

COMMUNITY WELLBEING PORTFOLIO

ESTIMATES 2008/09

Community Wellbeing

Revenue Budget 2008/09

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

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

Capital Charges

Accounting standards require that local authority fixed assets are accounted for on a consistent basis whereby proper provision for depreciation is made within service revenue accounts to reflect the cost of fixed assets used in the provision of services. The depreciation charge is based on the valuation of each asset, which is updated as necessary, or the historic cost of the asset as appropriate and the period over which each asset is depreciated is based on the useful life of the asset. Impairment charges would also be chargeable in the event of an asset suffering damage and/or the loss of economic benefits (eg storm damage). No impairment charges, however, are anticipated within the budgets. To ensure that capital charges do not impact on the level of Council Tax, these charges are reversed out in the Revenue Expenditure, Income and Financing Summary after the net operating expenditure is calculated.

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 2007. 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 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.

Community Wellbeing

General Fund Estimate Summary

2006/07	2007/08			2008/09		
Actual	Original	Revised		Gross	Gross	Net
£000	Estimate	Estimate		Expend	Income	Expend
£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000
Direct Services						
123	150	157	Emergency Planning	175	0	175
376	395	394	Voluntary Sector	413	10	403
314	337	303	Safer Communities	316	0	316
705	836	853	Travel Schemes	837	3	834
1,518	1,718	1,707	Total Direct	1,741	13	1,728
1,518	1,718	1,707	Total (Transferred to GF Summary)	1,741	13	1,728
1,113	1,718	1,698	Continuing Services Budget			1,728
533	0	15	Continuing Services Budget - Growth			0
(7)	0	(27)	Continuing Services Budget - Savings			0
1,639	1,718	1,686	Total Continuing Services Budget			1,728
0	0	74	District Development Fund - Expenditure			235
(121)	0	(53)	District Development Fund - Savings			(235)
(121)	0	21	Total District Development Fund			0
1,518	1,718	1,707	Portfolio Total			1,728

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Development Fund & Growth Items

CSB Growth Items		Original 2007/08 £000's	Revised 2007/08 £000's	Original 2008/09 £000's
Concessionary Fares	TFL reduction in passes issued		(12)	
Safer Communities	Graffiti Removal		15	
Safer Communities	Graffiti Removal (HRA Contribution)		(15)	
		0	(12)	0

Development Fund Items		Original 2007/08 £000's	Revised 2007/08 £000's	Original 2008/09 £000's
Concessionary Fares	County wide scheme		21	
Concessionary Fares	National Bus Concession - set up costs		53	
Concessionary Fares	National Bus Concession - Grant		(53)	
Concessionary Fares	New National Scheme - Costs			235
Concessionary Fares	New National Scheme - Grant			(235)
		0	21	0

Community Wellbeing

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 budget includes additional funding 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.

The budget also now includes the new post of Emergency Planning Officer, created in order to ensure that the statutory responsibilities of the Civil Contingencies Act are carried out by the Council. The additional funding necessary relating to the increase in the budget for new post, was agreed by Cabinet as a virement from the Legal General Administration budget.

Community Wellbeing

Emergency Planning

2006/07	2007/08			2008/09		
<i>Actual</i>	<i>Original</i>	<i>Revised</i>		Gross	Gross	Net
<i>£000</i>	<i>Estimate</i>	<i>Estimate</i>		Expend	Income	Expend
<i>£000</i>	<i>£000</i>	<i>£000</i>		£000	£000	£000
123	150	157	Emergency Planning	175	0	175
123	150	157	Total (Transferred to Summary)	175	0	175
123	150	157	Continuing Services Budget			175
0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Growth			0
0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Savings			0
123	150	157	Total Continuing Services Budget			175
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	150	157	Portfolio Total			175

Community Wellbeing

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 to voluntary organisations in the current year revised budget is £105,550, and for 2008/09 £108,190. This includes £7,960 relating to HomeStart who have a grant to offset gross rent for unit 36 Oakwood Hill Industrial Estate.

