PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO ESTIMATES 2009/10

Revenue Budget 2009/10

Introduction

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

Economic Development & Tourism

Bus Shelters

Conservation Policy

Forward Planning

Planning Appeals

Development Control

Building Control

Town Centre Enhancements

Support & Trading Services

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

Management & Portfolio Changes

A Corporate restructuring was agreed and implemented early in 2008. The new structure effected a saving in costs of £500,000 for the Council, being based on six Directorates headed by a Chief Executive with a Deputy.

The number of Portfolios has seen an increase from eight to nine, with services such as Concessionary Fares moving from Community Wellbeing to Civil Engineering & Maintenance, and Licensing moving from Environmental Protection to Corporate Support Services & ICT. For Direct Services the actuals for 2007/2008 and the Original Estimate 2008/2009, have been changed to fall in line with the new Portfolio structure.

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 2008. 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 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

2007/08 Actual £000	2008 Original Estimate £000	8/09 Revised Estimate £000		Gross Expend £000	2009/10 Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000
			Direct Services			
122	182	164	Economic Development	218	0	218
21	23	17	Bus Shelters	19	0	19
70	91	55	Environmental Co-Ordination	55	0	55
172	209	187	Conservation Policy	214	0	214
451	688	487	Forward Planning	780	16	764
124	131	183	Town Centre Enhancements	181	4	177
960	1,324	1,093	Total Direct Services	1,467	20	1,447
			Regulatory Services			
237	240	417	Planning Appeals	454	3	451
583	521	509	Development Control Enforcement	520	0	520
598	483	317	Development Control	971	623	348
0	0	0	Building Control Fee Earning	642	642	0
164	176	166	Building Control Non Fee Earning	174	0	174
1,582	1,420	1,409	Total Regulatory Services	2,761	1,268	1,493
2,542	2,744	2,502	Total (Transferred to GF Summary)	4,228	1,288	2,940
			Support and Trading Services			
353	438	367	Planning Administration	443	12	431
320	341	272	Planning Policy	325	0	325
(634)	(734)	(569)	Recharged to this Portfolio	(684)	(11)	(673)
(39)	(45)	(70)	Recharged to other Portfolios	(84)	(1)	(83)
0	0	0	- Total	0	0	0
2.542	2 744	2 502	: - Dortfolio Total	4 220	1 200	2.040
2,542	2,744	2,502	Portfolio Total	4,228	1,288	2,940
2,542	2,324	2,207	Continuing Services Budget			2,296
0	20	90	Continuing Services Budget - Growth			0
0	(27)	(97)	Continuing Services Budget - Savings			0
2,542	2,317	2,200	Total Continuing Services Budget		-	2,296
0	627	564	District Development Fund - Expenditure			644
0	(200)	(262)	District Development Fund - Savings			0
0	427	302	Total District Development Fund		-	644
2,542	2,744	2,502	Portfolio Total		-	2,940

Development Fund & Growth Items

		Original 2008/09 £000's	Revised 2008/09 £000's	Original 2009/10 £000's
CSB Growth Items				
Building Control	Reduced Income		80	
Building Control	Building Control Ring Fence Account		(80)	
Development Control	Pre-Application Fee Consultancy	20	(10)	
Development Control	Income from Pre-application discussions	(20)	10	
Forward Planning	Strategic Environmental Assessment	(7)	(7)	
		(7)	(7)	0
		Original	Revised	Original
		2008/09	2008/09	2009/10
Development Fund Items		£000's	£000's	£000's
Economic Development	Developing Business Networks	5	3	2
Economic Development	Enhanced Business Contacts		2	2
Economic Development	Town Centre Manager	35	15	20
Forward Planning	High Hedges Legislation - Staffing	4	4	
Forward Planning	Local Development Framework	288	77	432
Forward Planning	Technical Planning Officer Tree Preservation	14	14	
Forward Planning	Gypsy and Travellers Accomodation Consultancy		19	
Forward Planning	Loughton Broadway/Epping Design Brief		66	
Planning Services	Planning Delivery Grant 2	27	17	10
Planning Services	Planning Delivery Grant 3	14	14	
Planning Services	Planning Delivery Grant 4	38	27	13
Planning Services	Planning Delivery Grant 4	(40)	(40)	
Planning Services	Planning Delivery Grant 5	160	139	21
Planning Services	Planning Delivery Grant 5	(160)	(160)	
Planning Services	Housing and Planning Delivery Grant		62	
Planning Services	Housing and Planning Delivery Grant		(62)	
Planning Appeals	Costs - 1 Connaught Avenue		43	
Planning Appeals	Costs - Wansfell College		42	
Planning Appeals	Contingency for Appeals			100
Tourism	Rural Projects and Tourism Officer	30	8	22
Tourism	Tourism Summit		2	
Town Centre Enhancements	Improvements Grant - Waltham Abbey TC		10	10
Town Centre Enhancements	Town Centre Support	12		12
		427	302	644

