# FINANCE & ICT DIRECTORATE ESTIMATES 2012/13

#### Revenue Budget 2012/13

# Introduction

The Finance and ICT Directorate is responsible for the services listed on the summary page, opposite.

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

#### **Directorate Savings**

Within each directorate, a saving line has been included within the Growth listing that has been achieved through the budget process. This saving is the result of identifying scope to reduce budgets, based on the averaging of the last three years actuals.

#### **Depreciation**

Where a service employs fixed assets in service delivery, depreciation on those assets is charged to the relevant service. This however does 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. There has been a change to the way depreciation is calculated. It is now based on charging depreciation on the components that make up the Fixed Asset in question. The effect has generally been to increase the level of depreciation charge.

#### Revenue Expenditure funded from Capital under statute

Some expenditure incurred by the authority is of a capital nature but does not relate to fixed assets of the Authority. In this situation the expenditure is classified as revenue but can be funded from capital resources the funding side of the transaction like the depreciation reversals is shown in the Revenue Expenditure, Income and Financing Summary after the net operating expenditure is calculated.

# Compliance with accounting guidance

The 2012/13 budget has been prepared in accordance with the latest guidance, in particular the Service Reporting Code of Practice for Local Authorities (SeRCOP). The code of practice replaced the Best Value Accounting Code of Practice and 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 Directorate service groupings differ from those required by the Code of Practice. The Directorate groupings are given precedence in these papers.

In order to increase the degree of consistency across all sectors of the economy when presenting financial information, central government has adopted International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). Local Authorities have adopted this for financial years beginning on 1 April 2010. IFRS is more concerned with the presentation of financial information in the Statutory Statement, but there is a minor impact on the budget figures.

# **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 Directorates will have all three types of service grouping.

**Direct Services** –These reflect the headline services provided by the directorate.

**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 Directorate budgets.

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

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 & ICT

General Fund Estimate Summary

2010/11	2011	/12			2012/13	
Actual £000	Original Estimate £000	Probable Outturn £000		Gross Expend £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000
			Direct Services			
427	612	546	Housing Benefits	49,351	48,706	645
1,123	1,126	1,155	Local Taxation	1,665	488	1,177
1,034	(95)	272	Other Activities	(27)	47	(74)
2,584	1,643	1,973	Total (Transferred to GF Summary)	50,989	49,241	1,748
			Support and Trading Services			
2,362	2,388	2,515	Finance Support Services	2,510	18	2,492
2,988	3,069	2,949	ICT Services	3,023	0	3,023
(1,862)	(1,900)	(1,903)	Recharged to this Directorate	(1,927)	(6)	(1,921)
(3,488)	(3,557)	(3,561)	Recharged to other Directorates	(3,606)	(12)	(3,594)
0	0	0	Total	0	0	0
2,584	1,643	1,973	Directorate Total	50,989	49,241	1,748
2,324	1,616	1,960	Continuing Services Budget			1,683
213	34	60	Continuing Services Budget - Growth			48
(48)	(34)	(68)	Continuing Services Budget - Savings			0
2,489	1,616	1,952	Total Continuing Services Budget		-	1,731
226	87	101	District Development Fund - Expenditure			37
(131)	(60)	(80)	District Development Fund - Savings			(20)
95	27	21	Total District Development Fund		- -	17
2,584	1,643	1,973	Directorate Total		-	1,748

Finance & ICT

Development Fund & Growth Items

		Original 2011/12 £000's	Probable 2011/12 £000's	Original 2012/13 £000's
CSB Growth Items Council Tax Collection Finance Miscellaneous Housing Benefits Housing Benefits ICT Mobile Telephones NNDR Revenues Directorate Savings	Reduction in court cost income Decrease in Employers Pension Conts (Act Val 2010) Housing Benefit Admin Subsidy settlement reductions Limes Farm Office Equipment Savings Saving from New contract (T Mobile to O2) Reduction in court cost income Additional postage costs General	(10) 25 7 2 (24)	30 (10) 25 (20) (6) 5 (32)	41 7
		0	(8)	48
Development Fund Items		Original 2011/12 £000's	Probable 2011/12 £000's	Original 2012/13 £000's
Concessionary Fares Concessionary Fares Council Tax Collection Housing Benefits ICT Insurance Services NNDR Procurement	New National Scheme - Costs Contribution from ECC re admin costs of issuing passes Legal Fees re Bailiffs in Liquidation Atlas Project Expenditure Atlas Project Funding Implementation of LHA changes- Grant Incapacity/Income Support Reassessment Incapacity/Income Support Reassessment - Grant Staff restructuring not funded by specific grant Temporary Accommodation Subsidy - Grant GCSX connection Additional income re Uttlesford Insurance work New Burdens Small Business Rate Relief Costs Essex Procurement Hub	72 (50)	72 (45) 8 1 (1) (3) 2 (15) 15 3 (5) (6)	5 0 3 (3) 20 (2) (6) 9 (9)
		27	21	17