The budget also now includes £16,830 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) located in Homefield House. The grant for the current year is £32,360, with £33,170 earmarked for 2008/09.

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 2007/08 Revised including the grant is £59,780, and £63,470 for 2008/09 which is reduced by rent paid by VAEF of £10,100. Costs for 2008/09 comprise grant of £33,170, telephone systems £12,650, accommodation (Homefield House) £15,650 and Computers £2,000.

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 £16,530 and £16,940 for 2008/09, 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 £107,840 and £110,540 for 2008/09.

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Voluntary Sector

<i>2006/07</i>	<i>2007/08</i>			<i>2008/09</i>		
<i>Actual</i>	<i>Original</i>	<i>Revised</i>		<i>Gross</i>	<i>Gross</i>	<i>Net</i>
<i>£000</i>	<i>Estimate</i>	<i>Estimate</i>		<i>Expend</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expend</i>
	<i>£000</i>	<i>£000</i>		<i>£000</i>	<i>£000</i>	<i>£000</i>
201	215	218	Grants to Voluntary Organisations	220	0	220
175	180	176	Voluntary Sector Support	193	10	183
376	395	394	Total (Transferred to Summary)	413	10	403
373	395	394	Continuing Services Budget			403
3	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Growth			0
0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Savings			0
376	395	394	Total Continuing Services Budget			403
0	0	0	District Development Fund - Expenditure			0
0	0	0	District Development Fund - Savings			0
0	0	0	Total District Development Fund			0
376	395	394	Portfolio Total			403

Community Wellbeing

Safer Communities

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.

The budget for crime and disorder initiatives has been merged with the Safer Communities Programme budget. CSB funding of £31,630 is included for the current year Revised and £31,860 for 2008/09 for the continuation of initiatives relating to Crime and Disorder. The budget also includes £45,250 for graffiti removal in the current year Revised, including a CSB Growth item of £15,000 to be funded from the HRA. The budget for 2008/09 includes £46,380 for graffiti removal including £15,000 to be funded from the HRA.

The budget also includes a contribution of £90,000 the current year (£92,250 for 2008/09) towards the provision of six Community Police Support Officers to work within the Epping Forest District adding to the current operating police strength.

Other costs in this budget relate to Policy Unit central overhead charges for running the various initiatives and programmes.

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Safer Communities

<i>2006/07</i>	<i>2007/08</i>			<i>2008/09</i>		
<i>Actual</i>	<i>Original</i>	<i>Revised</i>		<i>Gross</i>	<i>Gross</i>	<i>Net</i>
<i>£000</i>	<i>Estimate</i>	<i>Estimate</i>		<i>Expend</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expend</i>
	<i>£000</i>	<i>£000</i>		<i>£000</i>	<i>£000</i>	<i>£000</i>
72	65	0	Crime & Disorder Initiatives	0	0	0
242	272	303	Safer Communities Programme	316	0	316
314	337	303	Total (Transferred to Summary)	316	0	316
266	337	303	Continuing Services Budget			316
48	0	15	Continuing Services Budget - Growth			0
0	0	(15)	Continuing Services Budget - Savings			0
314	337	303	Total Continuing Services Budget			316
0	0	0	District Development Fund - Expenditure			0
0	0	0	District Development Fund - Savings			0
0	0	0	Total District Development Fund			0
314	337	303	Portfolio Total			316

Community Wellbeing

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 driver.

The grant available to VAEF is £15,250 for the current year and £15,630 for 2008/09.

