

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

3 June 2008

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

**End of Year Service Plan Performance Monitoring 2007/08:
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. At the heart of the council's corporate approach for reporting to the Executive Member is a common proforma 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 an annex to the covering report together with the end of year performance report from the York Museums Trust.
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 have been completed. Particularly noteworthy has been:
 - The opening of the new Acomb Library Learning Centre and the flexible learning centre created in Room 18 at the Central Library with new programmes launched including the "First time on line" programme
 - Revamping the City of Festivals programme with new festivals such as Fiesta! now coming on stream and the Illuminating York Festival drawing excellent responses from the public
 - Yearsley Pool opened on time after its refurbishment
 - Green flags awarded to West Bank Park, Rowntree Park and Glen Gardens
 - Improvements to the allotments leading to high levels of occupancy

- 90% of children are now participating in 2 hours of PE and school sport per week, an increase of 19% on last year
 - Securing funding for and appointing a Children's Centres Community Arts Officer
5. Issues that have not yet been progressed include:
- The New Earswick Library Learning Centre has been delayed but will now open in June
 - The physical activity consciousness campaign. This has been prioritised in this year's plan: one of the 5 "Big Ideas".
6. The Key PIs are generally on track:
- The number of arts events for young people has exceeded the target as have events generally and those targeting communities with low participation rates
 - Communities Arts initiatives are well ahead of target
 - The number of adults completing courses through public libraries has exceeded expectations
 - The increase in the number of visits to our museums and galleries has been maintained by the York Museums Trust
7. Areas of concern are:
- The number of pupils in Performing Arts Centres. This is being actively addressed through the launch of the York Arts Academy this summer
 - The number of library items added to stock have not met the target. This will be addressed through the stock policy which will come to EMAP next month

Consultation

8. Not applicable.

Options

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

Corporate Priorities

10. 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
 - Building cohesive communities
 - Developing a vibrant cultural infrastructure

Financial Implications

- 11 This report sets out the draft outturn figures for the financial year 2007/08. Whilst most budgets have out turned 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 A but in summary the draft outturn for 2007/08 is £8,723k. This compares with a current approved budget of £8,678k, a net overspend of £45k or 0.5%. It must be noted that the figures are provisional and may be adjusted. However, significant changes are not expected to be made.
- 12 The original net budget for Leisure & Culture for 2007/08 was set at £9,478k. Since then there have been a number of changes made (the summary table at Annex A provides details) resulting in the latest approved net budget of £8,678k.
- 13 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 4 December 2007. Further regular monitoring reports have also been considered by the LCCS Departmental Management Team throughout the year.
- 14 The individual service plan financial monitoring sheets at Annex A now show total overspends of £463k. To offset this savings and other mitigating action has produced underspends or additional income totalling £418k, with the details again shown in Annex A. The result of this action leaves the net overspend of £45k which is an improvement of £46k on the position reported in the last monitoring report. The major changes from the second monitoring report are set out briefly below:
 - An increase of £21k in the libraries' income shortfall, mainly due to the late write off of some previous years' irrecoverable debts.
 - Additional savings totalling £31k in library staffing budgets, due to some posts being kept vacant.
 - An increase in the underspend within Parks and Open Spaces totalling £37k as a result of increased income generation and the ceasing of some non-essential maintenance work.
 - Additional one-off unbudgeted expenditure at the Barbican on rates and previous years' gas costs totalling £66k.
 - An increase in the surplus generated on the Oaklands Centre recharge of £22k.
 - Savings in the Sports Facilities Management budgets on staffing, training and IT systems costs totalling £49k.
- 15 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 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 2008/09 without impacting on the levels of service provided.

- 16 Although many of the underlying variations have already been accounted for when the 2008/09 budgets were set, there are still some items that are expected to have an impact in 2008/09. Initial estimates of the 2008/09 impact suggest a continuing net overspend of £65k, mainly due to Library Service income shortfalls:

Proposals to Carry Forward Unspent Budgets

- 17 In order to promote good management and allow planned 2007/08 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.
- 18 As the Leisure & Culture portfolio has overspent in 2007/08, no carry forward requests are proposed.

Other Implications

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

Risk Management

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

Recommendations

21. The Executive Member is recommended to:
- note the performance of services within the directorate funded through the Leisure and Culture budget,
 - approve the draft revenue outturn for 2007/08 and note that the overspend will be funded from the council's reserves.

Reason: To monitor and review performance in his portfolio area.

Contact Details

Author:

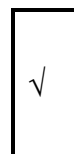
Charlie Croft
Assistant Director (Lifelong
Learning and Culture)
Tel No: 553371

Richard Hartle
Head of Finance (LCCS)
Tel No. Ext 4225

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Charlie Croft
Assistant Director (Lifelong Learning and
Culture)

**Report
Approved**



Date 20.11.07

Specialist Implications Officer:

Richard Hartle
Head of Finance (LCCS)
Tel No. Ext 4225

Wards Affected: List wards or tick box to indicate all

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annex

- A. Summary service plan budget position and monitoring reports
- B. York Museums Trust performance report

Background Papers:

Learning Culture and Children's Services Service Plans 2007/08
2007/08 Budget Files
2007/08 Closedown Files
Revenue Estimate 2007/08 reported to Council in February 2007
Budget monitoring reports presented to the Executive Member during 2007/08