# **Housing Benefits**

#### **Rent Rebates**

In 2011/12 the rent increase was set by Members at an average increase of 7.2%. For 2012/13 the rent increase is expected to be 6% and therefore both rebates and subsidy have been increased by this percentage.

#### **Council Tax Benefits**

Gross expenditure for Council Tax Benefits granted in 2011/12 has increased by 20% over 2009/10, with the related grant entitlement re-assessed on the basis of the latest mid year subsidy claim and information available. The ongoing current economic downturn has contributed to the increase in caseload, and hence the cost of benefits granted.

#### **Rent Allowances**

The estimate for Rent Allowances granted in 2011/12 has increased by 19% over 2010/11 with the related grant entitlement reassessed on the basis of the latest mid year subsidy claim and information available. The current economic downturn has contributed to the increase in caseload.

#### **Non HRA Rent Rebates**

This relates to homeless people placed in Bed and Breakfast accommodation. The figures for 2011/12 probable outturn and 2012/13 estimate show a significant reduction on previous years, which is due to proactive advice and management procedures resulting in shorter stays prior to establishing placements in permanent accommodation.

#### **Benefits Administration**

The budget relates to the cost of administration for all the benefits above, and is partly offset by subsidy from the Government. The DWP had recognised that the economic downturn resulted in an increase in caseload and issued specific grants of £18,000 in 2011/12 to help fund the additional work. The administration subsidy for the current year is £25,000 down on 2010/11 actual equivalent to 3%, and the Government has made a further reduction for 2012/13 of £41,000 when compared to the 2011/12 revised position.

There has been a change in overhead allocations for the production of cheques resulting from the introduction of the Academy system for Council Tax and Housing Benefits, which has reduced the support service allocation for accounts payable by £45,000 in both 2011/12 and 2012/13. The service reporting code of practice SeRCOP requires that auditing costs relating to grant claims be allocated to the service to which the grant claim relates. This has lead to increases in reported costs on this budget of £49,000 in 2011/12 and £46,000 in 2012/13, as previous practice was to charge this cost to corporate management. Other changes between the original estimate for 2011/12 and the probable outturn relate to reduced overhead costs for the Benefits group.

# **Fraud Investigation**

This budget includes the cost and overheads of investigating potential fraudulent benefit claims. The reduction in the probable outturn for 2011/12 relates to the ongoing vacancy of the senior investigation/prosecution officer.

# **Housing Benefits**

2010/11	2011	1/12			2012/13	
Actual £000	Original Estimate £000	Probable Outturn £000		Gross Expend £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000
32	(137)	(100)	Rent Rebates	16,430	16,536	(106)
(144)	(125)	(150)	Council Tax Benefit	11,200	11,350	(150)
(594)	(230)	(220)	Rent Allowances	19,850	20,070	(220)
53	32	28	Non-HRA Rent Rebates	60	32	28
(653)	(460)	(442)	Total Benefits	47,540	47,988	(448)
880	872	822	Benefit Administration	1,507	628	879
200	200	166	Fraud Investigation	304	90	214
1,080	1,072	988	Total Administration	1,811	718	1,093
427	612	546	Total (Transferred to Summary)	49,351	48,706	645

338	565	519	Continuing Services Budget	577
60	32	25	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	48
0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
398	597	544	Total Continuing Services Budget	625
40	15	21	District Development Fund - Expenditure	23
(11)	0	(19)	District Development Fund - Savings	(3)
29	15	2	Total District Development Fund	20
427	612	546	Directorate Total	645

# **Local Taxation**

# **Council Tax & NNDR Collection**

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

#### **Council Tax**

The probable outturn for 2011/12 includes A CSB item of £30,000 relating to a reduction in court cost income. A DDF item of £8,000 is included in the probable outturn 2011/12 for legal fees relating to the ongoing liquidation process of a company that previously provided bailiff services to the Council.