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 increase in costs in 2009/10 is as a result of two vacant posts assumed to be filled toward the end of 2008/09. The DDF budget for Developing Business Networks has been rephased with £2,000 being carried forward to 2009/10. The DDF budgets for Enhanced Business Contacts (£5,000) and Tourism Summit (£2,000) carried forward from 2007/08 have also been rephased with £2,000 being carried forward for both projects. The Original estimate for 2008/09 included £30,000 relating to a Rural Projects and Tourism Officer, which has been rephased.

Bus Shelters

Recharges from the Parking Group have decreased.

Environmental Co-Ordination

This budget has been incorporated into the Planning Directorate as part of the management restructure and as a result the recharge allocation from Environmental Services has reduced considerably.

Conservation Policy

The variance between the original and revised estimates for 2008/09 relates to reduced salary costs as a result of vacant posts. Included in the 2007/08 original budget was an allocation of £10,000 of Planning Delivery Grant monies to fund handheld technology, which has been rephased and will be completed in 2009/10. The 2009/10 budget assumes that any vacancies will be filled.

Forward Planning

Work to the Local Development Framework has commenced since the publication of the East of England plan in May 2008 for which DDF expenditure is anticipated to be £147,000 (£70,000 funded by PDG5) in 2008/09 and £432,000 in 2009/10. Also included in 2008/09 are DDF budgets of £19,200 for a consultant to work on the Gypsy and Traveller DPD and £66,000 for the Design Briefs for Loughton Broadway and Epping.

Town Centre Enhancements

This relates to depreciation charges as a result of the completion of various Town Centre Enhancement schemes. Waltham Abbey Town Council was awarded a single grant in 2007/08 of £25,000 for improvements to the town centre, £10,000 of which is unspent and therefore carried forward to 2009/10.

Direct Services

Original Revised Gross Gross Actual Estimate Estimate Expend Income Ex £000 £000 £000 £000	Net spend £000
105 135 147 Economic Development - General 199 0	199
17 47 17 Economic Development - Tourism 19 0	19
122 182 164 Total Economic Development 218 0	218
21 23 17 Bus Shelters 19 0	19
70 91 55 Environmental Co-Ordination 55 0	55
172 209 187 Conservation Policy 214 0	214
451 688 487 Forward Planning 780 16	764
124 131 183 Town Centre Enhancements 181 4	177
960 1,324 1,093 Total (Transferred to Summary) 1,467 20 1	,447

960	919	877	Continuing Services Budget	924
0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	0
0	(7)	(7)	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
960	912	870	Total Continuing Services Budget	924
0	522	395	District Development Fund - Expenditure	523
0	(110)	(172)	District Development Fund - Savings	0
0	412	223	Total District Development Fund	523
960	1,324	1,093	Portfolio Total	1,447

Regulatory Services

Planning Appeals

The revised 2008/09 budget includes two supplementary DDF items relating to Planning Appeals lost by the council, £42,600 for Connaught Avenue and £42,000 for Wansfell College. A contingency amount of £100,000 for planning appeals has been included in the 2009/10 budget. Allocation changes within the Directorate have resulted in increased charges from both the Planning Policy Group and Planning Administration.

Enforcement

The saving on the revised budget for 2008/09 relates to staff vacancies.

Development Control

Recent changes have resulted in significant changes to allocations made to Development Control from outside the Planning Directorate, particularly for Support Services and from the Design Division resulting in a considerable decrease in costs. Recharges from within the directorate are also reduced. CSB growth/savings of £10,000 net, have been identified for both income and expenditure relating to the charges for pre-application discussions and associated consultancy.

Building Control

Building Control income has suffered in the 2008/09 financial year as a result of the instability of the economy, which is reflected in a CSB growth item of £80,000. The balance on the Building Control Ring Fenced account at 31 March 2008 was a deficit £15,180 after a deficit of £30,195. The revised budget for 2008/09 is estimated to breakeven, with the deficit balance of £15,180 on the ring fenced account being eliminated by 31 March 2010, however to achieve this fees need to be increased by 8% from April 2009.

