0	2,065

1,749	2,313	2,392	Portfolio Total	2,065
90	0	0	Total District Development Fund	0
0	0	0	District Development Fund - Savings	0
90	0	0	District Development Fund - Expenditure	0
1,659	2,313	2,392	Total Continuing Services Budget	2,065
0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
70	106	106	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	0
1,589	2,207	2,286	Continuing Services Budget	2,065

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Support Services

Public Relations & Information

A DDF item of £31,000 was included in the current year relating to improvements to the main reception area in the Civic Offices. This item has now been re-phased to 2007/08. There are no other significant changes to this budget, other than inflation .

Support Services

2005/06	200	6/07			2007/08	
Actual £000	Original Estimate £000	Revised Estimate £000		Gross Expend £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000
295	352	331	Public Relations & Information	368	0	368
295	352	331	Total (Transferred to Summary)	368	0	368

295	321	331	Continuing Services Budget	337
0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	0
0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
295	321	331	Total Continuing Services Budget	337
0	31	0	District Development Fund - Expenditure	31
0	0	0	District Development Fund - Savings	0
0	31	0	Total District Development Fund	31
295	352	331	_ Portfolio Total _	368

		CUSTC	MER SE	RVICES SUB	CES, MEDIA SUBJECTIVE	COMMU E ANALY	CUSTOMER SERVICES, MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS & ICT PORTFOLIO SUBJECTIVE ANALYSIS 2007/08	NS & IC /08	T PORTF	OLIO			
Cost Centre	Employees	Premises Related Expenses	Transport	Supplies Related Expenses	Third Party	Support Services	Depreciation Charges	(Internally Recharged)	Gross Expenditure	Fees & Charges	Other Income Gross Income	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
Customer Services	17,650		530	8,760		78,400			105,340			•	105,340
Compliments & Complaints	44,470		1,350	4,250		12,690			62,760				62,760
Information Technology	1,106,280		13,750	601,910		161,490	142,160	(2,025,590)	1				
Telephones	6,670			198,710		214,190		(419,570)	·		•	•	
Website				16,590		95,950		(112,540)	1				
Public Relations & Information	230,340		8,100	129,090		99,860		(467,280)	110	110		110	
Total	1,175,070		15,630	830,220		562,720	142,160	(2,557,700)	168,100				168,100
ນ Mode: The costs shown above represent total actual costs whereas the costs identified on the summary sheets represent the directly controllable expenses. ດ 2	above repre	sent total ac	tual costs wł	nereas the c	osts identifi	ed on the su	mmary sheet	s represent	the directly (controllable	expenses.		

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HOUSING PORTFOLIO GENERAL FUND ESTIMATES 2007/08

Housing

Revenue Budget 2007/08

Introduction

The Housing (General) Portfolio is responsible for the following services;

Homelessness Bed and Breakfast Accomodation Social Housing Grants Housing Strategy Private Sector Housing

Further details of the services and the related CSB growth and DDF items are shown on the appropriate budget page.

Capital Charges

In previous years accounting standards have required that a notional charge be made to service revenue accounts to reflect the cost of fixed assets used in the provision of services. These charges were then reversed through the asset management revenue account so that they had no effect on the Council Tax. The latest version of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) that local authorities are required to follow in producing their budgets and accounts has removed the requirement for capital charges and the asset management revenue account.

Compliance with CIPFA Standards

The budget has been prepared in accordance with the latest CIPFA guidance, in particular the Best Value Accounting Code of Practice 2005. The code of practice has the status of statutory "proper practice". It is also expected that members of CIPFA will comply with all the requirements of the Code as it defines best professional practice in terms of financial reporting. The only divergence from the code in these budget papers occurs where the portfolio service groupings differ from those required by the Code of Practice. The portfolio groupings are given precedence in these papers.

Budget format

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Direct Services – These are self-explanatory and reflect the headline services provided by the portfolio.

Regulatory Services –The Cabinet has no part to play in the exercise of regulatory functions such as planning and licencing. However the Cabinet is responsible for the totality of the Council's budget. The costs of the regulatory functions therefore have been included in the relevant portfolio budgets.

Support and Trading Services - Responsibility for support services and trading arrangements has been split across a number of portfolios. In order to be transparent about the costs associated with these areas, they have been included in the relevant portfoliios. However the net cost of these services is recharged to the direct and regulatory functions, either within the same portfolio or across a number of portfolios. To avoid double counting, these costs are reversed out, in order to show the net cost of the portfolio.

The summary page includes the traditional re-analysis of the budget in terms of its opening Continuing Services Budget, CSB growth and savings, and District Development Fund expenditure and savings.

Housing

2005/06 Actual £000	2006 Original Estimate £000	5/07 Revised Estimate £000		Gross Expend £000	2007/08 Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000
			Direct Services			
113	223	583	Private Sector Housing	1,668	967	701
262	251	238	Homeless	673	451	222
43	47	48	Housing Strategy	45	0	45
16	726	1,012	Affordable Housing Grants	722	0	722
0	0	0	Leasehold Services Administration	150	150	0
434	1,247	1,881	Portfolio Total (Transferred to GF Summary)	3,258	1,568	1,690

362	1,197	1,783	Continuing Services Budget	1,486
31	41	59	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	178
0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
393	1,238	1,842	_ Total Continuing Services Budget	1,664
41	9	39	District Development Fund - Expenditure	26
0	0	0	District Development Fund - Savings	0
41	9	39	Total District Development Fund	26
434	1,247	1,881	_ Portfolio Total _	1,690

Development Fund and Growth Items

		Original 2006/07 £000's	Revised 2006/07 £000's	Original 2007/08 £000's
CSB Growth Items				
	Additional Resources for CARE and			
Private Sector Housing	Private Sector Grants	25	22	
	Contribution re Regional Hsg Co-			
Housing Strategy	ordinator		2	
Private Sector Housing	Additional Staffing	13	13	
Handyman Scheme	Additional Resources	3	3	
Private Sector Housing	Env.Health Practioner for HMO's		19	19
Reinstatement Grants	End of Subsidy			113
Private Sector Housing	Env.Health Practioner New Post			41
Private Sector Housing	Finders Fee			5
		41	59	178
Development Fund Items Direct				
Homelessness	Homeless Prevention Officers (net)	9	9	9
Private Sector Housing	Stock Condition Survey		30	4
Private Sector Housing	Handyperson Scheme			3
Private Sector Housing	Consultancy			10
		9	39	26

Private Sector Housing

Private Sector Grants

The revised and original estimates include the writing off of the additional grants expenditure on Disabled Facility and other private sector grants included in the capital programme. There will be some extra central government funding but overall net expenditure will increase in both 2006/07 and 2007/08. Having said that these charges are reversed out of the Revenue Account and therefore do not affect the level of the Council Tax.

Reinstatement Grants

The budget consists mainly of the central government subsidy due in respect of reinstatement grants given under section 541 of the 1985 Housing Act between 1987 and 1991. The sudsidy was for loan charges on those grants and lasts for 20 years from the inception of each grant. This subsidy is due to end over the next few years.

Other Private Sector Housing Work

This budget contains the costs related to Private sector housing that do not fall elsewhere. There is an increased emphasis being placed by central government on the issue of bringing empty homes back into use, as a result staff allocations from elsewhere have increased as well as the inclusion of a CSB growth item for an additional practitioner.

Care and Repair

There is expected to be an increase in fee income to this budget in both 2006/07 and 2007/08. This is due to the aforemention expenditure increases on all private sector grants.

House Condition Survey

The survey was completed early in 2006/07. The remainder of the budget is for the follow on Housing Private Sector Policy work some of which will occur in 2007/08.

Housing Act Advances

There are only a few remaining Housing Act Advances. The remaining costs relate to a small amount of residual admin work.

Handyperson Scheme

The budget for the Handyperson scheme has been transferred from the Community Wellbeing Portfolio for 2006/07. Costs relate to recharges from Environmental Health Service group for dedicated administrative support. Income of £10,250 is received from Essex County Council to assist in funding the scheme. A slight reduction in staff allocations has occurred.

Private Sector Housing

2005/06 Actual	2006 Original Estimate	/07 Revised Estimate		Gross Expend	2007/08 Gross Income	Net Expend
£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000
440	450	745			5.45	
443	456	745	Private Sector Grants	1,241	545	696
(516)	(443)	(444)	Reinstatement Grants	2	331	(329)
81	109	168	Other Private Sector Housing	247	0	247
10	12	11	General Improvement Areas	12	0	12
26	52	46	Care & Repair	125	81	44
41	0	30	House Condition Survey	4	0	4
13	13	6	Housing Act Advances	5	0	5
15	24	21	Handyperson Scheme	32	10	22
113	223	583	Total (Transferred to Summary)	1,668	967	701

113	223	583	Portfolio Total	701
41	0	30	Total District Development Fund	17
0	0	0	District Development Fund - Savings	0
41	0	30	District Development Fund - Expenditure	17
72	223	553	Total Continuing Services Budget	684
0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
18	41	59	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	178
54	182	494	Continuing Services Budget	506

Homelessness

Homelessness

The DCLG have confirmed that funding of £60,000 is available in 2007/08 for the homeless prevention service. This is the same as in 2006/07 which in turn was slightly better than expected. Both the 2006/07 revised and the 2007/08 original reflect this position.

Bed and Breakfast Accommodation

The Charges are set based on the average cost of hotels used and the expected management cost of arranging for homeless people to be placed in accomodation.

Fresh Start Scheme

This budget relates to payments made to the Registered Social Landlord that runs the scheme.

Short Term Leased Accommodation

This relates to four properties in Ongar let to former homeless families. As these properties are not owned by the Council these should be accounted for within the general fund.

Homelessness

2005/06 Actual £000	2006 Original Estimate £000	5/07 Revised Estimate £000		Gross Expend £000	2007/08 Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000
179	187	195	Homelessness	239	60	179
74	41	16	Bed & Breakfast Accommodation	391	374	17
10	23	26	Fresh Start Scheme	26	0	26
(1)	0	1	Housing Needs Survey	0	0	0
0	0	0	Short Term Leased Accomodation	17	17	0
262	251	238	Total (Transferred to Summary)	673	451	222

252	242	229	Continuing Services Budget	213
10	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	0
0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
262	242	229	_ Total Continuing Services Budget	213
0	9	9	District Development Fund - Expenditure	9
0	0	0	District Development Fund - Savings	0
0	9	9	Total District Development Fund	9
262	251	238	Portfolio Total	222

Other Activities

Housing Investment Programme

The variation on this budget relates to staff allocations from Housing Services.

Affordable Housing Grants

The Capital Programme includes the providing of Capital Grants to Housing Associations to enable the provision of some affordable housing on small areas of surplus HRA land. This transaction does not result in the creation of a Council asset and therefore is written off to the revenue account in the year that the grant is given. This has no affect on the council tax as like Disabled Facilities Grants the entry is reversed out below the 'net cost of services' line.

Leasehold Services Administration

This budget relates to the management costs and administration of the leaseholders accounts.

Former HRA flats that have been sold on long leases still present liabilities to this council in respect of maintenance costs. Whilst the income from these sources is credited to the HRA, the administration element is charged back to leaseholders. The net expenditure to this council will therefore always be nil.

Other Activities

2005/06 Actual £000	2006 Original Estimate £000	Revised		Gross Expend £000	2007/08 Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000
43	47	48	Housing Investment Programme	45	0	45
16	726	1,012	Affordable Housing Grants	722	0	722
0	0	0	Leasehold Service Administration	150	150	0
59	773	1,060	Total (Transferred to Summary)	917	150	767

56	773	1,060	Continuing Services Budget	767
3	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	0
0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
59	773	1,060	Total Continuing Services Budget	767
0	0	0	District Development Fund - Expenditure	0
0	0	0	District Development Fund - Savings	0
0	0	0	Total District Development Fund	0
59	773	1,060	_ Portfolio Total _	767

HOUSING GENERAL FUND 2007/08 SUBJECTIVE ANALYSIS

BUDGET	Employee Expenses	Premises Related Expenses	Transport Related Expenses	Supplies and Services	Support Services	Capital Deletions	Gross Revenue Expenditure	Fees and Charges	Rental Income	Gov Grants	Other Income	Net Revenue Expenditure
	Ę	ત્મ	ત્મ	ы	ч	ત્મ	ત્મ	ц	£	ы	ы	ત્મ
Frivate Sector nousing Renovation Grants Reinstatement Grants	77,740		4,630	4,760	34,130	1,120,000	1,241,260	_		545,000 331 720		696,260 (330,010)
Repairs to Private Dwellings	171,540	7 860	7,780	23,090	44,790		247,200			001,100		247,200
Care & Repair	59,890	000,	3,570	37,450	24,660 7 700		125,570	36,000		30,830	13,860	44,880
House Purchase Advances House Condition Survey	12,280		730	4,000 14,000	5,530 4,710		5,530 4,000 31,720				10,250	5,530 4,000 21,470
Component of the second	159,440 25,670	344,400 17,330	5,070 1,160	25,870 5,990 26,000	48,150 14,230		238,530 391,450 26,000 17,330		17,330	60,000	373,640	178,530 17,810 26,000
Other Activities Housing Investment Programme Affordable Housing Grants Leasehold Services Administration	26,660 5,630 82,410		1,000 300 2,560	6,030 200 6,940	11,160 5,490 57,750	710,000	44,850 721,620 149,660	149,660				44,850 721,620 0
TOTAL	621,260	369,580	26,800	154,330	256,490	1,830,000	3,258,460	185,660	17,330	967,550	397,750	1,690,170

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HOUSING PORTFOLIO HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT ESTIMATES 2007/08

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT ESTIMATES 2007/08

Introduction

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) has been prepared in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, as amended by the Leasehold Reform, Housing and Urban Development Act 1993 and the Local Government Act 2003. Under this legislation the Secretary of State and the DCLG has the power to issue directives in respect of appropriate income and expenditure items and the calculation of central government subsidy entitlement. The 2007/08 budget conforms to the final Housing Subsidy Determination, which was issued on 20 December 2006.

