

18 JANUARY 2010

**Revised Draft Revenue Budget and Draft Capital Programme 2010/11
for Communities and Partnerships Portfolio and Leisure & Culture
Portfolio**

Ward(s) All

Portfolio:

Councillor Sanders – Leisure and Culture
Councillor Perry - Communities and Partnerships

Summary of report

This report informs Members of a series of recommendations made by the Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Panel from its meeting on 11 December 2009 during consideration of the council-wide financial position.

Recommendation

The panel are recommended to consider the draft proposals in this report and make further recommendations to Cabinet as appropriate .

Background papers

Various financial working papers.

Reason for scrutiny

To enable consultation and scrutiny of the draft budget proposals for 2010/11.



Signed
Jamie Morris - Executive Director – Neighbourhood Services

07 January 2010

Resource and legal considerations

Services were requested to identify efficiency savings and investment for consideration in the setting of the 2010/11 corporate revenue budget and to review their base budgets in line with the corporate guidelines and estimated changes in inflation and pay awards.

1. Draft Revenue Budget 2010/11 – Communities and Partnerships Portfolio and Leisure & Culture Portfolio

- 1.1 Cabinet on 18 November 2009 presented their draft revenue budget proposals for 2010/11 for consultation. These proposals, including savings and investment proposals for the services within the remit of this panel, were reported to the panel meeting on 1 December 2009.

Table 1 sets out the draft revenue budget 2010/11 for the Communities and Partnerships Portfolio and Leisure & Culture Portfolio, and any subsequent changes to the revenue budget previously reported.

Table 1 – 2010/11 Draft Revenue Budget – Communities and Partnerships Portfolio and Leisure & Culture Portfolio	
	£m
Budget brought forward from previous year	23.114
Inflation	0.177
Other budget refresh	0.128
Budget pressures : demographics, cost pressures, fall out of grant	0.131
Investment : service developments	0.830
Full year effect of 2009/10 growth	0.042
Efficiencies, savings and income generation	-0.774
Full year effect of 2009/10 savings	-0.361
Draft net revenue budget requirement 2010/11 as reported to Environment Scrutiny and Performance Panel on 30 November 2009	23.287
Investment transferred to Community Services – enforcement of environmental crime to complement community areas	0.120
Adjusted Draft net budget requirement 2010/11	23.407

2. Scrutiny Recommendations to Cabinet

- 2.1 At its budget scrutiny meeting on 1 December 2009, this panel received the detailed breakdown of investment bids and savings options submitted to Cabinet to enable the panel's recommendations to be made for Cabinet to consider as part of the budget process. The panel discussed the options in principle, and made the following recommendations to Cabinet:-

That:

1. further information be provided to the Panel on the alternative leisure facilities available, including the possibility of subsidised memberships at other nearby leisure centres, to residents should Willenhall Leisure Centre be closed;
2. the Panel be informed of the alternative swimming and leisure facilities that will be provided for the primary, secondary and special schools that currently utilise Willenhall Leisure Centre, and;
3. the efficiency, new income and service redesign proposals for the Communities and Partnership Portfolio be supported.

All recommendations have been reported and noted by Cabinet.

Officers are preparing the information requested by the panel in relation to the Willenhall Leisure Centre and this will be brought back to the panel for consideration.

3. Draft Capital Programme 2010/11 – Communities and Partnerships Portfolio and Leisure & Culture Portfolio

- 3.1 Cabinet on 16 December 2009 presented their draft capital programme for 2010/11 for consultation.

Table 2 sets out the draft capital programme 2010/11 for the Communities and Partnerships Portfolio and Leisure & Culture Portfolio, with the full list of associated schemes listed in **Appendices 1 and 2**.

Table 2 – 2010/11 Draft Capital Programme – Communities and Partnerships Portfolio and Leisure & Culture Portfolio	
Mainstream (Council's own resources)	£m
Schemes with Prior Year Approvals	0.650
Total Mainstream resources (Appendix 1)	0.650
Non Mainstream (Externally Funded) – Appendix 2	4.545
Total	5.195

If grant or mainstream funding is unavailable the scheme will not proceed. At this point in time, a number of grants have not been confirmed, therefore there is likely to be some movement as the budget process progresses.