# **NNDR**

The lower actual for 2010/11 compared to 2011/12 and 2012/13 reflects additional income from adjustments for pre Academy transactions and also grant for new burdens small rate relief received in that year.

Income received in 2010/11 for small business rate relief was allocated to the DDF and scheduled for spending during 2012/13.

# **Local Taxation**

2010/11 2011/12					2012/13		
Actual £000	Original Estimate £000	Probable Outturn £000		Gross Expend £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000	
1,106	1,091	1,121	Council Tax Collection	1,423	290	1,133	
17	35	34	NNDR Collection	242	198	44	
1,123	1,126	1,155	Total (Transferred to Summary)	1,665	488	1,177	

1,023	1,124	1,112	Continuing Services Budget	1,168
33	2	35	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	0
0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
1,056	1,126	1,147	Total Continuing Services Budget	1,168
88	0	8	District Development Fund - Expenditure	9
(21)	0	0	District Development Fund - Savings	0
67	0	8	Total District Development Fund	9
1,123	1,126	1,155	_ Directorate Total	1,177

# **Other Activities**

#### **Concessionary Fares**

The reduction in cost from 2011/12 onwards relates to the transfer of functions to Essex County Council from 1 April 2011, with the completion of the transfer planned for the end of 2011/12. It is currently unclear if the County will contract back certain aspects of the service to this Council. A DDF income item of £50,000 included in the original estimate, now revised to £45,000 in the probable is included for 2011/12 in respect of charges to be made to ECC for performing this function.

The Epping Forest District travel usage has been less than that previously identified by the Government and the residual budget from previous years of £72,000 is carried forward to 2011/12 as a DDF item, with a further DDF for £5,000 in 2012/13. If no further costs are identified, this amount will be available to return to the DDF reserve.

#### **Finance Miscellaneous**

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

The reason for the main changes in the 2011/12 probable outturn and 2012/13 estimate relate to additions arising on Support Service and Cost Centre holding accounts. The recharges to services are ascertained based on an initial estimate of costs quite early in the budget process. As the budget progresses figures are confirmed and various changes occur, with the overhead account totals invariably changing, because the Support Service allocation system is quite involved it is impractical to re-run the allocations so any differences that occur are shown here.

# **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 Local Government Finance Act gives the Council power to grant up to a further 20% discretionary relief to those receiving mandatory relief.

### **Non Distributed Costs**

Non distributed costs comprise the elements of cost which are excluded from the definition of total cost of a service. The budget in this case relates to charges for unused shares of depot and office accommodation space, which cannot be identified to a service. The costs vary from year to year depending upon the unallocated revenue element of those fixed assets. The increase since 2010/11 has been brought about by moves from Langston Road Depot relating to the external letting to the WRVS.

# **Vacancy Allowance**

A credit is included here for a vacancy allowance of £360,000 in 2012/13, which is equivalent to 2.5% of Non-HRA salaries. The vacancy allowance for 2011/12 original estimate was also 2.5% and the slightly lower provision in 2012/13 relates to a reduced General Fund salary budget for 2012/13. The General Fund provision relating to next years staff salary budget and establishment is included centrally in this budget.

#### **Provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts**

Taking into consideration the current economic climate and the actual write-offs for 2010/11, there is no requirement to add to the current provision for bad and doubtful debts which is considered to be adequate.

# **Other Activities**

2010/11	201	1/12			2012/13		
Actual £000	Original Estimate £000	Probable Outturn £000		Gross Expend £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000	
632	66	50	Concessionary Fares	24	8	16	
128	(40)	74	Finance Miscellaneous	108	0	108	
20	23	20	NNDR Discretionary Relief	20	0	20	
86	146	128	Non-Distributed Costs	181	39	142	
866	195	272	Total Other Activities	333	47	286	
0	(370)	0	Vacancy Allowance	(360)	0	(360)	
168	80	0	Provision for Bad & Doubtful Debts	0	0	0	
168	(290)	0	Total Contingency Items	(360)	0	(360)	
1,034	(95)	272	Total (Transferred to Summary)	(27)	47	(74)	

937	(107)	255	Continuing Services Budget	(79)
111	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	0
0	(10)	(10)	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
1,048	(117)	245	Total Continuing Services Budget	(79)
85	72	72	District Development Fund - Expenditure	5
(99)	(50)	(45)	District Development Fund - Savings	0
(14)	) 22	27	Total District Development Fund	5
1,034	(95)	272	Directorate Total	(74)

# **Finance Support Services**

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

# **Financial Policy Group**

This budget relates to the salary and overheads for the Director and Assistant Directors of Finance and ICT, and the Executive Assistant.