The balance at 31 March 2008 is expected to be £5.4m, after a deficit of £399,000 in 2006/07 and a surplus of £179,000 in 2007/08. Two major influences on the size of the surplus are a decrease in Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay (RCCO), from £2.388m in 2006/07 to £1.985m in 2007/08 and an increase in negative Housing Subsidy, from £8,230,000 to £8,868,000. The 2006/07 Housing Subsidy settlement included the Rental Constraint Allowance, a compensatory allowance from the DCLG of £199,000, relating to the 5% cap on restructured rents in 2006/07. The 2007/08 Rental Constraint Allowance has been set at £577,000.

Five Year Forecast

An updated five year forecast to the year 2011/12 is to be produced in March 2007.

Supervision, Management and Maintenance

Overall expenditure in 2006/07 has increased by 3.4% in the revised compared to the original estimate. In 2007/08 management and maintenance has increased by 4.1% over original estimates, compared to the October 2006 headline rate of inflation of 3.7%. While costs have been kept down as much as possible, the continuing rise in gas and electricity prices have meant that contract renewals for heating and lighting have seen rises considerably higher than inflation. An element of this is to be recovered from charges for services and facilities, although it is not possible to recover the entire cost.

Supporting People (Housing Counselling and Support)

The Supporting People grant is paid by Essex County Council to fund the cost of support to tenants in sheltered housing who are in receipt of benefit. After two years of inflationary increases, last year's settlement was forecast to be restricted by efficiency savings; however, Epping's performance (placed in the lower quartile for cost of both sheltered housing and homelessness services) ensured a small inflationary increase, which has been reflected in the revised estimates. The settlements from 2007/08 onwards are set at 2006/07 levels.

Housing Repairs Fund

The Housing Repairs Fund contribution was set at \pounds 4,980,000 for 2005/06. For 2006/07 the contribution will be \pounds 5,500,000, rising to \pounds 5,700,000 in 2007/08.

Capital Expenditure

The capital expenditure charged to revenue is based on the latest predictions of availablility of funds to finance the capital programme. The capital programme was approved by the Cabinet in October 2006.

Works Unit

The housing works unit carries out a significant proportion of the repairs required to the Council's stock. The total cost of the unit is recharged to either the Housing Repairs Fund or (for more significant works) to the HRA Capital Programme.

Housing Subsidy

In 2006/07 and for the foreseeable future Housing Subsidy is negative. Under the current rules, this sum has to be paid over to the DCLG. The estimates for 2007/08 have been drawn up in accordance with the Housing Subsidy Final Determination for 2007/08, received on 20 December 2006.

Proposed Rent Increase

From 2003/04 rents were set with reference to a new formula based on property values, number of bedrooms and local earnings. The scheme is referred to as rent restructuring, and its intention is to ensure that rents for broadly similar properties should be the same, regardless of whether the landlord is the local authority or a registered social landlord.

The rent for each property moves in equal steps towards its target rent up to 2011/12. This progression is limited by a maximum increase or decrease of £2 per week over inflation plus 0.5% per cent, and subject also to a predetermined maximum rent for each size of property. Some rents will not reach their target rent by 2012 because of the £2 limit but none will be constrained by the cap. Any rent not reaching the target by 2012 will therefore continue to move until such time as they do reach their target.

A central government review of rent restructuring in 2006/07 adjusted the original formula with effect from 2003/04 and raised the target rents to a level that cannot be reached by the target date of 2012. The rent adjustments will therefore have to continue beyond that date. In 2006/07 the average rent increase was capped at 5%, although the DCLG gave an allowance subtracted from Housing Subsidy to compensate authorities for the gap between their formula rent and their capped rent. This was originally estimated to be around £84,000 when the consultation paper on the proposals was first issued, but was finally set at £199,000 for 2006/07. The average rent increase will be capped at 5% for 2007/08; the 2007/08 allowance against Housing Subsidy for lost rental income has been set at £577,000.

HOUSING PORTFOLIO HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT SUMMARY

2005/06	200	6/07		2007/08
Actual	Original Estimate	Revised Estimate		Original Estimate
£000's	£000's	£000's		£000's
3,476	3,994	4,083	EXPENDITURE Supervision & Management General	3,997
	0,004	4,000	Supervision & Management General	0,007
2,848	3,037	3,178	Supervision & Management Special	3,404
380	358	392	Rents, Rates Taxes & Insurances	335
4,980	5,500	5,500	Contribution to Repairs Fund	5,700
11,684	12,889	13,153	MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE	13,436
7,321	8,381	7,638	Depreciation	7,667
39	46	48	Debt Management Expenses	46
7,749	8,345	8,230	HRA Subsidy Payable	8,868
64	95	75	Provision for Bad/Doubtful Debts	75
26,857	29,756	29,144		30,092
21,201	22,157	22,094	INCOME Gross Rent of Dwellings	23,004
2,364	2,409	2,365	Non Dwellings Rent	2,476
1,637	1,598	1,592	Charges for Services & Facilities	1,711
236	285	283	Contribution from General Fund	293
25,438	26,449	26,334		27,484
1,419	3,307	2,810	NET COST OF SERVICES	2,608

HOUSING PORTFOLIO HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT SUMMARY

2005/06	200	6/07		2007/08
Actual £000's	Original Estimate £000's	Revised Estimate £000's		Original Estimate £000's
1,419	3,307	2,810	NET COST OF SERVICES	2,608
(1,560)	(1,374)	(1,726)	Interest on Receipts and Balances	(1,740)
(2,747)	(3,869)	(3, 126)	Depreciation	(3,077)
(75)	369	299	Pensions Interest Payable/Return on Assets	299
(2,963)	(1,567)	(1,743)	NET OPERATING INCOME	(1,910)
			APPROPRIATIONS	
2,000	2,150	2,388	Capital Exp. Charged to Revenue	1,985
128	(181)	(261)	FRS 17 Adjustment	(269)
15	15	15	Transfer to Capital Reserves	15
55	0	0	Transfer to General Fund	0
2,198	1,984	2,142		1,731
(765)	417	399	(SURPLUS)/DEFICIT FOR YEAR	(179)
4,834	5,599	5,599	BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	5,200
(765)	417	399	(SURPLUS)/DEFICIT FOR YEAR	(179)
5,599	5,182	5,200	BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	5,379

HOUSING PORTFOLIO HOUSING REPAIRS FUND SUMMARY

2005/06	200	6/07		2007/08
Actual £000's	Original Estimate £000's	Revised Estimate £000's		Original Estimate £000's
			EXPENDITURE	
3, 121	3,532	3,278	Responsive and Void Repairs	3,444
1,793	1,803	1,977	Planned & Cyclical Maintenance	2,032
39	227	229	Other items	183
4,953	5,562	5,484	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	5,659
(4,980)	(5,500)	(5,500)	CONTRIBUTION FROM HRA	(5,700)
(27)	62	(16)	(SURPLUS)/DEFICIT FOR YEAR	(41)
3,048	3,075	3,075	BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	3,091
(27)	62	(16)	(SURPLUS)/DEFICIT FOR YEAR	(41)
3,075	3,013	3,091	BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	3,132

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HOUSING PORTFOLIO MAJOR REPAIRS RESERVE SUMMARY

2005/06	200	6/07		2007/08
Actual £000's	Original Estimate £000's	Revised Estimate £000's		Original Estimate £000's
			EXPENDITURE	
2,692	5,313	4,889	CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	4,179
2,747	3,854	3,111	TRANSFERRED TO HRA	3,062
5,439	9,167	8,000	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	7,241
(7,321)	(8,381)	(7,638)	DEPRECIATION	(7,667)
(1,882)	786	362	(SURPLUS)/DEFICIT FOR YEAR	(426)
1,415	3,312	3,297	BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	2,935
(1,882)	786	362	(SURPLUS)/DEFICIT FOR YEAR	(426)
3,297	2,526	2,935	BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	3,361

HOUSING PORTFOLIO HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT SUPERVISION AND MANAGEMENT GENERAL

Managing Tenancies

The revised budget for 2006/07 shows an increase in the cost of professional fees and staffing costs.

Business Premises

Building maintenance costs have decreased between 2006/07 and 2007/08.

Rent Accounting

The budget increase in both years over the original 2006/07 costs is due to staff time allocation changes.

Waiting Lists and Allocations

The increase in the revised 2006/07 budget relates to the reprint of the tenants' handbooks and to staff related costs. The budget in 2007/08 shows a decrease, mainly due to a reallocation of staffing cost recharges from other areas.

Council House Sales

The decrease between the original and revised 2006/07 budgets is due to a decrease in staff costs and an increase in costs recharged to capital receipts as part of the capital pooling regulations.

Policy and Management

The budget in 2006/07 shows an increase in expenditure on housing initiatives such as housing surveys and consultation exercises.

Capital Monitoring

The increase in the 2006/07 and 2007/08 budgets relates to the reallocation of staff costs, recharged on a time basis.

Housing Integrated System

Installation of the leasehold module of the Housing computer system has been delayed: the 2006/07 budget is unlikely to be spent during the year, and has been carried forward to 2007/08.

Tenants Participation Compacts

There is a small increase in grant payments in 2006/07.

Contribution to General Fund

The increase in budget for 2006/07 and decrease in budget for 2007/08 relates to the allowance made for predicted staff vacancies - 1% in the current financial year, but increased to 3% in 2007/08.

Repairs and Maintenance Management

The revised budget for 2006/07 reflects a decrease in staffing costs, due to staff vacancies. These costs increase to reflect a fully staffed position in the 2007/08 budget, slightly offset by the decrease due to the Codeman system upgrade finishing in 2006/07.

HOUSING PORTFOLIO HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT SUPERVISION & MANAGEMENT GENERAL

2005/06	2006	/07			2007/08	
Actual £000's	Original Estimate £000's	Revised Estimate £000's		Gross Expend £000's	Gross Income £000's	Net Expend £000's
602	754	851	Managing Tenancies	851	0	851
291	270	246	Housing Management Support Services	240	0	240
223	225	226	Business Premises Admin.	212	0	212
428	468	498	Rent Determination & Collection	496	0	496
275	331	349	Waiting Lists & Allocations	334	0	334
88	83	52	Sale of Council Houses	48	0	48
236	270	285	Policy and Management	284	0	284
58	67	78	Capital Monitoring	77	0	77
0	7	0	New Housing Computer System	7	0	7
70	79	75	Tenant Participation	76	0	76
434	519	525	Contribution to General Fund	462	0	462
771	921	898	Repairs Management	910	0	910
3,476	3,994	4,083		3,997	0	3,997

HOUSING PORTFOLIO HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT SUPERVISION AND MANAGEMENT SPECIAL

Aged Persons Management

Contracts for gas and electricity have been renegotiated in 2006; despite using a local authority procurement route which promises the best available rates, the cost of both fuels have increased. This accounts for most of the increase in budgets between 2006/07 and 2007/08.

Aged Persons Support

The variations in these budgets relate to changes in salary allocations.

Special Items

In 2006/07, a non-recurring budget to fund the costs of clearing the backlog of tree maintenance has been included. Additional expenditure has been agreed in this area for future years to prevent the occurrence of future backlogs. Cost increases in the gas and electricity industry have also had an effect in this area, although a proportion is recoverable from tenants via the heating charge element of charges for services and facilities. In 2007/08 there has been an increase in the budget for the distributed alarm system to allow for phased renewals of the alarms and their base system.

Homelessness

Most of the increase relates to heating and lighting costs.

HOUSING PORTFOLIO HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT SUPERVISION & MANAGEMENT SPECIAL

2005/06	200	6/07			2007/08	
Actual £000's	Original Estimate £000's	Revised Estimate £000's		Gross Expend £000's	Gross Income £000's	Net Expend £000's
647	719	761	Aged Persons Management	792	0	792
358	393	398	Aged Persons Support Servs.	423	0	423
1,597	1,653	1,738	Special Items	1,898	0	1,898
220	245	257	Homelessness Management	264	0	264
26	27	24	Homelessness Support Servs.	27	0	27
2,848	3,037	3,178		3,404	0	3,404

HOUSING PORTFOLIO HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT RENTS, RATES, TAXES & INSURANCES

Dwelling Insurance

This entry comprises buildings insurance on the Council's properties

NDR and Council Tax

These are business rates payable on the Council's commercial premises and Council tax payable in respect of Norway House.

Other Insurances

These are insurances other than buildings insurance - mainly public liability insurance.

