LOCAL COMMITTEE DEVOLVED BUDGET 2012-2013
MONITORING REPORT – HIGHWAYS BUDGET

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report presents the provisional actual expenditure and commitments recorded against the Local Committee’s Highways Revenue and Capital Budgets as at 28th February 2013.

2.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

2.1 The Local Committee’s 2012-13 proposed Cash Limited Budget was informed to County Council on 16th February 2012. The Local Committee is able to vire funding between budget lines during the course of the financial year, subject to Corporate Policy and Service Standards. The Committee is not able to vire money from capital budgets into revenue budgets.

2.2 The carry forwards of Local Committee balances from 2011-12 into 2012-13 were presented for approval at 21st June 2012 County Council meeting. The carry forward of all unspent balances was approved.

2.3 The original Highways revenue budget is £1,313,688. This is decreased by carry forward balances of £151,295 to give a spending limit of £1,162,393.

2.4 The original Highways Capital Budget is £1,669,000. This is increased by carry forwards of £49,510 to give a spending limit of £1,718,510.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

3.1 Note the budget allocations for 2012-13 and the commitments and expenditure recorded to date;

3.2 Note the Highways Revenue budget is projecting an overspend of £97,717 at this stage of the financial year;

3.3 Note the Highways Capital budget is projecting an overspend of £45,960 at this stage of the financial year.
4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 The attached appendices give details of budget allocations by project and expenditure to date.

4.2 The Highways Revenue budget is projecting an overspend at this stage of the financial year. Much of this relates to the balance brought forward from prior years and the pressures on the budget due to several emergency issues being dealt with since the last Local Committee. Although it was agreed with Local Committee that they would be satisfied with halving the brought forward balance to carry over to 2013-14 the pressures on the budget this far in this financial year are proving to be challenging and have only taken a third off the brought forward balance. The position currently reported is an improvement on the last report presented.

4.3 The Highways and Transport Area Manager will be able to give more information as to the detail of these emergency works and continues to manage the budget bringing any issues, whenever possible, to Local Committee as and when they arise. Actual spend to date is higher than estimated outturn as it is proposed that some expenditure coded here is capital in nature and will be transferred to the capital programme.

4.4 The management of the Better Highways budget continues to be a challenge, and the estimated outturn incorporates an action plan to reduce the monthly expenditure within the teams for the remainder of the year. However as the year draws to a close it is showing that the budget may not meet the Local Committees expectation in a satisfactory reduction in the brought forward balance.

4.5 The Highways Capital Budget is currently projecting an overspend of £45,960 at this stage of the financial year. There are under and overspends on individual budget lines which largely cancel each other out. Any overspend realised at year end will be carried forward to 2013-14.

5.0 OPTIONS

5.1 The Local Committee may decide to vire money between budget headings or decide not to. Noting that the Local Committee is not able to vire money from Capital Budgets into revenue budgets.

6.0 RESOURCE AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Local Committee could take decisions that would commit existing budgets against future expenditure.

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The recommendations in this report do not contain any legal implications; however, Local Committee could take decisions that could have future legal implications.
8.0 CONCLUSION

8.1 The Highways Revenue budget is projecting an overspend of £97,717.

8.2 The Highways capital budget is projecting an overspend of £45,960.

Philip Healy
Finance Manager

12\textsuperscript{th} March 2013
APPENDICES

Appendix A(2) Summary of Copeland Local Committee Highways Budget 2012-13
Appendices G-I Detail of Individual Highways and Capital Budgets

Electoral Division(s): All Copeland

Executive Decision
Key Decision
If a Key Decision, is the proposal published in the current Forward Plan? N/A
Is the decision exempt from call-in on grounds of urgency? No
If exempt from call-in, has the agreement of the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee been sought or obtained? N/A
Has this matter been considered by Overview and Scrutiny? No
Has an environmental or sustainability impact assessment been undertaken? No
Has an equality impact assessment been undertaken? No

PREVIOUS RELEVANT COUNCIL OR EXECUTIVE DECISIONS
[including Local Committees]

No previous relevant decisions.

CONSIDERATION BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

Not considered by Overview and Scrutiny.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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