There are no significant changes to this budget.

### **Accountancy**

There are no significant changes to this budget.

#### **Accounts Payable**

The increase in the probable outturn for 2011/12 and the estimate for 2012/13 relates to a re-allocation of central overhead support services.

#### **Insurance and Credit control**

The increase in the probable outturn for 2011/12, and the estimate for 2012/13 relates to a change in the treatment of the discounts on premiums. This income is now more appropriately included within the Insurance Fund

# **Treasury Management**

The increase in the probable outturn for 2011/12 relates to a supplementary estimate for £39,880 that was approved for fees payable to Arlingclose to advise on Treasury management matters relating to the loan portfolio for HRA self financing. The full cost of this has been recharged to the HRA via the Corporate Management account.

#### Cashiers

The increase in the probable outturn for 2011/12 and the estimate for 2012/13 relates to a reallocation of central overhead charges for cash allocation and control activities.

# **Audit and Bank Charges**

The costs here relate to charges made by PKF for external audit of the annual accounts, grant claims and statutory returns. The budget also includes the cost of maintaining the Council's bank accounts.

### **Finance Administration & Procurement**

Reductions in the probable outturn for 2011/12 and the estimate for 2012/13 relate to a reduction in the net costs of the Essex Procurement hub, and a reallocation of central overhead costs.

Finance & ICT
Finance Support Services

2010/11 Actual £000	201 Original Estimate £000	1/12 Probable Outturn £000		Gross Expend £000	2012/13 Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000
455	472	473	Financial Policy Group	474	0	474
612	637	630	Accountancy	639	0	639
170	175	206	Accounts Payable	204	0	204
171	125	187	Insurance and Credit Control	203	18	185
58	58	105	Treasury Management	55	0	55
351	371	394	Cashiers	404	0	404
245	235	234	Audit / Bank Charges	237	0	237
301	315	286	Finance Admin & Procurement	294	0	294
2,362	2,388	2,515	Total (Transferred to Summary)	2,510	18	2,492

2,3	40	2,398	2,526	Continuing Services Budget	2,507
	9	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	0
	0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
2,3	49	2,398	2,526	Total Continuing Services Budget	2,507
	13	0	0	District Development Fund - Expenditure	0
	0	(10)	(11)	District Development Fund - Savings	(15)
	13	(10)	(11)	Total District Development Fund	(15)
2,3	62	2,388	2,515	Directorate Total	2,492

# **ICT Support Services**

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

#### **ICT**

The probable outturn for 2011/12 includes a CSB saving of £20,000 for equipment, and a DDF saving of £5,000 relating to GCSX connection costs. The budget for 2012/13 includes additional asset depreciation charges of £25,000 relating to capital equipment and software purchases

# **Telephones**

This budget relates to the Council's main telephone systems and related networks, and includes all support staff and telephonists. A CSB saving of £6,000 is included in the 2011/12 probable outturn, and other reductions compared to the original estimate relate to a re-allocation of staffing charges from the main ICT

#### Website

The costs relating to the Website are almost entirely support service costs comprising recharges from the central computer budget and managerial and professional charges for Public Relations and Democratic Services. The budget from 2011/12 includes the full costs of operating the Website, with the total cost allocated to services based on time allocations for the PR officers, and website activity for the other overheads.

Finance & ICT

# **ICT Support Services**

2010/11 Actual £000	201 Original Estimate £000	1/12 Revised Estimate £000		Gross Expend £000	2012/13 Gross Income £000	Net Expend £000
2,239	2,308	2,233	ICT	2,273	0	2,273
563	579	544	Telephones	569	0	569
186	182	172	Website	181	0	181
2,988	3,069	2,949	Total (Transferred to Summary)	3,023	0	3,023

	2,988	3,069	2,980	Continuing Services Budget	3,025
	0	0	0	Continuing Services Budget - Growth	0
	0	0	(26)	Continuing Services Budget - Savings	0
_	2,988	3,069	2,954	Total Continuing Services Budget	3,025
	0	0	0	District Development Fund - Expenditure	0
	0	0	(5)	District Development Fund - Savings	(2)
_	0	0	(5)	Total District Development Fund	(2)
	2,988	3,069	2,949	Directorate Total	3,023