HOUSING PORTFOLIO HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT RENTS, RATES, TAXES & INSURANCE

2005/06	200	6/07		2007/08
Actual £000's	Original Estimate £000's	Revised Estimate £000's		Net Expend £000's
243	255	268	Dwelling Insurances	226
38	26	38	NDR and Council Tax	34
14	15	15	Water Charges	15
85	62	71	Other Insurances and Recharges	60
380	358	392		335

HOUSING PORTFOLIO HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT OTHER EXPENDITURE

Capital Expenditure Charged to Revenue

Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay (RCCO) has been set at £2.388m in 2006/07 and £1.985m in 2007/08. The updated five year forecast is to be produced in March 2007 which, amongst other matters, will examine the affordability of RCCO figures for future years.

Capital Financing Costs

This relates to a proportion of the costs of the Council's Treasury Management function. As a substantial amount of the interest income received is passed on to the HRA, most of the cost is borne by the HRA.

Bad Debts

The contribution to the bad debts provision is based on an assessment of the likelihood of a particular debt category being paid. The assessment takes into account the level of arrears, the size of individual debts and whether those debts relate to current or former tenants.

HOUSING PORTFOLIO HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT OTHER EXPENDITURE

2005/06	200	6/07		2007/08
Actual £000's	Original Estimate £000's	Revised Estimate £000's		Net Expend £000's
2,000	2,150	2,388	Capital Expenditure Charged to Revenue	1,985
39	46	48	Debt Management Expenses	46
64	95	75	Provision for Bad/Doubtful Debts	75
2,103	2,291	2,511		2,106

HOUSING PORTFOLIO HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT CAPITAL CHARGES

Depreciation

The depreciation charge of \pounds 7.638 m (\pounds 7.667 m in 2007/08) is based on the average age of council dwellings. However \pounds 3.111m (\pounds 3.062m in 2007/08) is reversed out again below the "net costs of services" line. This is done so that an amount equivalent to the major repairs allowance is credited to the major repairs reserve, thus making the reserve available for re-investment in stock.

HOUSING PORTFOLIO HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT CAPITAL CHARGES

	2005/06	200	6/07		2007/08
	Actual £000's	-	Revised Estimate £000's		Net Expend £000's
	7,321	8,381	7,638	Depreciation	7,667
_	7,321	8,381	7,638		7,667

HOUSING PORTFOLIO HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT PROPERTY RELATED INCOME

Gross Rent of Dwellings

Rental income likely to be received in 2006/07 is lower than the original estimate, due to a greater than predicted number of council house sales during the year. The rental income estimate for 2007/08 is based on a slightly reduced stock of houses (with an estimate of 30 council houses sold) and an expected increase in actual rents of about 5.0%. This is in response to a central government review of rent restructuring, which has raised the guideline rent by a substantial amount. The Department of Communities and Local Government capped the 2006/07 rent increase to an average of 5%; it is believed that the 2007/08 rent rise will be capped at the same level.

Business Premises

Rental income from shops has been fairly static in recent years, and indications are that this is likely to remain the case.

Garages

Garage rents will increase from £6.40 per week in 2006/07 to £6.60 in 2007/08, an increase of 3.1%. The stock of garages is decreasing; as some garages are difficult to let, some blocks of garages are being demolished and the land is being considered for alternative uses.

Charges for Services and Facilities

Charges for services and facilities have decreased from the original to the revised 2006/07 estimates, but are expected to increase above the rate of inflation for 2007/08. Most of the increase relates to the expected rise in costs of heating and lighting recovered from tenants.

Contribution from General Fund

A contribution is made towards grounds maintenance costs of housing land for those properties that have been sold under the housing Right to Buy legislation. Savings on staff related costs within the Grounds Maintenance section have reduced this charge in the revised estimates for 2006/07; however, the figure will increase in 2007/08.

HOUSING PORTFOLIO HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT PROPERTY RELATED INCOME

2005/06	200	6/07		2007/08
Actual £000's	Original Estimate £000's	Revised Estimate £000's		Net Expend £000's
21,201	22,157	22,094	Gross Rent of Dwellings	23,004
1,563	1,573	1,562	Business Premises	1,617
793	828	795	Garages	851
8	8	8	Ground Rents	8
1,637	1,598	1,592	Charges for Service & Facilities	1,711
236	285	283	Contribution from General Fund	293
25,438	26,449	26,334	Property Related Income	27,484

HOUSING PORTFOLIO HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT SUBSIDY

Housing revenue account subsidy payable was originally estimated to be £8.429m for 2006/07. The original estimate of £84,000 for rental constraint allowance, the transitional relief for the cost of the Government's change in rent restructuring, was based on draft proposals; the final calculation awards us relief of £199,000 for 2006/07. An amount of £8.868m payable is expected for 2007/08, based on the final subsidy determination, including a rental constraint allowance of £577,000.

The subsidy determinations have increased the total Management Allowance by about 0.3% and the total Maintenance Allowance by 6.3%. The increase in the Maintenance Allowance was expected to be a little above inflation; as in previous years, it has exceeded expectations.

The fall in stock levels has had the effect of reducing the total Management and Maintenance allowance by £62,000 i.e. from £9.935m to £9.873m. However, the increase in the allowances have resulted in an increase of £480,000 bringing the total Management and Maintenance allowance to £10.353m for 2007/08.

The major repairs allowance has been increased by 2.3%. This is slightly below inflation, but is an improvement on the decrease experienced last year.

The year 2007/08 sees the continuation of the Government's rent restructuring regime. The intention of the change is to bring the levels of local authority and registered social landlord rents into line by 2012. In order to achieve this, the government has calculated three rent figures; the formula rent, the guideline rent and the limit rent.

The formula rent is the average rent that needs to be charged within the restructuring period to bring local authority rents into line with registered social landlords. The 2007/08 formula rent stands at \pounds 76.79. The guideline rent stands at \pounds 71.87 - an increase of 7.06% from 2006/07. This is used to calculate the notional rent income within housing subsidy. The limit rent stands at \pounds 70.61 - an increase of 5.6% on 2006/07. This is the maximum average rent that can be charged before incurring subsidy limitation.

The actual rents will be set with reference to the formula rent on an individual property basis, and will be subject to the various constraints mentioned earlier. In addition, the Government's rent restructuring review last year imposed a retrospective rise in the guideline rent calculations, taking effect from April 2006. The average increase for 2006/07 was capped at 5%, with a compensating allowance (Rental Constraint Allowance) included in the Housing Subsidy calculation for authorities whose actual rent rise would have been higher than 5%. The Department for Communities and Local Government has agreed to an allowance of £199,000 against Epping Forest's negative Housing Subsidy for 2006/07. The Rental Constraint Allowance for 2007/08 has been set at £577,000, and the average rent rise will again be capped at 5%.

The interest element, known as the Item 8 Credit, consists of a mortgage interest allowance.

HOUSING PORTFOLIO HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT SUBSIDY

2005/06	200	6/07		2007/08
Actual £000's	Original Estimate £000's	Revised Estimate £000's		Net Income £000's
9,330	9,934	9,934	Management and Maintenance	10,353
4,589	4,527	4,527	Major Repairs Allowance	4,603
(20,849)	(22,146)	(22,146)	Notional Rent Income	(23,583)
(819)	(744)	(744)	Interest on Receipts	(818)
0	84	199	Rent cap compensation	577
(7,749)	(8,345)	(8,230)	HRA Subsidy	(8,868)

HOUSING PORTFOLIO HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT INTEREST INCOME

Revenue Balances

Interest on revenue balances at 31 March 2007 is expected to be higher than originally anticipated due to the increase in the final balances. During 2006/07, the interest on HRA revenue balances are expected to fall slightly to £341,000, as the end of year balances decrease.

Capital Balances

The interest on capital balances is based on the mid year HRA Capital Financing requirement (CFR). The CFR represents the authority's underlying need to borrow for capital purposes. The CFR is negative, which means that this need does not exist. In 2006/07, interest receipts will increase, due to rising interest rates; the current forecast for 2007/08 rates predicts a slight rise followed by a period of stable rates.

Mortgage Interest

The legislation states that the mortgage interest rate charged must be the higher of the local average rate (calculated as the average rate payable on its external debt) or the standard national rate. As the Council has repaid all of its external debt, there is no local rate. The charge on all mortgages has therefore had to revert to the national rate, and is subject to variations of external interest rates. The current standard national rate is 6.28%.

HOUSING PORTFOLIO HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT INTEREST INCOME

2005/06	200	6/07		2007/08
Actual £000's	Original Estimate £000's			Net Income £000's
457	390	566	Revenue Balances	545
1,076	969	1,138	Capital Balances	1,177
27	15	22	Mortgages	18
1,560	1,374	1,726		1,740

HOUSING PORTFOLIO HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT SUPPORT & TRADING SERVICES

Housing Services Administration

Costs have risen on this budget in 2006/07 due to an increase on the training budget. In addition, salary costs are higher because of inflation.

HOUSING PORTFOLIO HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT SUPPORT & TRADING SERVICES

	2005/06	2000	6/07		2007/08
	Actual £000's	Original Estimate £000's			Net Expend £000's
	293	359	364	Housing Services Administration	366
-	293	359	364		366

HOUSING COMMITTEE

HOUSING REPAIRS FUND FIVE YEAR PROGRAMME

ACTUAL		ORIGINAL	PROBABLE	ORIGINAL		FORECAST	SPENDING	
2005/06	DETAIL	ESTIMATE 2006/07	OUTTURN 2006/07	ESTIMATE 2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
000'S		000'S	000'S	000'S	000'S	000'S	000'S	000'S
2,514	Responsive Repairs	2,888	2,629	2,762	2,900	3,045	3,197	3,357
607	Voids Refurbishment	644	650	683	717	752	790	829
1,793	Planned Maintenance/ Improvements	1,803	1,977	2,032	2,134	2,240	2,353	2,470
0	Structural Repairs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
144	Miscellaneous Projects	203	208	169	178	187	196	206
14	Feasibilities	10	27	27	28	30	31	33
0	Contingencies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
42	Business Premises	64	64	59	62	65	68	72
(161)	Less Income	(50)	(71)	(73)	(77)	(80)	(84)	(89)
4,953	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	5,562	5,484	5,659	5,942	6,239	6,551	6,878
(3,048)	Balance B/Fwd	(3,075)	(3,075)	(3,091)	(3,132)	(2,890)	(2,351)	(1,500)
(4,980)	Contribution from H.R.A.	(5,500)	(5,500)	(5,700)	(5,700)	(5,700)	(5,700)	(5,700)
4,953	Less Expenditure above	5,562	5,484	5,659	5,942	6,239	6,551	6,878
(3,075)	BALANCE C/FWD (SURPLUS)/ DEFICIT	(3,013)	(3,091)	(3,132)	(2,890)	(2,351)	(1,500)	(322

E T E T E T E T E T E T E T E T E T E T	Fremises Related Expenses 37,560 0	Transport Related Expenses 8,280 6,100 590	Supplies and Services £	Third Party Pavments	Internally Recharged	Contracted Services	Support Services	Capital Financing	Gross Revenue
	-	f 8,280 6,100 590	ы					COSTS	Expenditure
Premises Admin bunting & Collection sts & Allocations buncil Houses Ananagement Ananagement Tenancies		0 8,280 6,100 590		щ	બ	બ	щ	ч	બ
ollection ations es t		8,280 6,100 590	5.220	0	0	0	183.320	0	226,100
es t		6,100 590	40,570	0	0	0	227,350	0	498,460
es		590	69,680	0	0	0	82,050	0	348,780
			7,800	0	0	0	127,250	(120,240)	51,530
		4,820	64,490	0	0	0	71,330	0	285,000
		1,810	2,050	0	0	0	45,930	0	78,310
		20,570	86,650	0	0	0	287,900	0	851,320
HSG. Man. Support Servs.		6,640	23,010	0	0	0	108,970	0	245,760
Comp.Costs New Hsg.System 0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tenants Compacts 43,910		1,650	13,430	0	0	0	15,640	0	74,630
Contribution to General Fund 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	524,750	0	524,750
Repairs Management 513,400	0	55,210	72,550	0	0	0	256,450	0	897,610
SUPERVISION & MANAGEMENT									
Aged Persons Management 310 844	228.770	6,850	123.280	C	C	C	91,150	C	760.894
	0	9.000	9.560	0 0	0 0		57,030	0	398.220
	525,720	12,150	208,180	0	0	685,850	181,170	0	1,794,270
s Management	45,210	3,240	26,880	0	0	0	50,700	0	257,180
	0	520	1,010	0	0	0	5,650	0	23,710
ANCE									
Rents, Rates, Taxed and Insurance 18,700	321,220	0	52,290	0	0	0	0	0	392,210
SUPPORT & TRADING SERVICES Housing Services Administration 211,670	0	5,550	150,490	0	0	(437,930)	66,300	0	(3,920)
HOUSING REPAIRS FUND	5,500,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,500,000
CHARGES FOR CAPITAL/RCCO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,403,000	2,403,000
HRA Subsidy Payable	0	0	0	8,229,580	0	0	0	0	8,229,580
DEPRECIATION	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7,638,280	7,638,280
DEBT MANAGEMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	47,920	47,920
PROV. FOR BAD & DOUBTFUL DEBTS	75,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	75,000
TOTAL 2,935,594	6,733,480	142,980	957,140	8,229,580	0	247,920	2,382,940	9,968,960	31,598,594

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HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT 2006/07 SUBJECTIVE ANALYSIS