Regulatory Services

2007/08 Actual £000	2008 Original Estimate £000	0/09 Revised Estimate £000		Gross Expend £000	2009/10 Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000
237	240	417	Planning Appeals	454	3	451
583	521	509	Development Control Enforcement	520	0	520
598	483	317	Development Control	971	623	348
0	0	0	Building Control Fee Earning	642	642	0
164	176	166	Building Control Non Fee Earning	174	0	174
1,582	1,420	1,409	Total (Transferred to Summary)	2,761	1,268	1,493

1,582	1,405	1,309	Continuing Services Budget	1,393
0	20	90	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	0
0	(20)	(90)	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
1,582	1,405	1,309	Total Continuing Services Budget	1,393
0	35	120	District Development Fund - Expenditure	100
0	(20)	(20)	District Development Fund - Savings	0
0	15	100	Total District Development Fund	100
1,582	1,420	1,409	Portfolio Total	1,493

Support & Trading Services

Planning Administration

As part of the management restructure, the Planning Directorate have taken the opportunity to centralise the overheads not directly attributable to services, which has resulted in an increase in the total budget on this cost centre. Costs centralised from other services include stationery, photocopying, document scanning and shredding. DDF items in the revised 2008/09 budget include PDG5 expenditure and grant income for salaries, training and computer costs. Also included in the revised budget is the grant income and expenditure for the Housing and Planning Delivery grant.

Planning Policy Group

As part of the management restructure, the Planning Policy Group has been created and incorporates the cost and overheads of the Director and Assistant Directors of Planning and Economic Development.

Support & Trading Services

2007/08	2008	/09			2009/10	
Actual £000	Original Estimate £000	Revised Estimate £000		Gross Expend £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000
353	438	367	Planning Administration	443	12	431
320	341	272	Planning Policy Group	325	0	325
673	779	639	Total (Transferred to Summary)	768	12	756

673	779	660	Continuing Services Budget	735
0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	0
0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
673	779	660	Total Continuing Services Budget	735
0	70	49	District Development Fund - Expenditure	21
0	(70)	(70)	District Development Fund - Savings	0
0	0	(21)	Total District Development Fund	21
673	779	639	Portfolio Total	756

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO 2009/10 SUBJECTIVE ANALYSIS

BUDGET	Employee Expenses	Premises Related Expenses	Transport Related Expenses	Supplies and Services	Contracted Services	Support Services	Asset Rentals	Internally Recharged	Summary Gross Direct Exp	Fees and Charges	Grants & Reimb Other	Net Revenue Expenditure
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
DIRECT SERVICES	_	_	~	~	~	-	_	_	-	_	_	_
Economic Development	127,430		3,990	23,060		44,880			199,360			199,360
Tourism	,		ŕ	17,380		1,690			19,070			19,070
Bus Shelters	3,760	280	540	11,430		3,000			19,010	150		18,860
Environmental Co-Ordination	19,780		620	22,300		12,660			55,360			55,360
Conservation Policy	101,740		3,180	47,190		62,240			214,350		260	214,090
Forward Planning	222,860		6,960	438,690		107,020	4,000		779,530	550	14,880	764,100
Town Centre Enhancements	6,370		200	16,080		2,960	154,920		180,530		3,840	176,690
REGULATORY SERVICES												
Planning Appeals	123,680		4,850	137,780		187,920			454,230		3,280	450,950
Enforcement	228,740		9,270	8,780		273,090			519,880	160		519,720
Development Control	413,160		17,720	78,240		445,020	17,090		971,230	614,640	8,680	347,910
Building Control Fee Earning	263,640		17,280	46,200		296,280	3,410	15,000	641,810	641,810		0
Building Control Non Fee Earning	76,060		4,980	4,840		88,190			174,070			174,070
TOTAL (Transferred to GF Summary)	1,587,220	280	69,590	851,970	0	1,524,950	179,420	15,000	4,228,430	1,257,310	30,940	2,940,180
SUPPORT SERVICES	000 04 -			00.05-		004 ===		(077 575)		44.565		
Planning Administration	362,210		1,450	83,650		234,570	7,190	(677,570)	443,000	11,500		0
Planning Policy	312,190		12,470	100		74,310		(399,070)	324,760			0
TOTAL	674,400	0	13,920	83,750	0	308,880	7,190	(1,076,640)	767,760	11,500	0	0
PORTFOLIO TOTAL	2,261,620	280	83,510	935,720	0	1,833,830	186,610	(1,061,640)	4,996,190	1,268,810	30,940	2,940,180