# FINANCE & ICT SUBJECTIVE ANALYSIS 2012/13 ORIGINAL

SUBSECTIVE ANALTSIS 2012/13 OKIGINAL															
Cost Centre	Employees	Premises	Transport	Supplies	Benefit Payments	Support Services	Depreciation	Gross Expenditure	(Internally Recharged)	Fees & Charges	Rental Income	Government Grant	Other Income	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Rent Rebates Council Tax Benefit Rent Allowances Non-HRA Rent Rebates Benefit Administration	911,310		22,780	101,100	16,430,000 11,200,000 19,850,000 60,000	445,980	26,210	16,430,000 11,200,000 19,850,000 60,000 1,507,380				16,536,000 11,350,000 20,070,000 32,000 628,160		16,536,000 11,350,000 20,070,000 32,000 628,160	(106,000) (150,000) (220,000) 28,000 879,220
Fraud Investigation	178,350		4,460	22,990		92,660	5,070	303,530				90,000		90,000	213,530
Council Tax Collection	715,280	210	15,400	90,580		579,660	22,120	1,423,250					290,000	290,000	1,133,250
NNDR Collection	126,460		2,740	25,190		83,380	3,950	241,720				173,000	25,000	198,000	43,720
Concessionary Fares Sundry Non-distributable Costs	-	152,160		19,550 -		4,620 81,200	-	24,170 233,360	(52,220)	8,000 38,690				8,000 38,690	16,170 142,450
Finance Miscellaneous NNDR Discretionary Relief	(10,000)	20,000		(10,000)		127,480		107,480 20,000						-	107,480 20,000
Vacancy Allowance Provision for Bad Debts	(360,000)							(360,000)						-	(360,000)
TOTAL	1,561,400	172,370	45,380	249,410	47,540,000	1,414,980	57,350	51,040,890	(52,220)	46,690	-	48,879,160	315,000	49,240,850	1,747,820
Finance Services	200 020		25.000	740		E7 4E0		472.000	(472,000)						
Financial Policy Group Accountancy	390,620 492,870		25,080 3,990	1,270		57,450 141,270		473,890 639,400	(473,890) (639,400)					-	-
Accounts Payable	73,480		3,330	330		130,570		204,380	(204,380)					_	_
Insurance and Financial Control	135,850		3,650	1,730		61,310		202,540	(184,340)	18,200			_	18,200	_
Treasury Management	,		.,	18,380		36,740		55,120	(55,120)	,				-	-
Cashiers		181,480	1,110	32,640		170,610	18,560	404,400	(404,400)					-	-
District Audit / Bank Charges				228,800		8,170		236,970	(236,970)					-	-
Finance General Admin & Procurement		133,270	1,640	72,250		86,130		293,290	(293,290)					-	-
ICT															-
Information Technology	891,510	_	8,810	759,780		252,810	360,380	2,273,290	(2,273,290)					_	_
Telephones	6,530		0,010	175,900		371,620	000,000	554,050	(554,050)				-	-	_
Mobile Phones	3,333			12,550		2,590		15,140	(15,140)					-	-
Telephones	6,530	-	-	188,450	-	374,210	-	569,190	(569,190)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Website				180,610				180,610	(180,610)						-
TOTAL	1,990,860	314,750	44,280	1,484,980	-	1,319,270	378,940	5,533,080	(5,514,880)	18,200		-	-	18,200	-
		<u>'</u>						, ,				•			
DIRECTORATE TOTAL	3,552,260	487,120	89,660	1,734,390	47,540,000	2,734,250	436,290	56,573,970	(5,567,100)	64,890	-	48,879,160	315,000	49,259,050	1,747,820
Third Party Payments															
Revenue Group Housing Benefit Group	833,930 1,075,780	-	17,810 26,620	48,570 78,910		328,850 492,030	25,950 30,950	- 1,255,110 1,704,290	1,255,110 1,704,290					- -	- -
TOTAL	1,909,710	-	44,430	127,480	_	820,880	56,900	2,959,400	2,959,400			<u> </u>	_	_	_
IOIAL	1,808,710		44,430	127,400		020,000	ან,900	۷,۶۵۶,400	۷,۶۵۶, <del>4</del> 00	-			-	-	