				REVENIL	HOLISING REVENILE ACCOLINE 2007/08	r 2007/08				
			S	SUBJECTIVE	E ANALYSIS	S				
BUDGET	Employee Expenses	Premises Related Expenses	Transport Related Expenses	Supplies and Services	Third Party Payments	Internally Recharged	Contracted Services	Support Services	Capital Financing Costs	Gross Revenue Expenditure
SUPERVISION & MANAGEMENT		બ	બ	щ	બ	બ	બ	બ	બ	ત્મ
GENERAL Business Browings Admin	c	76 AEO	c	5 2EO	c	c	c	010 001	c	011 010
Business Premises Admin Rent Accounting & Collection	0 229.650	004:07	0 8 480	0,350 40,610				180,340 217 420		212,140 496_160
Waiting Lists & Allocations	191,340	0	6,110	64,210	0	0	0	72,270	0	333,930
Sale of Council Houses	35,830	0	490	7,550	0	0	0	117,330	(112,840)	48,360
Policy & Management	147,150	0 0	4,940	64,590	0 0	0	0 0	66,950	0 0	283,630
Capital Monitoring	30,040	0 0	1,790	1,970 96 500	00	0 0	0 0	42,980 274 620	0 0	76,780
Managing renancies Hso Man Support Servs	400,720 124 330		7 290	7 260				100 820		239.700
Comp.Costs New Hsg.Svstem	0	0	0	7,180	0	0	0	0	0	7,180
Tenants Compacts	44,270	0	1,670	14,860	0	0	0	15,040	0	75,840
Contribution to General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	456,500	0	456,500
Repairs Management	561,980	0	58,040	51,650	0	0	0	238,180	0	909,850
SUPERVISION & MANAGEMENT										
SPECIAL Acod Borrows Management	<u> </u>	022 020	007 3		c	c	c	06.140	C	090 002
Aged Persons Management	346,900	011,212	0,420	0,000				57 170		122,200 122 060
Special Items	190.270	609.410	12.100	3,020 166.330			692.340	185.160		1.855.610
Homelessness Management	134.900	53.050	3.390	27,060		0		45.930	0 0	264.330
Homelessness Support	19,470		620	1,150	0	0	0	5,670	0	26,910
RENTS, RATES TAXES AND INSURANCE					•		•			
Rents, Rates, Taxed and Insurance	15,736	274,670	0	44,031	0	0	0	0	0	334,437
Housing Services Administration	213,680	0	5,620	151,120	0	0	(435,250)	61,540	0	(3,290)
HOUSING REPAIRS FUND	0	5,700,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,700,000
CHARGES FOR CAPITAL/RCCO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,000,000	2,000,000
HRA Subsidy Payable	0	0	0	0	8,867,690	0	0	0	0	8,867,690
DEPRECIATION	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7,667,360	7,667,360
DEBT MANAGEMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	47,100	47,100
PROV. FOR BAD & DOUBTFUL DEBTS	0	75,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	75,000
TOTAL	3,049,916	7,011,350	147,510	872,831	8,867,690	0	257,090	2,233,360	9,601,620	32,041,367

LEISURE & YOUNG PEOPLE PORTFOLIO ESTIMATES 2007/08

Revenue Budget 2007/08

Introduction

The Leisure Portfolio is responsible for the following services;

Leisure Facilities (sports centres and swimming pools) Community Arts Events, Museum and Libraries Parks and Grounds North Weald Centre Sports Development Activities

Further details of the services and the related CSB growth and DDF items are shown on the appropriate budget page.

Capital Charges

In previous years accounting standards have required that a notional charge be made to service revenue accounts to reflect the cost of fixed assets used in the provision of services. These charges were then reversed through the asset management revenue account so that they had no effect on the Council Tax. The latest version of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) that local authorities are required to follow in producing their budgets and accounts has removed the requirement for capital charges and the asset management revenue account.

Compliance with CIPFA Standards

The budget has been prepared in accordance with the latest CIPFA guidance, in particular the Best Value Accounting Code of Practice 2005. The code of practice has the status of statutory "proper practice". It is also expected that members of CIPFA will comply with all the requirements of the Code as it defines best professional practice in terms of financial reporting. The only divergence from the code in these budget papers occurs where the portfolio service groupings differ from those required by the Code of Practice. The portfolio groupings are given precedence in these papers.

Budget format

The format of the attached budget papers is the same as that adopted last year. The summary page is split into three groups: Direct Services, Regulatory Services and Support & Trading Services. Not all portfolios will have all three types of service grouping.

Direct Services - These are self-explanatory and reflect the headline services provided by the portfolio.

Regulatory Services –The Cabinet has no part to play in the exercise of regulatory functions such as planning and licencing. However the Cabinet is responsible for the totality of the Council's budget. The costs of the regulatory functions therefore have been included in the relevant portfolio budgets.

Support and Trading Services - Responsibility for support services and trading arrangements has been split across a number of portfolios. In order to be transparent about the costs associated with these areas, they have been included in the relevant portfoliios. However the net cost of these services is recharged to the direct and regulatory functions, either within the same portfolio or across a number of portfolios. To avoid double counting, these costs are reversed out, in order to show the net cost of the portfolio.

The summary page includes the traditional re-analysis of the budget in terms of its opening Continuing Services Budget, CSB growth and savings, and District Development Fund expenditure and savings.

General Fund Estimate Summary

2005/06 Actual £000	2006 Original Estimate £000	/07 Revised Estimate £000		Gross Expend £000	2007/08 Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000
			Direct Services			
3,036	2,298	2,247	Leisure Facilities	2,036	183	1,853
685	746	741	Arts, Museum & Library	794	21	773
604	668	672	Parks & Grounds	697	2	695
(597)	(493)	(415)	North Weald Centre	850	1,308	(458)
528	665	629	Sports Development & Other Miscellaneous Amenities	780	83	697
4,256	3,884	3,874	Total (Transferred to GF Summary)	5,157	1,597	3,560
			Support and Trading Services			
366	366	405	Leisure Services Administration	416	0	416
216	206	179	Leisure Contracts	183	0	183
(392)	(385)	(416)	Recharged to this Portfolio	(423)	0	(423)
(190)	(187)	(168)	Recharged to other Portfolio's	(176)	0	(176)
0	0	0	Total	0	0	0
4,256	3,884	3,874	Portfolio Total	5,157	1,597	3,560

4,256	3,884	3,874	Portfolio Total	3,560
178	523	547	_ Total District Development Fund	108
(166)	(94)	(45)	District Development Fund - Savings	(30)
344	617	592	District Development Fund - Expenditure	138
4,078	3,361	3,327	_ Total Continuing Services Budget	3,452
(108)	(218)	(218)	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	(60)
279	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	10
3,907	3,579	3,545	Continuing Services Budget	3,502

Development Fund and Growth Items

CSB Growth Items		Original 2006/07 £000's	Revised 2006/07 £000's	Original 2007/08 £000's
Leisure Facilities	Alternative Management	(152)	(152)	
Leisure Facilities	Leisure Support Service Savings	(66)	(66)	
Leisure Services	Increased energy costs			10
Leisure Facilities	SLM income share			(50)
Leisure Facilities	Revision of Joint Use Waltham Abbey			(10)
	Sportscentre			

(218)

(218)

(50)

Development Fund Items		Original 2006/07 £000's	Revised 2006/07 £000's	Original 2007/08 £000's
Leisure Facilities	Alternative Management	513	507	151
Community Development	Provision of Portakabin at Limes Farm		8	7
Museum	Community Venues Outreach Pilot Project	10	10	
North Weald Airfield	High Voltage Distribution Network 5yr Prog		5	
North Weald Airfield	Scouts Jamboree			(50)
Sports Development	Active for Life Programme	18		
Sports Development	Active for Life Programme	(18)		
Sports Development	Beyond Surburbia		25	
Sports Development	Beyond Surburbia		(25)	
Sports Development	Additional Projects	30		30
Sports Development	Additional Projects	(30)		(30)
Arts Programme	Additional Projects	20	20	20
Arts Programme	Additional Projects	(20)	(20)	(20)
Roding Valley Development	Remedial Works to Fisherman's Car Park		7	
Waltham Abbey Sportscentre	Installation disabled toilet		10	
		523	547	108

Leisure Facilities

Loughton Leisure Centre

Under the terms of the contract with SLM Ltd there is a reduction of £92,000 in the Management Fee due in the second year of the contract. This is partly offset by an increase in support service allocations.

Waltham Abbey Swimming Pool

Under the terms of the contract with SLM Ltd there is a reduction of £41,000 in the Management Fee due in the second year on the contract, this is partly offset by an increase in support service allocations.

Epping Sports Centre

Central Telephone recharges have increased by £8,000

Waltham Abbey Sports Centre

The increase in net expenditure between the original and revised 2006/07 is due to a slight increase in staff costs. In addition a DDF item of £10,000 has been included for the provision of a disabled toilet. CSB Savings is included in 2007/08 for revision of the joint use contract.

Ongar Sports Centre

Under the terms of the contract with SLM Ltd there is a reduction of £231,000 in the Management Fee due in the second year on the contract, the increase building maintenance costs totals £18,000

All Leisure Centres

obliged to pay a percentage of income received to the Council. This has been estimated at £50,000 in 2007/08.

Alternative Leisure Management

This budget was created to cover the expenditure for the set-up costs for alternative management for Leisure Services. The £3,000 budget provided under the revised estimate for 2006/07 is for a few residual

All Weather Pitch

The revised 2006/07 budget includes an increase in support service allocations for leisure administration and community & culture, this has occurred due to revised staff allocations. The 2007/08 budget has decreased as Epping Forest District Council has agreed a 10 year service agreement with the school.

2005/06 Actual £000	2006 Original Estimate £000	6/07 Revised Estimate £000		Gross Expend £000	2007/08 Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000
711	420	370	Loughton Leisure Centre	289	30	259
677	610	596	Waltham Abbey Swimming Pool	568	10	558
612	226	227	Epping Sports Centre	235	5	230
337	346	360	Waltham Abbey Sports Centre	473	133	340
571	677	660	Ongar Sports Centre	451	5	446
57	0	0	Loughton Leisure Centre Development	0	0	0
15	0	2	Alternative Leisure Management	0	0	0
56	19	32	All Weather Pitch	20	0	20
3,036	2,298	2,247	Total (Transferred to Summary)	2,036	183	1,853

3,036	2,298	2,247	_ Portfolio Total	1,853
148	513	517	Total District Development Fund	151
(109)	0	0	District Development Fund - Savings	0
257	513	517	District Development Fund - Expenditure	151
2,888	1,785	1,730	Total Continuing Services Budget	1,702
(49)	(218)	(218)	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	(60)
273	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	0
2,664	2,003	1,948	Continuing Services Budget	1,762

Arts, Museum and Library

Community Arts

The major variation on this budget is due to an increase of £15,000 in support service salary allocations.

Arts Projects

There are no variations to report on this budget.

Museum

The major variance on this budget relates to an increase of £10,000 depreciation in 2007/08, following the completion of the new redisplay programme.

Arts, Museum & Library

2005/06 Actual £000	2006 Original Estimate £000	Revised		Gross Expend £000	2007/08 Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000
303	322	319	Community Arts	340	0	340
35	31	32	Arts Programme	44	12	32
347	393	390	Museum	410	9	401
685	746	741	Total (Transferred to Summary)	794	21	773

685	736	731	Continuing Services Budget	771
0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	2
0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
685	736	731	Total Continuing Services Budget	773
0	56	30	District Development Fund - Expenditure	0
0	(46)	(20)	District Development Fund - Savings	0
0	10	10	Total District Development Fund	0
685	746	741	Portfolio Total	773

Parks and Grounds

Open Spaces Maintenance

The increase in Open Spaces costs in 2007/08 relate to increases in nursery and support service recharges.

Contribution to HRA

The contribution to the HRA is made to offset the cost of maintenance of the grassed areas within council estates, this increases in 2007/08 by £8,000.

Tree Maintenance

There are no significant variances to report.

Roding Valley Development

The increase in budget from original 2006/07 to revised 2006/07 is due to a DDF item of £7,000 for resurfacing and maintenance at the Fishermans car park. There is a slight increase overall in support services of £1,000 from original 2006/07 to 2007/08.

Charity Accounts

This relates to open space at Chigwell Row and Lindisfield; these are owned by charities, of which this Council is the trustee. The only financial transaction between the General Fund and the charities is a grant to finance ongoing expenditure. Overall, expenditure has increased slightly due to inflation increases only.

Parks & Grounds

2005/06 Actual £000	2006 Original Estimate £000	5/07 Revised Estimate £000		Gross Expend £000	2007/08 Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000
186	203	206	Open Spaces Maintenance	220	1	219
235	285	283	Contribution to HRA	293	0	293
75	65	61	Tree Maintenance	65	0	65
63	60	68	Roding Valley Development	63	1	62
45	55	54	Charity Accounts	56	0	56
604	668	672	Total (Transferred to Summary)	697	2	695

604	668	665	Continuing Services Budget	695
0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	0
0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
604	668	665	Total Continuing Services Budget	695
0	0	7	District Development Fund - Expenditure	0
0	0	0	District Development Fund - Savings	0
0	0	7	Total District Development Fund	0
604	668	672	Portfolio Total	695

North Weald Centre

North Weald Airfield

There is an increase in electricity, salaries and support service allocations within this budget. 2007/08 includes the DDF item for income relating to the Scouts Jamboree.

