

## **BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**FROM:** Head of Finance & Performance Review  
and Head of Technical Services

**REPORT NUMBER**    **E99**

**TO:** Overview & Scrutiny (Stewardship)  
Committee

**DATE OF MEETING**    16 August 2005

### **PROGRESS ON CAPITAL PROJECTS**

#### 1.    **SUMMARY**

The Committee requested at its last meeting that a progress report and update on those projects that had been delayed or on which money was not spent last year should be submitted to this meeting. This is provided.

#### 2.    **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1    That Members note the updated position on capital schemes that were delayed or on which money was not spent last year.

The Committee is able to resolve this matter.

#### 3.    **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None

#### 4.    **KEY INFORMATION**

- 4.1    Good progress is being made on the various capital schemes and projects that were delayed or on which money was not spent last year.

- 4.2    The attached appendix sets out the latest position on these. From this it can be seen that:

- On Council Housing the money is either being spent on other priorities in the HRA Business Plan or the money will be spent this financial year
- It is anticipated that progress on the two Housing Association schemes will be in line with indications given at the last meeting and that, again, these will be completed this financial year
- The position on certain areas or projects, namely Private Sector Renewal Grants/Loans, the A131 Environmental Enhancement Scheme and the Pin Mill scheme will be reviewed as part of the forthcoming service and financial planning process
- Work on car parks planned maintenance and the improvements to Shotley Public Conveniences will be commenced/completed later in the year
- E-government & ICT projects are being progressed now that the position on CAST is clearer and the delayed expenditure is to be incurred this financial year

- 4.3    There is a further report on today's agenda in relation to the E-Government/ICT and grant position.

5. **APPENDICES**

(a) Update on progress on 2004/05 capital schemes

6. **BACKGROUND PAPERS REFERRED TO:**

None.

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Appendix

Scheme/Project	(£000)	Explanation to O&S Committee in July 2005	Latest progress
<b>Council Housing</b>  Sandringham Court     Parking areas and Estate improvements     Decent Homes Improvements	395     100     200	The position was fully explained in Paper D235 and the outcomes were as anticipated. Strategy Committee approved the tenders for the Sandringham Court project at their last meeting.             The 2004/05 Decent Homes Standard work has focused almost entirely on achieving the full 'thermal comfort' element of the Standard. The work was undertaken through 'partnership' arrangements and benefited from the grants available from major energy providers such as Powergen. This has resulted in there only being a small cost to the Decent Homes budget.	Contract awarded. Anticipated start date early September with a 70-week contract period.          Only £16,000 carried forward for estate improvements already identified and that are being undertaken this year. Remaining £84,000 saving used towards other work programmes     Saving in 2004/05 was finalised at £120,000. This money has been carried forward and will be used for the kitchen programme being undertaken to achieve the Standard.

Appendix

Sheltered units – general Improvements	93	A number of schemes are being progressed and formulated in conjunction with residents and other interested parties, but this is taking more time than expected. Some work has been deferred due to concentrating on higher priorities and the Sheltered Housing review.	Sheltered Review recommendations now approved by Council – action plan being delivered. Awaiting confirmation of final work programme from the Head of Housing. Due to the relatively small size of the budget it is anticipated that all identified schemes can be designed and constructed within the financial year
<b>Housing Association Schemes</b>			
Poplar Road, Great Cornard and Woollards Gardens, Long Melford	100	Members were advised in paper D235 that it was likely that these grants would not be paid out by the end of the financial year. Latest expectations are that grant will be paid out for the Poplar Road scheme in late 2005 or early 2006 and for Woollards Gardens in spring 2006.	On target with revised start dates
<b>Private Sector Renewal</b>			
Grants/Loans	(20)	Slightly more has been paid out on the grants that were approved last year than was allowed for in the budget. This is just a matter of timing and there will be compensating savings this year. In fact, as grant approvals in 2004/05 were £160k less than budget, there will be a fairly significant saving in 2005/06.	Impact on 2005/06 and requirements for future years will be re-assessed as part of this year's service and financial planning process.

**Appendix**

<b>Environmental Services</b>			
Shotley Public Conveniences Improvements	32	This was explained in paper D235 and the money will now be spent this year.	Roofing works now completed. Design on internal refurbishment under way. Anticipated completion – December 2005
Recycling.	(40)	This was added to the budget during the year through the Service & Financial Planning process and produces annual revenue savings	No further implications or impact on current year.
<b>E-Government/ICT</b>			
CAST related projects	111	Awaiting decision on CAST project.	It is now planned to implement DIP / Workflow for Revs and Bens in Q4 2005 at an estimated project cost of £90,000. A proposal has been submitted to e-Government Steering Group to allow e-Procurement to progress. There is sufficient contingency within the existing list of e-Government projects, or potential projects, to ensure that the full IEG grant can be utilised. This is being regularly monitored through the e-Government Steering Group.

## Appendix

Positional Accuracy Software	60	Being reconsidered in relation to the council's wider corporate property information system requirements.	This is still being considered within the business case for the wider corporate property information system requirements. However, irrespective of the outcome of this business case, the user department have indicated that this project will be undertaken before the end of the current financial year.
<b>Leisure</b>			
CEP contribution to Great Cornard Community Campus	(60)	This scheme (£1M) was funded by the National Lottery as part of the Active England programme. Babergh played a key role in submitting the successful bid and securing other funding including £60K from the CEP, which was not allowed for in the capital programme.	No further implications or impact on current year.
<b>Planning</b>			
A131 environmental Enhancement	25	Due to design problems in the Suffolk County Council scheme related to a safety audit there has been reconsultation with the public. SCC are currently consulting on draft traffic orders and a temporary scheme should be put in place in 2005/06. If that scheme is successful a permanent scheme to which our money would contribute might be put in place at the end of 2006/07 or in 2007/08. This delay has been beyond our control.	Further discussions taking place with SCC. Update to be provided when firm proposals known and reflected in service and financial planning considerations.

Appendix

Sudbury HERS	157	The Gainsborough Street enhancement scheme has been delayed by the contractor and will be completed in 2005/06. Grants expenditure delayed because commitments always take time to be turned into spend by the property owners involved.	Works restarting on site on 9 <sup>th</sup> August, and scheduled for completion at the end of November
<b>Other</b>			
Car Parks – planned maintenance	45	Explained in paper D235.	Expenditure on new parking area at the Station Road car park, Sudbury, cannot be completed until the site is vacated by the contractor completing the Sudbury HERS project. Work will therefore be carried out in January 2006.
Further work at Pin Mill	25	Ditto	No works proposed at present. Money will be used as ‘matched funding’ for a bid to the Haven Gateway Project in late 2005. Will also be picked up in the service and financial planning process.