- 3.2 Leasing Programme
Leasing minimises the call on capital resources by spreading the acquisition cost over some years. Revenue funds are needed to finance operating leases. There are no assets identified within the draft leasing programme relating to services within the remit of this panel.
- 3.3 Reserve List
A reserve list of schemes is in place should resources become available for new starts in 2010/11. There is one schemes identified on this reserve list that relate to services within the remit of this panel which is regarding the Sneyd reservoir overflow replacement totalling £45K and is shown in **Appendix 3**.

Citizen impact

The budget is aligned with service activity within service plans across the council. Investment is intended to be targeted at service improvement, stability and user influence. The report to the panel on 1 December 2009 set out the vision and priorities for the services within the remit of this panel.

Environmental impact

Services within the remit of this panel have a direct influence and impact on the environment.

Performance management

Financial performance is considered alongside service targets. Managers are required to deliver their service targets within budget, wherever possible. The report to the panel on 1 December 2009 included reference to performance management and key indicators.

Equality Implications

Services consider equality issues in setting budgets and delivering services. Irrespective of budgetary pressures the council must fulfil its equal opportunities obligations

Consultation

This is the second of two meetings for scrutiny to consider Cabinets draft budget proposals. Recommendation from the panels first meeting on 1 December 2009 were presented to Cabinet at its meeting on 16 December 2009. This meeting provides the panel with a further opportunity to consider the revised draft revenue budget and first draft capital programme 2010/11 and make recommendations for Cabinet to consider prior to Cabinet proposing the final budget for 2010/11 at its meeting on 3 February 2010.

Report Author & Contact Officers:

Stephanie Simcox – Service Accounting & Financial Planning Manager

☎ 01922 652703

SimcoxS@walsall.gov.uk

Tracey Evans – Lead Accountant – Resources & Neighbourhoods

☎ 01922 652430

EvansT@Walsall.gov.uk

DRAFT CAPITAL SCHEME PROPOSALS 2010/11: Mainstream (council's own resources)

PORTFOLIO	PROJECT	CAPITAL 2010/11 £	COMMENTS
Prior Year Approvals			
Community and Partnerships	Redhouse community centre	300,000	Development of a community facility on the former Redhouse school site to provide access to activities and facilities identified by the community: Approved in 2009/10 and agreed to be deferred
Leisure and Culture	Health Centre, Library and Children's Centre for Pelsall	350,000	In line with Government and local aspirations, plans have been developed to deliver a new, shared building to provide a health centre, children's centre and library facilities for the residents of Pelsall. This represents the Council's contribution.
Sub-total Prior Year Approvals		650,000	
TOTAL SCHEMES		650,000	

DRAFT CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2010/11: EXTERNALLY FUNDED

Portfolio	Project	2010/11 £'000	Funding body
Communities and Partnerships	Safer Stronger Community Fund	106,655	Home Office
TOTAL COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS		106,655	
Leisure and Culture	Walsall Children's Play Portfolio	320,000	Department for Transport
Leisure and Culture	Community Heritage Centre	0	Department for Transport (LTP)
Leisure and Culture	Walsall Arboretum Restoration Programme	762,000	Department for Transport
Leisure and Culture	Palfrey Park Restoration Programme	296,500	Department for Transport
Leisure and Culture	Pelsall Health Centre, Children's Centre and Library	2,450,000	Department for Transport
Leisure and Culture	Playbuilder	599,369	Department for Transport
TOTAL TRANSPORT		4,427,869	
TOTAL EXTERNALLY FUNDED		4,534,524	

DRAFT CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2010/11: RESERVE LIST

PORTFOLIO	PROJECT	CAPITAL BIDS 2010/11	COMMENTS
RESERVE LIST SCHEMES			
Leisure and Culture	Sneyd reservoir overflow replacement	45,000	To replace outflow to allow the water level to be controlled and prevent flooding
TOTAL RESERVE LIST		45,000	