North Weald Gymnasium

The main variation to report in this area is that the depreciation charges have increased.

North Weald Centre

2005/06	2006	6/07			2007/08	
Actual £000	Original Estimate £000	Revised Estimate £000		Gross Expend £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000
(612)	(502)	(429)	North Weald Airfield	837	1,308	(471)
15	9	14	North Weald Gymnasium	13	0	13
(597)	(493)	(415)	Total (Transferred to Summary)	850	1,308	(458)

(56	66)	(493)	(420)	Continuing Services Budget	(416)
	6	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	8
(5	59)	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
(61	9)	(493)	(420)	Total Continuing Services Budget	(408)
5	52	0	5	District Development Fund - Expenditure	(50)
(3	<i>30)</i>	0		District Development Fund - Savings	0
2	22	0	5	Total District Development Fund	(50)
(59	97)	(493)	(415)	Portfolio Total	(458)

Sports Development and Other Miscellaneous Amenities

Leisure Marketing & Promotion

Salary Allocations have reduced slightly in both 2006/07 and 2007/08.

Lifewalks

Salary Allocations have increased slightly in both 2006/07 and 2007/08.

New Horizons

The main variance for the budget is a decrease in income, this results in an overall increase in the budget from original 2006/07 to revised 2006/07. There are no significant changes from the original 2006/07 to original 2007/08 budgets.

Sports Development

Staff costs and recharges have increased due to the restructure of Leisure Services. The expected income generated has decreased in 2007/08 by £4,000.

Community Development

The main variation between the original and revised 2006/07 and between the 2006/07 and 2007/08 budgets are due to premises costs. The original 2006/07 cost of the refurbishment works at the Community Portacabin at Limes Farm was reduced from £24,000 to £15,000, then the £15,000 was split over revised 2006/07 of £8,000 and original 2007/08 of £7,000.

Youth Strategy

In 2006/07 vacant posts have resulted in a revised budget significantly lower than the original. In 2007/08 the vacancies are assumed to be filled and it is expected that Youth Activites will resume to the level budgeted for.

2005/06 Actual £000	2006 Original Estimate £000	5/07 Revised Estimate £000		Gross Expend £000	2007/08 Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000
83	99	95	Leisure Marketing & Promotion	96	0	96
28	30	33	Lifewalks	45	5	39
46	50	54	New Horizons	85	38	48
126	147	142	Sports Development	175	16	159
219	265	245	Community Development	285	24	261
26	74	60	Youth Strategy	94	0	94
528	665	629	Total (Transferred to Summary)	780	83	697

Sports Development & Other Miscellaneous Amenities

_	528	665	629	Portfolio Total	697
_	8	0	8	Total District Development Fund	7
	(27)	(48)	(25)	District Development Fund - Savings	(30)
	35	48	33	District Development Fund - Expenditure	37
_	520	665	621	Total Continuing Services Budget	690
	0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
	0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	0
	520	665	621	Continuing Services Budget	690

Leisure & Young People

Support and Trading Services

Leisure Services Administration

The variation between the original and revised estimates is due primarily to the changes in Leisure Services as a result of the SLM Ltd contract. Some administrative staff originally accounted for under Leisure Contracts are now accounted for here.

Leisure Contracts

The changes to Leisure Services has resulted in a reduction of costs here however an increase is shown above under Swervice Administration.

Leisure & Young People

Support & Trading Services

2005/06 Actual £000	2006 Original Estimate £000	5/07 Revised Estimate £000		Gross Expend £000	2007/08 Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000
366	366	405	Leisure Services Administration	416	0	416
216	206	179	Leisure Contracts	183	0	183
582	572	584	Total (Transferred to Summary)	599	0	599

582	638	584	Continuing Services Budget	599
0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	0
0	(66)	0	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
 582	572	584	Total Continuing Services Budget	599
0	0	0	District Development Fund - Expenditure	0
0	0	0	District Development Fund - Savings	0
 0	0	0	Total District Development Fund	0
 582	572	584	Portfolio Total	599

			LEISURE		OUNG PEOPLE PORTFO SUBJECTIVE ANALYSIS	LE POR	& YOUNG PEOPLE PORTFOLIO 2007/08 SUBJECTIVE ANALYSIS	2007/08					
BUDGET	Employee Expenses	Premises Related Expenses	Transport Related Expenses	Supplies and Services	Contracted Services	Support Services	Depreciation Charges	Internally Recharged	Gross Revenue Expenditure	Fees and Charges	Rental Income	Grants & Reimb Other	Net Revenue Expenditure
	મ	બ	ч	ч	બ	બ	મ	બ	ч	ч	બ	બ	બ
Leisure Facilities Loughton Leisure Centre Development Wattham Abbey Swimming Pool Epping Sports Centre Wattham Abbey Sports Centre Ongar Sports Centre LLC - Development Alternative Management All Weather Pitch	990 980 980 261,500 990 5,100	39,510 15,750 17,990 43,330 19,160	60 60 61,480 60 320	17,350 3,370 9,060 80,200 2,940 180	53,820 446,160 138,320 347,360	39,230 32,600 35,330 83,570 32,170 32,170	138,310 68,530 33,350 47,720 10,800		289,270 567,450 235,090 473,080 450,400 6 20,300	30,000 10,000 5,000 133,050 5,000			259,270 557,450 230,090 340,030 445,400 20,300
Arts, Museum & Library Community Arts Arts Programme Arts Additional Projects Museum Museum - Oral History Project	206,690 2,180 206,780	1,030	13,000 920 7,670	15,580 40,100 43,330		104,280 74,520	16,560		339,550 44,230 0 409,850			12,420 8,660	339,550 31,810 0 401,190 0
Broadband Pliot Project Parks & Grounds Playgrounds & Open Spaces Contribution to HRA Tree Service Roding Valley Development Charity Accounts	9,540	199,810 292,610 43,610 7,630	1,010	1,480 310 29,450 56,800		18,650 21,420 15,270 0			0 219,940 65,340 62,900 56,800		650	1,440 200	0 218,500 292,610 65,140 62,250 56,800
North Weald Centre North Weald Centre North Weald Gymnasium	331,430	256,380	21,390	65,910		156,250 2,910	5,990 9,780		837,350 12,690	1,307,470		1,300	(471,420) 12,690
Sports Development & Other Miscellaneous Amenities Leisure Marketing & Promotion Lifewalks New Horizons Community Development Sports Development Youth Strategy Youth Strategy Summer Programme Beyond Suburbia	9,180 25,890 37,790 143,390 82,400 41,360	6,300 20,670	580 1,000 6,780 4,690 2,610	25,080 6,650 16,350 22,450 24,090 12,430		61,150 11,890 24,210 90,890 63,470 37,690	580		95,990 45,430 85,650 284,760 174,650 94,090 94,090	4,900 38,190 22,770 15,530		1,000	95,990 40,530 47,460 260,990 159,120 94,090 94,090
Support and Trading Services Leisure Administration Leisure Contracts									00				00
TOTAL	1,367,170	1,024,770	65,690	473,110	985,660	909,400	331,620	0	5,157,420	1,571,910	650	25,020	3,559,840

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CIVIL ENGINEERING AND MAINTENANCE PORTFOLIO

ESTIMATES 2007/08

Revenue Budget 2007/08

Introduction

The Portfolio is responsible for the following services.

Highways Car & Lorry Parking Land Drainage & Sewerage Support & Trading Services

Further detail of the services and the related CSB growth and DDF items are shown on the appropriate budget page.

Capital Charges

In previous years accounting standards have required that a notional charge be made to service revenue accounts to reflect the cost of fixed assets used in the provision of services. These charges were then reversed through the asset management revenue account so that they had no effect on the Council Tax.

The latest version of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) that local authorities are required to follow in producing their budgets and accounts has removed the requirement for capital charges and the asset management revenue account.

Compliance with CIPFA Standards

The budget has been prepared in accordance with the latest CIPFA guidance, in particular the Best Value Accounting Code of Practice 2005. The code of practice has the status of statutory "proper practice". It is also expected that members of CIPFA will comply with all the requirements of the Code as it defines best professional practice in terms of financial reporting. The only divergence from the code in these budget papers occurs where the portfolio service groupings differ from those required by the Code of Practice. The portfolio groupings are given precedence in these papers.

Budget format

The format of the attached budget papers is the same as that adopted last year. The summary page is split into three groups: Direct Services, Regulatory Services and Support & Trading Services. Not all portfolios will have all three types of service grouping.

Direct Services – These are self-explanatory and reflect the headline services provided by the portfolio. **Regulatory Services** – Under the constitution, the Cabinet has no part to play in the exercise of regulatory functions such as planning and licensing. However the Cabinet is responsible for the totality of the Council's budget. The costs of the regulatory functions therefore have been included in the appropriate portfolio budgets.

Support and Trading Services - The arrangements have led to a situation where responsibility for support services and DSO type arrangements has been split across a number of portfolios. In order to be transparent about the costs associated with these areas, they have been included in the relevant portfolios. However the net cost of these services is recharged to the direct and regulatory functions, either within the same portfolio or across a number of portfolios. Therefore to avoid double counting the costs are reversed out so as to arrive back at the true net cost of the portfolio.

The summary page then includes the traditional re-analysis of the budget in terms of its' opening Continuing Services Budget, CSB growth and savings, and District Development Fund expenditure and savings.

General Fund Estimate Summary

2005/06 Actual £000's	Original	6/07 Revised Estimate £000's		Gross Expend £000's	2007/08 Gross Income £000's	Net Expend £000's
			Direct Services			
546	450	503	Highways	687	143	544
(492)	(375)	(413)	Car & Lorry Parking	1,062	1,502	(440)
614	737	602	Land Drainage & Sewerage	907	50	857
668	812	692	Total (Transferred to GF Summary)	2,656	1,695	961
			Support and Trading Services			
335	343	299	Building Services	346	0	346
815	938	872	Grounds Maintenance	1,083	145	938
240	264	245	Civil Engineering	307	23	284
228	260	196	Fleet Operations	372	165	207
(384)	(442)	(448)	Recharged To This Portfolio	(615)	(91)	(524)
(1,234)	(1,363)	(1,164)	Recharged To Other Portfolio's	0	1,251	(1,251)
0	0	0	Total	1,493	1,493	0
668	812	692	Portfolio Total	4,149	3,188	961
509	643	597	Continuing Services Budget			691
30	27	31	Continuing Services Budget - Growth			80
(28)	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Savings		_	(45)
511	670	628	Total Continuing Services Budget		-	726
166	192	117	Development Fund - Expenditure			285
(9)	(50)	(53)	Development Fund - Savings			(50)
157	142	64	Total District Development Fund		-	235
668	812	692	Portfolio Total		-	961

CSB Growth Items		Original 2006/07 £000's	Revised 2006/07 £000's	Original 2007/08 £000's
Off Street Car Parking	Free Car Parking Waltham Abbey	20	20	
Off Street Car Parking	Free Saturday Parking			75
Off Street Car Parking	Increased Income			(45)
Civil Engineering	Land Drainage QA Maintenance	7	7	
Grounds Maint./Parking	Energy cost increase		4	5
		27	31	35

Development Fund Ite	ms	Original 2006/07 £000's	Revised 2006/07 £000's	Original 2007/08 £000's
Grounds Maintenance	New IT System		10	
Grounds Maintenance	New IT System (part funding from HRA)		(3)	
Land Drainage	Senior Engineer (2 years)	50	50	50
Land Drainage	Reimbursem't from Environment Agency	(50)	(50)	(50)
Land Drainage	Remedial Works to Water Courses	100	1	199
Off Street Car Parking	Signage re Free Saturday Parking		10	
Highways	Residual Costs	42	46	36
	-	142	64	235

Highways

Highways Residual Costs

The Agency arrangements with Essex County Council (ECC) ceased on 31 March 2005. The costs are for office accommodation and support services from the transfer of staff to the Harlow regional office.

Highways - General Fund

The increases mainly relate to increased depreciation charges as a result of the completion of various Town Centre Enhancement schemes.

Highways

2005/06 Actual £000's	Original	6/07 Revised Estimate £000's		Gross Expend £000's	2007/08 Gross Income £000's	Net Expend £000's
124	42	46	Highways Agency Residual Cost	36	0	36
422	408	457	Highways General Fund	651	143	508
546	450	503	Portfolio Total	687	143	544

	421	408	457	Continuing Services Budget	508
	0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	0
	0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
	421	408	457	Total Continuing Services Budget	508
	125	42	46	Development Fund - Expenditure	36
	0	0	0	Development Fund - Savings	0
	125	42	46	Total District Development Fund	36
_	546	450	503	Portfolio Total	544

Car and Lorry Parking

Car and Lorry Parking

In 2007/08 there is CSB growth of £75,000 in respect of introducing free Saturday parking at selected car parks within the District. However this is offset by a CSB saving of £45,000 extra parking income, from the revised tariff scheme. Included in the 2006/07 estimates is a DDF item of £10,000 in respect of signage regarding the free Saturday parking.

