
**Meeting of Executive Member for Leisure and Culture
and Advisory Panel**

5 June 2007

Report of the Director of Learning, Culture and Children's Services

**End of Year Service Plan Performance Monitoring 2006/07:
Leisure and Culture**

Summary

1. This report analyses performance by reference to the service plan, the budget, and the performance indicators for all of the services funded through the leisure and culture budget.

Background

2. Last year, the council introduced a new cycle for reporting to the Executive Member. A common proforma has been developed for all services in the directorate which summarises progress against the actions listed in the service plan, records variations from the budget, and comments on performance against the Performance Indicators for which information has become available during the reporting period. These are attached as Annex 1 to the covering report. Service Managers have been asked to use no more than 2 sides of A4 for their monitoring report.
3. A summary of the main findings on progress for the Executive Member's portfolio as a whole is included below.

Analysis

4. The main message from the service plan monitoring reports is that the great majority of planned projects are on track. Particularly noteworthy has been:
 - Securing an Arts Council Yorkshire grant of £72k for community arts over the next 3 years
 - The first York Literature Festival that took place in March showcasing York writers
 - The launch of the Swim York scheme helping over 1,500 children and adults learn to swim
 - Establishment of a fourth Local Nature Reserve at Acomb Wood and Acomb Wood Meadow

5. Issues that have not yet been progressed include:
 - Determining the future of the City Archive. Following re-examination of the specification for the recent tender exercise a report will be brought back to the Executive in the Autumn
 - Developing York's action plan for community sports engagement with London 2012. Advice from the London organising committee has been much slower coming forward than was expected. However, the regional strategy has now been published and provides a clear basis for the
6. The Key PIs show a healthy position. The following are particularly encouraging:
 - Generally high satisfaction levels notably with Parks and Open Spaces
 - The number and range of events supported by the service, notably through the first "Festival of the Rivers"
 - The expansion of the Young People's holiday programme and the number of young people taking part
 - The number of community arts events staged
 - Street Sport has exceeded all its first year targets
 - The increased number of visits to our museums and galleries
7. Areas of concern include the low satisfaction with sports facilities. This is clearly a result of the delay in being able to refurbish / replace swimming facilities caused by the hold up in the sale of the Barbican (now completed). Low satisfaction with activities for young people is alarming and surprising given the highly successful and expanded programme of holiday activities for young people which has very high levels of satisfaction amongst those taking part. This requires further investigation.
8. There is evidence of improving performance in the Arts area, although staff turnover and restructure has clearly had a detrimental effect on some activities. Measures are now in place to counter these areas of poor performance.
9. In the Library Service there are excellent results in adults registering for learning reflecting the service's placing of learning at the heart of its strategy. The results from the library users' survey are also encouraging. The number of visits which had been increasing year on year dropped off slightly in 2006/7. Measures have been put in place through the recent staffing restructure to address this. The number of book issues, on the other hand, has grown. There has been no progress in 2006/7 towards meeting public library standards although the restructure will deliver slightly more opening hours in 2007/8.
10. York Museums Trust have continued to increase museums attendances including visits by pupils.
11. Parks & Open Spaces are maintaining good performance, with the investment in play areas paying off in terms of more now meeting the national standards.

Consultation

12. Not applicable.

Options

13. There are no options associated with this report; it is for information only.

Corporate Priorities

14. The service plans funded through the Leisure and Culture budget are derived from the Lifelong Learning and Leisure Plan 2005 – 2008, which includes a link with the corporate priorities under each of the following headings:
 - Making York More Eventful
 - Engaging in Learning
 - Being Healthy
 - Making a Positive Contribution
 - Taking Pride and Pleasure in the Environment
 - Economic Well-being
 - Staying Safe
 - Infrastructure Planning

