

EXETER CITY COUNCIL**SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –ECONOMY
7 JUNE 2007****CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING REPORT (2006/07 OUTTURN)****1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report advises Members of the latest position with regard to the 2006/07 Capital Programme for Economy.

2. INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Capital Programme was last reviewed by Scrutiny Economy on 8 November 2006. This report provides a summary of the position at the end of the financial year. Annex A gives a complete list of capital projects. A number of schemes are worthy of particular highlight and these are detailed below.

Canal Basin and Quayside

- 2.2 Progress on delivering phase 1 of the scheme is going well. Work will commence shortly on the old Electricity Building and final terms should be settled soon with Sutton Harbour for the proposals for Maclaines Warehouse, 60 Haven Road and the adjoining sites, with works expected to commence over summer 2007. The boardwalk adjoining 60 Haven Road will be provided in conjunction with these works. Proposals for the new link road through Haven Road car park together with a new boat laying up area and improvements to the retained car and coach park are the subject of detailed discussions with Devon County Council and the Environment Agency, with a planning application to be submitted and tender documentation issued by late summer. The timescales for work on the link road have meant that agreements with Bridger Marine to facilitate their relocation to the Haven Road site have slipped into 2007/2008 but should be in place soon. As a result, capital funding previously allocated to 2006/07 for these infrastructure proposals and to facilitate the Bridger relocation, has been carried forward to 2007/08.

Beacon Lane Shops

- 2.3 Works to reconfigure the Beacon Lane parade commenced in April 2007 and is proceeding according to programme. It is anticipated that this work will be completed during July. As a result of the April start date, most of the allocated capital funding has been rolled forward into 2007/08. Tenders came in above the expected sum so Executive on 12 February approved an additional £20,000 expenditure.

Cathedral Yard, Cathedral Close and New Cut

- 2.4 Work on the first enhancement phase (Cathedral Yard) was completed in the autumn with pedestrianisation coming into operation from early October. Feedback has been positive. Contractors are now site for the second phase

(Southernhay through to No.10 Cathedral Close) with work expected to be complete by August 07. A slight delay to the project schedule has been caused by the need for additional foundation work. This has resulted in a deferment of expenditure to 07/08, as identified in Annex A.

City Centre Enhancements

- 2.6 This project covers 3 elements of work and is match funded by the County Council: 1) Lower High Street Enhancement; 2) Enhancements to the Registry Office frontage and 3) Cricklepit Street public realm paving and railings. A tender for Lower High Street enhancements has been prepared by the County Council and the contractor is expected to be on site from this month with work complete by late September. Improvements to the Registry Office frontage are now complete. Contractors for the Cricklepit Street works are expected to be on site very shortly, but now that detailed design of the public realm works has been completed, the cost is now estimated to be £20,000 higher than previously.

Conservation Area Enhancements (smaller schemes)

- 2.7 This budget will be used for smaller enhancement schemes in Conservation Areas. Progress on schemes has been delayed into 2007/08 because of high staff turnover and vacancies in the Planning team. A set of schemes and proposals will be developed in the first half of 2007/08 with implementation following later in 2007/08. Planning Committee members will be consulted on these in due course.

Custom House

- 2.8 Contractors are now on site and their work is on schedule. Restoration is expected to be complete by end Aug 07. Roll forward of expenditure into 07/08 is as a result of delays in the tendering process and the appointment of a suitably qualified contractor. This, together with the need to fit with the contractor's own commitments, has led to a later start than was anticipated. In its December 2006 meeting, Executive agreed to an increase of £80,000 in the budget for this work to reflect anticipated additional costs. On completion, the Custom House will be used as a base for the Archaeological Field Unit.

Guildhall Car Park Comprehensive Refurbishment and introduction of 'pay-on-foot'

- 2.9 This project, which includes significant structural enhancements, resurfacing, waterproofing, and provision of a new attendants' office, is currently on budget and has now fully opened. Rapid progress has meant that a greater proportion of the contract cost has been incurred in 2006/07, compared with the original budget profile - Annex A refers. However, and to reiterate, the overall budget across financial years 2006/07 and 2007/08 remains unchanged.

Northcott Theatre Grant

- 2.10 A contribution towards improvements to the auditorium and 'front of the house' at the Northcott Theatre, together with essential works for Fire Safety and Disability Discrimination Act compliance, was agreed by Executive on 21 June 2005 and 23 January 2007.

Science Park

- 2.11 An initial Master Plan for the Science Park site (Redhayes, Junction 29) has been prepared and work continues on a Supplementary Planning Document led by East Devon District Council. A site master plan and planning application will be prepared during the rest of 2007/08 with planning consent sought in Summer 2008. Construction of the Core Science Park building is expected to be complete by 2010/11. City Council funding to support consultancy work on development proposals has so far drawn on revenue budgets allocated to this proposal. Capital funding originally allocated for 2006/07 has therefore been deferred to 2007/08.

Strategic Signage

- 2.12 This project has two phases. Phase 1 is close to completion with 16 of the 20 monoliths designed and installed within the City Centre. Four more monoliths will be designed and installed at St David's Stations, Lower High Street and Princesshay. A small deferment into 07/08 from 2006/07 to cover installation of these remaining 4 signs and to cover a contract retention arrangement has been made. Funding of £130,000 over financial years 07/08 and 08/09 for Phase 2 work (replacement and updating of finger post signs), was agreed by Executive in February 2007. Discussion over the location, form and content of replaced finger posts is continuing.

3. RECOMMENDED

- 3.1. **It is recommended** that Members note the content of this report on capital programme 2006/07 outturn.

John Rigby
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Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report:

None