Car & Lorry Parking

2005/06 Actual £000's	Original	6/07 Revised Estimate £000's		Gross Expend £000's	2007/08 Gross Income £000's	Net Expend £000's
(492)	(375)	(413)	Car & Lorry Parking Off Street	622	1,062	(440)
0	0	0	Car & Lorry Parking On Street	440	440	0
(492)	(375)	(413)	Portfolio Total	1,062	1,502	(440)

(49	9) (3	95) (44	Continuing Services Budget	(471)
2	29	20 2	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	76
(2	8)	0	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	(45)
(49	8) (3)	75) (42:	Total Continuing Services Budget	(440)
	6	0 10	Development Fund - Expenditure	0
	0	0	Development Fund - Savings	0
	6	0 10	Total District Development Fund	0
(49	2) (3)	75) (41:	– Portfolio Total –	(440)

Land Drainage & Sewerage

Flood Defence & Land Drainage

Due to a programme of remedial works to watercourses being delayed to 2007/08, the time allocation of Design Division staff has been adjusted, resulting in lower costs in the revised 2006/07 estimates. The works involved are now scheduled to begin in 2007/08, resulting in an increase in costs between 2006/07 and 2007/08.

Land Drainage & Sewerage

2005/06 Actual £000's	Original	6/07 Revised Estimate £000's		Gross Expend £000's	2007/08 Gross Income £000's	Net Expend £000's
447	569	429	Flood Defence & Land Drainage	733	50	683
27	25	28	Sewerage	28	0	28
140	143	145	Drainage Clearance Enforcement	146	0	146
614	737	602	Portfolio Total	907	50	857

614	637	601	Continuing Services Budget	658
0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	0
0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
614	637	601	Total Continuing Services Budget	658
0	150	51	Development Fund - Expenditure	249
0	(50)	(50)	Development Fund - Savings	(50)
0	100	1	Total District Development Fund	199
614	737	602	Portfolio Total	857

Support and Trading Services

Building Services

Fluctuations in estimates relate to staff turnover within this group.

Grounds Maintenance

The revised estimate for 2006/07 contains a DDF item of £10,000 for a new IT system.

This amount formed part of the carry over from 2005/06; however part of the costs will be met by the HRA. Delays in recruitment have generated savings on staff-related costs of £93,000 in 2006/07.

Civil Engineering

Fluctuations in estimates relate to staff turnover within this group.

Fleet Operations

Insurance premiums have reduced considerably due to a revision in the contract and lower amount of claims since the refuse freighters were returned to the finance companies at the end of their leases.

Support and Trading Services

2005/06 Actual £000's	Original	6/07 Revised Estimate £000's		Gross Expend £000's	2007/08 Gross Income £000's	Net Expend £000's
335	343	299	Building Services	346	0	346
815	938	872	Grounds Maintenance	1,083	145	938
240	264	245	Civil Engineering	307	23	284
228	260	196	Fleet Operations	372	165	207
1,618	1,805	1,612	Portfolio Total	2,108	333	1,775

	1,591	1,798	1,595	Continuing Services Budget	1,771
	1	7	10	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	4
	0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
_	1,592	1,805	1,605	Total Continuing Services Budget	1,775
	35	0	10	Development Fund - Expenditure	0
	(9)	0	(3)	Development Fund - Savings	0
_	26	0	7	Total District Development Fund	0
_	1,618	1,805	1,612	Portfolio Total	1,775

CIVIL ENGINEERING & MAINTENANCE SUBJECTIVE ANALYSIS 2007/08

Expenditure (440,140) 0 35,870 508,540 683,040 27,840 145,860 Revenue 961,010 Net 4 22,000 0 . . . 0 0 0000 22,000 Rents 4 1,039,850 440,230 160 145,480 22,920 165,000 142,930 000 0 1,956,570 Charges Fees and 4 Reimburse 0 0 50,000 0 0 0000 50,000 0 0 Agency from 41 Expenditure 35,870 651,470 621,710 440,230 733,040 27,840 145,860 160 145,480 22,920 165,000 2,989,580 Revenue Gross 4 Recharged (135,630) (346,100) (938,190) (283,560) (206,910) (1,910,390) 0 0 0 000 Internally 41 Charges 321,710 0 0 95,400 23,420 3,760 0 0 0 0 0 199,130 Dep'n 41 347,950 27,840 31,580 Services 35,660 104,290 54,790 65,570 667,680 Support 4 Contracted 309,110 412,760 00 284,590 0 0 0000 1,006,460 External Services 41 Supplies Expenses Expenses Services 218,930 22,660 32,730 76,010 210 15,840 4,720 6,240 12,800 29,030 0 18,690 and 4 Employee Premises Transport Expenses Related Related 7,350 9,780 150,540 17,600 116,980 3,480 0 0 6,670 6,080 318,480 0 41 309,420 187,120 1,000 380 00 0 9,500 0 0 0 507,420 4 19,310 40,680 54,020 824,200 276,080 222,140 320,900 0 0 0 101,960 1,859,290 41 **Drainage Clearance Enforcement** SUPPORT & TRADING SERVICES **Highways Agency Residual Cost -AND DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE** Flood Defence & Land Drainage CAR & LORRY PARKING Off Street **Highways General Fund Grounds Maintenance** BUDGET **Building Services Civil Engineering** Fleet Operations HIGHWAYS Sewerage On Street TOTAL PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO ESTIMATES 2007/08

Revenue Budget 2007/08

Introduction

The Planning & Economic Development Portfolio is responsible for the following services:

Economic Development & Tourism Bus Shelters Countrycare Conservation Policy Forward Planning Planning Appeals Development Control Building Control Support & Trading Services

Further detail of the services and the related CSB growth and DDF items are shown on the appropriate budget page.

Capital Charges

In previous years accounting standards have required that a notional charge be made to service revenue accounts to reflect the cost of fixed assets used in the provision of services. These charges were then reversed through the asset management revenue account so that they had no effect on the Council Tax. The latest version of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) that local authorities are required to follow in producing their budgets and accounts has removed the requirement for capital charges and the asset management revenue account.

Compliance with CIPFA Standards

The budget has been prepared in accordance with the latest CIPFA guidance; in particular the Best Value Accounting Code of Practice 2006 The code of practice has the status of statutory "proper practice". It is also expected that members of CIPFA will comply with all the requirements of the Code as it defines best professional practice in terms of financial reporting. The only divergence from the code in these budget papers occurs where the portfolio service groupings differ from those required by the Code of Practice. The portfolio groupings are given precedence in these papers.

Budget format

The format of the attached budget papers is the same as that adopted last year. The summary page is split into three groups: Direct Services, Regulatory Services and Support & Trading Services. Not all portfolios will have all three types of service grouping.

Direct Services - these are self-explanatory and reflect the headline services provided by the portfolio.

Regulatory Services –The Cabinet has no part to play in the exercise of regulatory functions such as planning and licensing. However the Cabinet is responsible for the totality of the Council's budget. The costs of the regulatory functions therefore have been included in the appropriate portfolio budgets.

Support and Trading Services -Responsibility for support services and trading type arrangements has been split across a number of portfolios. In order to be transparent about the costs associated with these areas, they have been included in the relevant portfolios. However the net cost of these services is recharged to the direct and regulatory functions, either within the same portfolio or across a number of portfolios. Therefore to avoid double counting the costs are reversed out so as to arrive back at the true net cost of the portfolio.

The summary page then includes the traditional re-analysis of the budget in terms of its' opening Continuing Services Budget, CSB growth and savings, and District Development Fund expenditure and savings.

2005/06 Actual £000	2000 Original Estimate £000	5/07 Revised Estimate £000		Gross Expend £000	2007/08 Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000
			Direct Services			
110	130	90	Economic Development	101	0	101
17	18	20	Public Transport Support	20	0	20
194	214	202	Countrycare	220	20	200
186	217	195	Conservation Policy	224	0	224
4	0	0	Waltham Abbey Hers Scheme	0	0	0
365	718	511	Forward Planning	630	3	627
876	1,297	1,018	Total Direct Services	1,195	23	1,172
			Regulatory Services			
290	255	248	Planning Appeals	252	0	252
390	596	529	Development Control Enforcement	615	2	613
620	654	620	Development Control	994	582	412
0	0	0	Building Control Fee Earning	625	625	0
130	140	158	Building Control Non Fee Earning	162	0	162
1,430	1,645	1,555	Total Regulatory Services	2,648	1,209	1,439
2,306	2,942	2,573	Total (Transferred to GF Summary)	3,843	1,232	2,611
			Support and Trading Services			
209	214	441	Planning Administration	522	1	521
(173)	(177)	(414)	Recharged to this Portfolio	(493)	(1)	(492)
(36)	(37)	(27)	Recharged to other Portfolios	(28)		(28)
0	0	0	Total	0	0	(0)
2,306	2,942	2,573	Portfolio Total	3,843	1,232	2,611

General Fund Estimate Summary

2,3	806	2,942	2,573	Portfolio Total	2,611
1	92	545	362	Total District Development Fund	349
(2	27)	(72)	(153)	District Development Fund - Savings	(15)
4	19	617	515	District Development Fund - Expenditure	364
2,1	14	2,397	2,211	Total Continuing Services Budget	2,262
((65)	(18)	(45)	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	(9)
	27	76	117	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	14
2,1	52	2,339	2,139	Continuing Services Budget	2,257

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Development Fund & Growth Items

		Original 2006/07 £000's	Revised 2006/07 £000's	Original 2007/08 £000's
CSB Growth Items				
Planning Services Planning Services	Restructure Building Control Ring Fence Additional Income	76 (18)	90 (18)	
Building Control Building Control Tourism Promotion	Building Control Ring Fence Account End of Section 106		(27) 27	(9) 9 5
		58	72	5
		Original 2006/07 £000's	Revised 2006/07 £000's	Original 2007/08 £000's
Development Fund Items				
Forward Planning	Alteration to Local Plan plus Temporary Local Plan Officer	237	103	160
Forward Planning Development Control Development Control	High Hedges Legislation - Staffing New IT System Agency Staff	25	10 53 24	18
Building Control Building Control	New IT System New IT System		25 (25)	
Planning Services Planning Services	Planning Delivery Grant 1 Planning Delivery Grant 2	19 119	24 121	15 24
Planning Services	Planning Delivery Grant 2	(33)	(33)	
Planning Services Planning Services Planning Services	Planning Delivery Grant 3 Planning Delivery Grant 3 Planning Delivery Grant 4	39 (39)	73 (39) 56	10
Planning Services Planning Services	Planning Delivery Grant 4 Planning Delivery Grant 5		(56)	15
Planning Services Planning Services	Planning Delivery Grant 5 Scanning DDF	32	26	(15)
Enforcement Enforcement	Paynes Lane Traveller Incursion Temporary Staffing	122 24		122
		545	362	349

Planning Delivery Grant Income is allocated to the year when it is originally intended to be spent in order to match the income to the expenditure. If the expenditure is delayed or rephased the income relating to the delayed expenditure is credited to the DDF at the end of the year concerned. When the expenditure is actually incurred it can then be funded from the DDF like any other DDF item.

Direct Services

Economic Development

The variance between the original and revised estimates for 2006/07 relates to reduced salary costs as a result of the planning restructure and vacant posts. The 2007/08 budget takes into account the restructure and assumes that the vacancies will be filled.

The budget for Waltham Abbey Tourist Information centre increases from revised 2006/07 to original 2007/08 by £5,000. This is due to the section 106 contribution ending in 2006/07, CSB growth has therefore been included for 2007/08.

Bus Shelters

The increase in costs for 2006/07 relates to reallocated charges from the Parking Control Group. These costs will continue into 2007/08.

Countrycare

The 2006/07 revised estimates show a slight decrease on running expenses. There is no significant change in the budget for 2007/08.

Conservation Policy

The variance between the original and revised estimates for 2006/07 relates to reduced salary costs as a result of the planning restructure and vacant posts. The 2007/08 budget takes into account the restructure and assumes that the vacancies will be filled.

Forward Planning

The variation on this budget is mainly due to the re-phasing of DDF monies for work on the Local Plan amendment. Between the 2006/07 original and revised estimate a reduction of £270,000 to £103,000 has occurred. The variance also relates to reduced salary costs as a result of the planning restructure and vacant posts. The 2007/08 budget reflects the reduction in DDF from original 2006/07 to original 2007/08 from £270,000 to £160,000.

Direct Services

2005/06 Actual £000	2006 Original Estimate £000	5/07 Revised Estimate £000		Gross Expend £000	2007/08 Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000
99	119	79	Economic Development - General	85	0	85
11	11	11	Economic Development - Tourism	16	0	16
110	130	90	Total Economic Development	101	0	101
17	18	20	Bus Shelters	20	0	20
194	214	202	Countrycare	220	20	200
186	217	195	Conservation Policy	224	0	224
4	0	0	Waltham Abbey Hers Scheme	0	0	0
365	718	511	Forward Planning	630	3	627
876	1,297	1,018	Total (Transferred to Summary)	1,195	23	1,172

	852	898	902	Continuing Services Budget	940
	20	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	5
	0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
	872	898	902	Total Continuing Services Budget	945
	192	471	149	District Development Fund - Expenditure	242
	(188)	(72)	(33)	District Development Fund - Savings	(15)
_	4	399	116	Total District Development Fund	227
_	876	1,297	1,018	Portfolio Total	1,172

Regulatory Services

Planning Appeals

The revised 2006/07 budget shows a slight decrease in staff and support service costs. This trend continues into 2007/08.

Enforcement

The main variance relates to the transfer to 2007/08 of £122,000 relating to Paynes Lane from 2006/07. The other major variance is due to an increase in staff related costs.