Concessionary Fares

The Transport Act 2000 introduced a national minimum standard for local authority concessionary travel schemes for elderly and disabled people. The concession requires at least half fare off peak travel on local buses within the travel concession authority's area. Since 1 April 2006, local authorities have been required to provide their residents who were 60 and over, or disabled, with at least free off-peak local bus travel. The 2006 Budget announced that the statutory minimum was to be extended to free off-peak local bus travel anywhere in England from 1 April 2008. Currently, Epping Forest District Council has worked in partnership with all Essex authorities, including Essex County Council, in providing an enhanced version of the statutory scheme. Under the scheme, pass holders can travel for free from 9.00a.m. anywhere within the County. The Council has also entered into a partnership with Transport for London to offer residents free off-peak bus travel in northeast London. This scheme will cease on 31 March 2008, as the National Scheme offered free off-peak travel on all local buses in England.

The current year has seen a reduction in the number of Transport for London passes issued from 365 to 264, which has reduced the net budget required for the Transport for London for 2007-08 from £77,000 to £65,000. This CSB saving of £12,000 is included in the revised budget for 2007-08. The balance of £65,000 has been added to the budget for the countrywide scheme in 2008-09, to provide a contingency to meet any additional costs that were not met through additional government grant. The Department of Transport has recommended that councils should consider extending the length of the bus passes from 2 to 5 years. This would reduce the ongoing annual burden of issuing passes, and has been approved by the Cabinet.

The current year budget also includes a DDF of £53,000 for the National Bus Concession set up costs, along with grant of the same amount. A DDF item of £235,000 in 2008/09 is also included for the additional costs of the new National scheme along with a specific grant of the same amount.

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Travel Schemes

<i>2006/07</i>	<i>2007/08</i>			<i>2008/09</i>		
<i>Actual</i>	<i>Original</i>	<i>Revised</i>		<i>Gross</i>	<i>Gross</i>	
<i>£000</i>	<i>Estimate</i>	<i>Estimate</i>		<i>Expend</i>	<i>Income</i>	
<i>£000</i>	<i>£000</i>	<i>£000</i>		<i>£000</i>	<i>£000</i>	
					<i>Net</i>	
					<i>Expend</i>	
					<i>£000</i>	
17	18	17	Welfare Transport	18	0	18
688	818	836	Concessionary Fares	819	3	816
705	836	853	Total (Transferred to Summary)	837	3	834
351	836	844	Continuing Services Budget			834
482	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Growth			0
(7)	0	(12)	Continuing Services Budget - Savings			0
826	836	832	Total Continuing Services Budget			834
0	0	74	District Development Fund - Expenditure			235
(121)	0	(53)	District Development Fund - Savings			(235)
(121)	0	21	Total District Development Fund			0
705	836	853	Portfolio Total			834

**COMMUNITY WELLBEING PORTFOLIO
SUBJECTIVE ANALYSIS 2008/09 ORIGINAL**

BUDGET	Employees	Premises	Transport	Supplies	Support Services	Depreciation Charges	(Internally Recharged)	Gross Expenditure	Gross Expenditure Direct	Fees & Charges	Other Income	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£		£	£	£	£
Emergency Planning	74,770		5,760	41,330	51,200	1,960		175,020	-		20	20	175,000
Emergency Expenditure								-	-			-	-
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	53,300		1,770	135,240	29,700			220,010	-			-	220,010
Voluntary Sector Support CVS				45,820	17,650			63,470	-		10,100	10,100	53,370
Voluntary Sector Assistance				128,000	1,820			129,820	-			-	129,820
Crime & Disorder Initiatives								-	-			-	-
Safer Communities Programme	99,480		2,590	180,190	48,360		(15,000)	315,620	-			-	315,620
Welfare Transport				15,630	1,890			17,520	-			-	17,520
Concessionary Fares	5,260			779,210	34,470			818,940	-	2,500		2,500	816,440
Concessionary Fares TFL								-	-			-	-
TOTAL (Transferred to GF Summary)	232,810	-	10,120	1,325,420	185,090	1,960	(15,000)	1,740,400	-	2,500	10,120	12,620	1,727,780

Third Party Payment													
Policy Unit	321,340		8,150	7,480	82,060		(419,030)	-	336,970	-	-	-	-