Financial Implications

15. This report sets out the draft outturn figures for the financial year 2006/07. Whilst most budgets have outturned at or about the level of the current approved budget, there are still a number of exceptions to this. The individual variations are detailed in full at Annex 2 but in summary the draft outturn for 2006/07 is £9,698k. This compares with a current approved budget of £9,828k, a net underspend of £130k or 1.3%. It must be noted that the figures are provisional and may be adjusted. However, significant changes are not expected to be made.
16. The original net budget for Leisure & Culture for 2006/07 was set at £10,605k. Since then there have been a number of changes made (the summary table at Annex 2 provides details) resulting in the latest approved net budget of £9,828k.
17. The Executive Member has also received two formal monitoring reports and has been kept informed on expenditure and income trends during the year. The latest report was presented on 5 December 2006. Further regular monitoring reports have also been considered by the LCCS Departmental Management Team throughout the year.
18. The first budget monitoring report for 2006/07 presented to EMAP in September 2006 highlighted a projected net overspend (after mitigating action) of £196k. Additional one-off funding of £196k was then provided by the Executive to fund this net overspend in 2006/07.

19. By the time of the second monitoring report in December 2006 the position had worsened slightly with a net overspend of £13k still being predicted despite the £196k of additional funding.
20. The individual service plan financial monitoring sheets at Annex 2 now show total overspends of £144k. To offset this savings and other mitigating action has produced underspends or additional income totalling £274k, with the details again shown in Annex 2. The result of this action leaves the net underspend of £130k which is a significant improvement on the position reported in the last monitoring report.
21. Members should be aware that the Director of LCCS has a responsibility to deliver a balanced budget across all services within the directorate. As the general fund services within the Children's Services portfolio were heading towards significant overspends in a number of statutory services then positive action to reduce expenditure in the more discretionary leisure budgets was required.
22. The major changes from the second monitoring report are set out briefly below:
 - Significant increase in the underspends within Parks and Open Spaces totalling £35k as a result of a more proactive approach to income generation and the ceasing of non-essential maintenance work.
 - Savings in the Sports Facilities Management budgets on staffing, training and IT systems costs totalling £47k.
 - Additional one-off costs of £21k incurred in setting up the temporary gym at Edmund Wilson Pool.
 - An improvement of £17k in the libraries' income shortfall.
 - Additional net savings of £28k within the Archive Service due mainly to staff vacancies and additional funding secured for some demolition costs.
 - Additional savings totalling £40k in overall departmental management budgets, again due to some posts being kept deliberately vacant for longer periods and savings on office expenses.
23. Many of the underspends have been achieved by initiating specific management action to cease spending in a number of non-essential areas. This was in response to the difficult overall LCCS directorate and council budget position being projected at the time of the last monitoring reports. Inevitably these savings are only sustainable in the short term and cannot be repeated in 2007/08 without impacting on the levels of service provided.
24. Although many of the underlying variations have already been accounted for when the 2007/08 budgets were set, there are still some items that are expected to have an impact in 2007/08. Initial estimates of this impact suggest a continuing net overspend of £25k, including:
 - Library Service income shortfalls of £30k
 - Unbudgeted Library Service contribution to learning connections of £15k

- Additional income within Parks and Strays budgets of £20k

Proposals to Carry Forward Unspent Budgets

25. In order to promote good management and allow planned 2006/07 projects to proceed, it is proposed to continue the arrangements of previous years and permit underspendings to be carried forward in certain circumstances. Rather than being a general provision, it is suggested that carry forward proposals should only be allowed where the portfolio area and directorate actually underspends due to a genuine slippage.
26. Even though the Leisure & Culture portfolio has underspent in 2006/07, no carry forward requests are proposed as the overall LCCS directorate budget still shows a small net overspend for the year.

Other Implications

27. The report has no Human Resources, Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder, Information Technology, or Property implications.

Risk Management

28. All of the service plans include a section on risk management.

Recommendations

29. The Executive Member is recommended to note the performance of services within the directorate funded through the Leisure & Culture budget and to approve the draft revenue outturn for 2006/07, noting that the underspend will be transferred to the council's reserves

Reason: To monitor and review performance in the Leisure and Culture portfolio area.

Contact Details

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**Report
Approved**

Date 22/05/07

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Financial Implications.
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Wards Affected: List wards or tick box to indicate all

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes:

- 1 – Summary service plan budget position and monitoring reports
- 2 – Detailed budget and financial outturn analysis

Background Papers:

Learning Culture and Children's Services Service Plans 2006/07
2006/07 Budget Files
2006/07 Closedown Files
Budget monitoring reports presented to the Executive Member during 2006/07