Development Control

The main variance relates to staff related costs which have decreased due to revised staffing allocations for Development Control Group. The 2007/08 budget has decreased due to the new plannining system set up costs falling out of the budget.

Building Control

An increase in IT system recharges in 2006/07 is offset by an increase in income. Fees and charges were increased from 1st July 2006, a further inflationary increase is planned from 1st April 2007.

Regulatory Services

2005/06 Actual £000	2006 Original Estimate £000	5/07 Revised Estimate £000		Gross Expend £000	2007/08 Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000
290	255	248	Planning Appeals	252	0	252
390	596	529	Development Control Enforcement	615	2	613
620	654	620	Development Control	994	582	412
0	0	0	Building Control Fee Earning	625	625	0
130	140	158	Building Control Non Fee Earning	162	0	162
1,430	1,645	1,555	Total (Transferred to Summary)	2,648	1,209	1,439

1,300	1,441	1,319	Continuing Services Budget	1,317
7	76	27	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	9
(65)	(18)	(27)	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	(9)
 1,242	1,499	1,319	Total Continuing Services Budget	1,317
227	146	356	District Development Fund - Expenditure	122
(39)	0	(120)	District Development Fund - Savings	0
 188	146	236	Total District Development Fund	122
 1,430	1,645	1,555	Portfolio Total	1,439

Support & Trading Services

Planning Administration

Salary costs have increased from the Original to Revised 2006/07 estimates due to the planning restructure. Administration staff originally accounted for within Development Control and Forward Planning Groups have been centralised in the admin section as part of the restructure, therefore a large increase is shown here. The overall increase due to the restructure is £90,000.

Support & Trading Services

2005/06 Actual £000	2000 Original Estimate £000	5/07 Revised Estimate £000		Gross Expend £000	2007/08 Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000
209	214	441	Planning Administration	522	1	521
209	214	441	Total (Transferred to Summary)	522	1	521

209	214	359	Continuing Services Budget	521
0	0	90	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	0
0	0	(18)	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
209	214	431	Total Continuing Services Budget	521
0	0	10	District Development Fund - Expenditure	0
0	0	0	District Development Fund - Savings	0
0	0	10	Total District Development Fund	0
209	214	441	_ Portfolio Total	521

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO 2007/08 SUBJECTIVE ANALYSIS

BUDGET	Employee Expenses	Premises Related Expenses	Transport Related Expenses	Supplies and Services	Contracted Services	Support Services	Asset Rentals	Internally Recharged	Gross Revenue Expenditure	Fees and Charges	Grants & Reimb Other	Net Revenue Expenditure
	ધ	બ	ધ	મ	ત્મ	મ	£	ч	મ	£	£	બ
Direct Services Economic Development Tourism	41,880		1,620	20,180 15,000		21,420 860			85,100 15,860			85,100 15,860
Bus Shelters	4,960 130.310	9.790	11,530 13.120	870 28.870		2,850 37.530			20,210 219.620	130	19.540	20,080 200.080
Conservation Policy	117,270 301,290		4,540 11,670	56,570 180,980		45,590 135,740			223,970 629,680		2,700	223,970 626,980
↓ ★degulatory Services Planning Appeals Enforcement	106,290 252,410		5,180 12,360	40,530 137,290		100,590 212,620			252,590 614,680		2,000	252,590 612,680
Development Control Building Control Fee Earning Building Control Non Fee Earning	436,560 330,070 91,230		20,850 15,040 4,300	97,360 37,090 6,170	10 280	428,040 239,870 60,510	11,310 2,260		994,130 624,610 162,210	579,600 624,610	2,700	411,830 0 162,210
Support Services Planning Administration									0			0
TOTAL	1,812,270	9,790	100,210	620,910	067	1,285,620	13,570	0	3,842,660	1,204,340	26,940	2,611,380

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

ESTIMATES 2007/08

Revenue Budget 2007/08

Introduction

The Portfolio is responsible for the following services.

Environmental Health Waste Management Environmental Initiatives Support & Trading Services

Further detail of the services and the related CSB growth and DDF items are shown on the appropriate budget page.

Capital Charges

In previous years accounting standards have required that a notional charge be made to service revenue accounts to reflect the cost of fixed assets used in the provision of services. These charges were then reversed through the asset management revenue account so that they had no effect on the Council Tax.

The latest version of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) that local authorities are required to follow in producing their budgets and accounts has removed the requirement for capital charges and the asset management revenue account.

Compliance with CIPFA Standards

The budget has been prepared in accordance with the latest CIPFA guidance, in particular the Best Value Accounting Code of Practice 2005. The code of practice has the status of statutory "proper practice". It is also expected that members of CIPFA will comply with all the requirements of the Code as it defines best professional practice in terms of financial reporting. The only divergence from the code in these budget papers occurs where the portfolio service groupings differ from those required by the Code of Practice. The portfolio groupings are given precedence in these papers.

Budget format

The format of the attached budget papers is the same as that adopted last year. The summary page is split into three groups: Direct Services, Regulatory Services and Support & Trading Services. Not all portfolios will have all three types of service grouping.

Direct Services – These are self-explanatory and reflect the headline services provided by the portfolio. **Regulatory Services** – Under the constitution, the Cabinet has no part to play in the exercise of regulatory functions such as planning and licensing. However the Cabinet is responsible for the totality of the Council's budget. The costs of the regulatory functions therefore have been included in the appropriate portfolio budgets.

Support and Trading Services - The arrangements have led to a situation where responsibility for support services and DSO type arrangements has been split across a number of portfolios. In order to be transparent about the costs associated with these areas, they have been included in the relevant portfolios. However the net cost of these services is recharged to the direct and regulatory functions, either within the same portfolio or across a number of portfolios. Therefore to avoid double counting the costs are reversed out so as to arrive back at the true net cost of the portfolio. Page 176

The summary page then includes the traditional re-analysis of the budget in terms of its' opening Continuing Services Budget, CSB growth and savings, and District Development Fund expenditure and savings.

General Fund Estimate Summary

2005/06 Actual £000's	Original	6/07 Revised Estimate £000's		Gross Expend £000's	2007/08 Gross Income £000's	Net Expend £000's
			Direct Services			
1,220	1,337	1,420	Environmental Health	1,432	47	1,385
3,521	4,172	6,245	Waste Management	6,114	758	5,356
48	96	92	Environmental Initiatives	99	0	99
4,789	5,605	7,757	- Total (Transferred to GF Summary) ₌	7,645	805	6,840

				Support and Trading Services			
	533	542	550	Environmental Administration	558	0	558
	(299)	(349)	(358)	Recharged To This Portfolio	(362)	0	(362)
_	(234)	(193)	(192)	Recharged To Other Portfolio's		196	(196)
_	0	0	0	Total _	196	196	0
_							
=	4,789	5,605	7,757	Portfolio Total	7,841	1,001	6,840
	4,666	5,239	5,420	Continuing Services Budget			6,829
	110	184	1,545	Continuing Services Budget - Growth			11
_	0	0	(262)	Continuing Services Budget - Savings		_	0
_	4,776	5,423	6,703	Total Continuing Services Budget		_	6,840
	181	235	1,132	Development Fund - Expenditure			56
_	(168)	(53)	(78)	Development Fund - Savings		_	(56)
_	13	182	1,054	Total District Development Fund		_	0
_						_	
=	4,789	5,605	7,757	Portfolio Total		=	6,840

CSB Growth Items		Original 2006/07 £000's	Revised 2006/07 £000's	Original 2007/08 £000's
Waste Management	Revised Refuse/Recycling Contract	139		
Waste Management	New Waste Contract		1,500	
Waste Management	Recycling Credits		(262)	
Street Cleansing	Paternoster Ward	3	3	
Pollution Control	Bobbingworth Tip Maintenance	17	17	11
Pollution Control	Contaminated Land Strategy	25	25	
		184	1,283	11

Development Fund Ite	ms	Original 2006/07 £000's	Revised 2006/07 £000's	Original 2007/08 £000's
Waste Management	Revised Refuse/Recycling Contract	159		
Waste Management	Maintaining waste service whilst procurement undertaken		300	
Waste Management	Government Grant	(53)	(53)	(56)
Waste Management	Clear Sacks	16	16	
Waste Management	Recycling Measures	33	33	56
Waste Management	Countywide Waste Disposal Contract	7	7	
Waste Management	Contract termination and new contract set up	С	496	
Waste Management	Trade Waste Account		(25)	
Waste Management	Increase in Green Waste Contract	20	20	
Waste Management	Weekly Collection of Residuals (Summer)		195	
Environmental Health	Birchfield Survey and Clearance		65	
	-	182	1,054	0

Environmental Health

Animal Welfare Service

Dog Waste collections costs have risen due to South Herts Waste Management going into administration.

Food Safety; Inspection of Workplaces and Pollution Control & Monitoring

Re-allocations of staff related costs have increased the estimates for 2006/07 and 2007/08.

Pest Control

Re-allocations of staff related costs and a fall in income are factors for the increase in estimates.

Public Conveniences

Disposals of old public convenience blocks, replaced by Universal Super Loos (USL's) has reduced the amount of depreciation.

Clear Birchfield Site

This is a one off cost of clearance of the traveller site at Birchfield.

Environmental Health

2005/06 Actual £000's	Original	6/07 Revised Estimate £000's		Gross Expend £000's	2007/08 Gross Income £000's	Net Expend £000's
159	163	174	Animal Welfare Service	182	9	173
84	94	98	Inspection of Workplaces	99	0	99
150	173	179	Food Safety	184	3	181
121	122	126	Pest Control	142	15	127
447	503	509	Pollution Control & Monitoring	528	0	528
8	12	8	Part B Processes	28	18	10
2	2	2	Home & Water Safety	2	0	2
63	67	68	Gypsy Matters	69	0	69
19	19	17	National Assistance Burials	19	1	18
167	182	174	Public Conveniences	179	1	178
0	0	65	Clear Birchfield Site	0	0	0
1,220	1,337	1,420	Portfolio Total	1,432	47	1,385

1,190	1,295	1,313
27	42	42
0	0	0
1,217	1,337	1,355
3	0	65
0	0	0
3	0	65
1,220	1,337	1,420

Continuing Services Budget	1,374
Continuing Services Budget - Growth	11
Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
Total Continuing Services Budget	1,385
Development Fund - Expenditure	0
Development Fund - Savings	0
Total District Development Fund	0
Portfolio Total	1,385

Waste Management

General

South Herts. Waste Management Ltd entered administration in April 2006. Cory Environmental took over the running of the contract on a temporary basis which, due to the short term nature, has incurred a premium on costs. A supplementary estimate of £1.8 million was agreed by Council on 25 July 2006 whilst the procurement exercise was being carried out.

The re-tendering of the contract is hoped to bring back some of the economies of scale gained by the original contract. This exercise is to be completed during 2007/08.

Refuse Collection

Further supplementary estimates - £300,000 contract termination costs and £230,000 additional summer collections - were agreed by Council on 24 April 2006 and 25 July 2006 respectively. The cost of the additional summer collections was £195,000: the £35,000 saving on the original budget was added to the DDF item for the new contract set-up costs.

Recycling

Budget increases in respect of the £1.8 million mentioned above have been mitigated by the increased recycling from the implementation of the wheeled bin service.

Waste Management

2005/06 Actual £000's	Original	6/07 Revised Estimate £000's		Gross Expend £000's	2007/08 Gross Income £000's	Net Expend £000's
1,436	1,622	3,011	Refuse Collection	2,226	73	2,153
1,291	1,308	1,961	Street Cleansing	1,980	10	1,970
792	1,001	1,028	Recycling	1,535	535	1,000
(37)	178	194	Glass Collection	305	115	190
39	63	51	Abandoned Vehicles	68	25	43
3,521	4,172	6,245	Portfolio Total	6,114	758	5,356

	3,428	3,848	4,015	Continuing Services Budget	5,356
	83	142	1,503	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	0
	0	0	(262)	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
_	3,511	3,990	5,256	Total Continuing Services Budget	5,356
	178	235	1,067	Development Fund - Expenditure	56
	(168)	(53)	(78)	Development Fund - Savings	(56)
_	10	182	989	Total District Development Fund	0
_	3,521	4,172	6,245	Portfolio Total	5,356

Environmental Initiatives

Environmental Co-ordination

Changes in support staff time allocations have generated a small saving at revised estimate for 2006/07.

Environmental Initiatives

2005/06 Actual £000's	200 Original Estimate £000's	Revised		Gross Expend £000's	2007/08 Gross Income £000's	Net Expend £000's
48	96	92	Environmental Co-ordination	99	0	99
48	96	92	Portfolio Total	99	0	99

48	96	92	Continuing Services Budget	99
0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	0
0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
48	96	92	Total Continuing Services Budget	99
0	0	0	Development Fund - Expenditure	0
0	0	0	Development Fund - Savings	0
0	0	0	Total District Development Fund	0
48	96	92	Portfolio Total	99

Support and Trading Services

Environmental Administration

The increased cost from Original 2006/07 to Revised 2006/07 is due to an increase in staff costs to deal with calls relating to the poor performance of the original contractor. This was offset by a reduction in the supplies and services element of this cost centre.

The increase in 2007/08 is due mainly to inflation.

Support and Trading Services

2005/06 Actual £000's	Original	6/07 Revised Estimate £000's		Gross Expend £000's	2007/08 Gross Income £000's	Net Expend £000's
533	542	550	Environmental Administration	558	0	558
533	542	550	Portfolio Total	558	0	558

5	33	542	550	Continuing Services Budget	558
	0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	0
	0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
5	33	542	550	Total Continuing Services Budget	558
	0	0	0	Development Fund - Expenditure	0
	0	0	0	Development Fund - Savings	0
	0	0	0	Total District Development Fund	0
5	33	542	550	Portfolio Total	558

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION SUBJECTIVE ANALYSIS 2007/08

BUDGET	Employee Expenses	Premises Transport Related Related Expenses Expenses	Transport Related Expenses	Supplies and Services	External Contracted Services	Support Services	Dep'n Charges	Internally Recharged	Gross Revenue Expenditure	Govermnt Grant	Fees and Charges	Rents	Net Revenue Expenditure
	મ	щ	ц	ц	щ	ц	ы	ч	ы	£	ы	£	ы
ENVIRONMENTAL REALTR Animal Welfare Service	71,860	530	15,230	11,400	50,450	32,450	0	0	181,920	0	8,700	0	173,220
Inspection of Workplaces	69,120	0	4,120	4,230	0	22,000	0	0	99,470	0	0	0	99,470
Food Safety	118,110	0	7,040	16,440	0	42,580	0	0	184,170	0	3,000	0	181,170
Pest Control	56,630	0	3,380	3,470	58,070	20,100	0	0	141,650	0	14,750	0	126,900
Pollution Control & Monitoring	278,070	28,000	16,580	88,140	0	117,130	0	0	527,920	0	•	0	527,920
Part B Processes	19,470	•	1,160	1,190	0	6,750	0	0	28,570	0	18,450	0	10,120
Home & Water Safety	0	0	0	540	0	1,260	•	0	1,800	0	0	0	1,800
Gypsy Matters	35,040	0	2,090	2,150	0	29,530	•	0	68,810	0	0	0	68,810
National Assistance Burials	0	0	0	1,000	0	17,510	0	0	18,510	0	1,000	0	17,510
Public Conveniences	0	155,070	0	4,480	0	10,020	10,030	0	179,600	0	1,200	0	178,400
WASTE MANAGEMENT		10 660	022 11	106 010	003 1 6 1	16E 70E	00.050	c	2 226 005	c	000	c	2 1 5 2 005
	03,230	000'01	0	100,040	1,134,030	CU1,CO1	006,66		260,022,2		000,61		2,100,000
Street Cleansing	57,020	17,740	7,520	6,070	1,822,410	69,805	•	0	1,980,565	0	10,230	0	1,970,335
Recycling	87,100	11,880	11,480	364,030	920,380	139,720	•	0	1,534,590	56,290	478,800	0	999,500
Glass Collection	0	0	0	0	305,000	0	0	0	305,000	0	114,960	0	190,040
Abandoned Vehicles	14,810	0	1,950	2,600	30,000	18,290	0	0	67,650	0	25,000	0	42,650
ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES													
Environmental Co-ordination	47,210	0	2,650	24,150	0	24,570	0	0	98,580	0	0	0	98,580
SUPPORT & TRADING SERVICES Environmental Administration	490,720	0	7,440	59,840	0	0	0	(557,950)	50	0	50	0	0
TOTAL	1,434,450	231,870	92,410	695,770	4,921,000	717,420	109,980	(557,950)	7,644,950	56,290	749,140	0	6,839,520

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Agenda Item 8

Report to the Finance and Performance Management Scrutiny Panel

SCRUTINY

Date of meeting: 15 January 2007

Portfolio: Finance and Performance Management

Subject: Revised Four-Year Forecast

Officer contact for further information: Bob Palmer – (01992 - 56 4279)

Democratic Services Officer: Adrian Hendry (01992 56 4246)

Recommendation:

Members are asked to consider the revised four year forecast and the level of Council Tax increase for 2007/08 and subsequent years.

Introduction

1. On 11 December 2006 the Finance and Performance Management Cabinet Committee considered a report setting out the current position on the draft General Fund budget. The Committee confirmed that the budget guidelines previously set down should be adhered to:

- a) that the ceiling for CSB net expenditure be no more than £17M including net growth.
- b) that balances continue to be aligned to the Council's net budget requirement and that balances be allowed to fall no lower than 25% of the net budget requirement.
- c) that the District Council Tax be increased by no more than the rate of increase in the Retail Price Index.

2. As the first of the guidelines represents an additional constraint on the previous fouryear forecast, an update of the four-year forecast should be considered prior to making any recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or the Cabinet on the level of the Council Tax increase for 2007/08.

Previous Four-Year Forecast

3. On 25 September 2006 the Finance and Performance Management Cabinet Committee considered the annual Financial Issues Paper and an updated four-year financial forecast. At that time Members attention was drawn to the impact on the budget of the waste management contractor being placed in administration earlier in the year. Some £2.33m of supplementary estimates have been approved to deal with the costs incurred during the administration, the higher level of charges from the interim contractor and enhancements to the service for weekly summertime collections. In formulating an updated four-year forecast it was necessary to consider how much of the supplementary estimates would ultimately be CSB growth. Given the assertions from the previous contractor that they had underbid, the higher costs of the interim contractor and the Council decision to retain summertime collections as part of the ongoing service, it was felt appropriate to include £1.5m as CSB growth.



4. At that time the predicted General Fund balance at 1 April 2007 of £5.328m represented just over 32% of the anticipated NBR for 2007/08 and was therefore somewhat higher than the guideline of 25%. However, the additional costs that are now likely to be incurred on waste management meant that by 1 April 2009 the predicted balance had reduced to £2.65m. This represented only 15% of the net budget requirement for 2009/10 and so highlighted the clear need for a review of services and expenditure.

5. The report also detailed the significant uncertainties that still existed, in particular the capitalisation of pension fund deficit payments. Following concerns at the Treasury about excessive capitalisations creating pressure on the Chancellor's "Golden Rule" the regulations for issuing capitalisation directions were changed. A new "Two Gate" system has been introduced, whereby applications must satisfy the previous criteria to clear gate 1 but applications will not pass gate 2 until the national economic impact has been considered in total. Confirmation has been received that the applications to capitalise the additional pension deficit payments for 2006/07 have cleared gate 1. The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) will not inform authorities if they have cleared gate 2 for 2006/07 applications until 31 January 2007. If capitalisation directions are not obtained then the additional charges to revenue will be £629,000 General Fund and £295,000 HRA for 2006/07 and £680,000 General Fund and £319,000 HRA for 2007/08.

6. The other key areas of uncertainty highlighted included changes to the statutory Concessionary fares scheme and the outcome of the Lyons Review and the impact that this may have on the future financing of Local Government.

Draft Local Government Finance Settlement

7. Last year as part of replacing the system of Assumed National Council Tax (ANCT) and Formula Spending Shares (FSS) with Relative Needs Formulae (RNF), the Government provided a two-year settlement. On November 28 draft figures for 2007/08 were issued and these were open to consultation until 5 January 2007. Initially it appeared that there was an increase of some £22,000 in the figures that the Council had previously been advised of. Unfortunately the DCLG later issued a correction and an apology that confirmed the draft settlement was as advised last year. The table below is repeated from last years budget papers to remind Members of the settlement:

	Original 2005/06 £m	Adjusted 2005/06 £m	2006/07 £m	2007/08 £m
Formula Grant	7.299	7.918	8.627	9.161
Increase £	n/a	0.619	0.709	0.534
Increase %	n/a	8.48%	9.0%	6.2%

8.

It is also worth

repeating that the increase of 6.2% is more than double the minimum floor increase of 2.7%. The restrictions on growth above the floor have been eased from 2006/07 as the Council can now retain 60.8% of the increase above the floor as opposed to the figure of 49.1% in 2006/07. This means the amount of grant lost to support the floor for other local authorities will reduce from £490,000 in 2006/07 to £189,000 for 2007/08.

Updated Four-Year Forecast

9. A revised four-year forecast has been prepared and is attached as Annexes 1 a and b. In constructing the forecast it has been necessary to make certain assumptions, these are set out below and follow the discussions held between the Finance and Performance Management Portfolio Holder, other Cabinet Members and Heads of Service:

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- a. CSB Growth growth items for 2007/08 have been included at a total of £138,000. For 2008/09 growth items of £354,000 have currently been identified. The growth of £1.5m previously mentioned for waste management has been included in the revised estimates for 2006/07, but is partly offset by an increase in income from recycling credits of £262,000.
- b. DDF all of the known items for the four-year period have been included and at the end of the period a balance of £809,000 is still available. This is after revising the estimates for LABGI income from £200K to £500K for 2006/07 and from £0 to £200K in 2007/08. The exact amounts to be received are still uncertain as the formula has changed, but a national ceiling will be applied to cap total income from the scheme, which will lead to some authorities receiving less than the amount suggested by the pure application of the formula.
- c. Grant Funding the provisional settlement figures have been included for 2007/08. It has been assumed that for 2008/09 and subsequent years the gross grant entitlement will increase by 2%. It has also been assumed that the amount lost to support the floor for other authorities will reduce over the period to give net grant increases of 3.5% in 2008/09, 2.5% in 2009/10 and 2.1% in 2010/11.
- d. Council Tax Increase Members have confirmed they wish to keep rises in line with inflation and so an increase of 3.5% has been included for 2007/08. It is anticipated that growth in the retail prices index will reduce from the current level of 3.9% to 2.5% in subsequent years and so 2.5% has been used for future increases.

10. The inclusion of significant growth in CSB needs to be considered in terms of the level of revenue balances. Even allowing for the higher Council Tax increase in 2007/08 of 3.5% the table below illustrates that reserves as a percentage of NBR will fall to the guideline level by 2009/10 and will have significantly breached the guideline by 2010/11.

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Net Budget Requirement	£15.792M	£16.659M	£17.166M	£17.596M	£18.001M
Opening Reserves	£6.456M	£5.954M	£5.633M	£4.708M	£3.439M
Reserves as % of NBR	40.9%	35.7%	32.8%	26.8%	19.1%

Conclusion

11. The financial position is such that Members must now carefully prioritise the allocation of scarce resources. With the general fund revenue balance just short of £6.5m there is no need for short-term panic measures. However, before the end of the current forecast period a thorough review of the entire authority will be needed to ensure that priority services are provided at a sustainable level. If such a review is not conducted and substantial savings are not identified then the authority will be in breach of the current guideline on reserves by 2010/11.

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REVISED GENERAL FUND FOUR YEAR FORECAST 2006/07 - 2009/11

ORIGINAL 2006/07		REVISED FORECAST 2006/07	FORECAST 2007/08	FORECAST 2008/09	FORECAST 2009/10	FORECAST 2010/11
£'000	NET REVENUE EXPENDITURE	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
14,480	Continuing Services Budget	14,406	16,842	17,737	18,860	19,450
773	CSB - Growth Items	1,738	138	354	5	0
15,253	Total C.S.B	16,144	16,980	18,091	18,865	19,450
1,655	One - off Expenditure	2,173	876	186	13	0
150	Contribution to/from Insurance reserve	150	0	0	0	0
17,058	Total Net Operating Expenditure	18,467	17,856	18,277	18,878	19,450
-1,655	Contribution to/from (-) DDF Balances	-2,173	-876	-186	-13	0
389	Contribution to/from (-) Balances	-502	-321	-925	-1,269	-1,449
15,792	Net Budget Requirement	15,792	16,659	17,166	17,596	18,001
	FINANCING					
9,117	Government Support (NNDR+RSG)	9,117	9,350	9,537	9,728	9,922
-490	RSG Floor Gains/(-Losses)	-490	-189	-58	-12	0
8,627	Total External Funding	8,627	9,161	9,479	9,716	9,922
7,160	District Precept	7,160	7,498	7,687	7,880	8,078
5	Collection Fund Adjustment	5	0	0	0	0
15,792	To be met from Government Grants and Local Tax Payers	15,792	16,659	17,166	17,596	18,001
	Band D Council Tax	134.73	139.50	143.01	146.61	150.30
	Percentage Increase %		3.5	2.5	2.5	2.5

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REVISED GENERAL FUND FOUR YEAR FORECAST 2006/07 - 2010/11

	REVISED FORECAST 2006/07	FORECAST 2007/08	FORECAST 2008/09	FORECAST 2009/10	FORECAST 2010/11
REVENUE BALANCES	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Balance B/forward	6,456	5,954	5,633	4,708	3,439
Surplus/Deficit(-) for year	-502	-321	-925	-1,269	-1,449
Balance C/Forward	5,954	5,633	4,708	3,439	1,990
DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT FUND					
Balance B/forward	3,007	1,567	1,008	822	809
Income	733	317	0	0	0
Transfer Out	-2,173	-876	-186	-13	0
Balance C/Forward	1,567	1,008	822	809	809
CAPITAL FUND (inc Cap Receipts)					
Balance B/forward	20,073	22,318	17,920	16,667	16,055
New Usable Receipts	10,565	914	831	819	817
CR Used to Fund Capital Expenditure - Transistional Relief Receipts - Other Capital Receipts	e -1,722 -6,598	0 -5,312	0 -2,084	0 -1,431	0 -1,137
Balance C/Forward	22,318	17,920	16,667	16,055	15,735
TOTAL BALANCES	29,839	24,561	22,197	20,303	18,534

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