

Date of issue: 5th September, 2008

MEETING	OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Councillors Grewal (Chair), Basharat, Coad, Davis, Dodds, Haines, Matloob, Munkley and Walsh.)
DATE AND TIME:	THURSDAY, 11TH SEPTEMBER, 2008 AT 6.30 PM
VENUE:	COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, BATH ROAD, SLOUGH
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER: (for all enquiries)	KEVIN BARRETT (01753) 875014

SUPPLEMENTARY PAPERS

The following Papers have been added to the agenda for the above meeting:-

Item 6 was not available for publication with the rest of the agenda.

PART I

<u>AGENDA ITEM</u>	<u>REPORT TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	<u>WARD</u>
6.	Performance, Financial & HR Monitoring 2008/09.	1 - 30	All

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SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Overview & Scrutiny Committee **DATE:** 11th September, 2008

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WARD(S): All

PART I
FOR CONSIDERATION & COMMENT

PERFORMANCE, FINANCIAL & HR REPORTING 2008/09

1 Purpose of Report

This report highlights the Council's overall performance for financial and performance management as at the 31st July 2008.

2 Recommendation(s) / Proposed Action

- a) That the report be noted.
- b) That the expenditure against the LABGI funding be noted.
- c) To note the virements outlined in paragraph 5.31 of the report

3 Key Priorities – Taking Pride in Slough and Making a Difference to Communities

The budget is the financial plan of the authority and as such will underpin the delivery of the Council's key priorities over the medium term and reflect the Council's assessment of service priorities. The budget is at the heart of the Council's vision of "Taking pride in Slough and making a difference to communities and our environment".

Performance and budget monitoring throughout the financial year reflects on whether those priorities are being met and, if not, the reasons why, so Members can make informed decisions to ensure the Council remains within its available resources.

A golden thread links the Corporate Plan, which is under pinned by the Medium Term Financial Strategy to Directorate Service Plans and individual staff appraisals.

4. Other Implications

- (a) Financial
These are contained within the body of the report.

(b) Human Rights & Other Legal Implications

While there are no Human Rights Act implications arising directly from this report, the Authority is required to set and maintain an adequate level of balances. The Council operates within a legislative framework in the recruitment, employment and management of its workforce. The provision of workforce information ensures that our performance in areas can be monitored at a strategic level across the organisation.

5. Information

Performance Management

- 5.1 The 198 indicators in the new National Indicator Set will be collected and performance managed through PB Views Performance Management System which is being used by local authorities within Berkshire. The new National Indicator Set replaces the previous Best Value Performance Indicators. The LAA (Local Area Agreement) indicators have been selected from the National Indicator Set and agreed by GOSE. The agreed list was published at the end of May. The Council will be assessed against its performance against all 198 indicators through the Use of Resources Assessment.
- 5.2 Officers are currently collating data to establish first quarter performance against the National Indicator set (where possible) or establishing baseline targets for future reporting purposes. This information will be available by the end September.
- 5.3 Officers are currently aligning the budget setting and business planning process and a revised approach to Star Chamber and service planning is being introduced and is covered elsewhere on the agenda. This will include a corporate balance scorecard and strategic staircase at corporate and strategic levels.
- 5.4 In the future detailed reports will be produced and attached providing information regarding performance against the 35 NI's (National Indicators) within the LAA, the Corporate Balanced Scorecard. A further report will be produced quarterly providing Members with information on how we are performing against the full 198 NI's.
- 5.5 A report detailing the Best Value Performance Indicator outturns for 2007/08 was published on June 30th and is available in the members' room. Alternatively a copy can be obtained from the Policy and Performance Team.

LABGI

- 5.6 As members are aware Slough was legally challenging the second year of the LABGI funding. This was on the grounds that if the growth Slough had successfully challenged at year 1, predominantly for the Royal Mail and Tesco sites, had been coded as normal growth it would have counted cumulatively. However, because the growth was taken as code 20 hitherto adjustment, it was not counted cumulatively.
- 5.7 On the 25th July 2008 the Court case was heard and on the 11th August 2008 the judge announced that Slough and Corby had been unsuccessful in their

legal challenges on the grounds that it appeared that the Minister had carried out a review of the scheme and that we had no legitimate expectation that we were to receive the funding. We have lodged an appeal against this.

- 5.8 The first and third year monies received by Slough were £933,000 and £137,000 respectively. Some of this was used to set the 2008/09 budget and some was subsequently allocated through cabinet to specific projects where there were no ongoing costs, a full list is seen below:

	£000's
• Tree planting agreed at Budget setting	45
• Britwell Northborough Regeneration	85
• Costs of Legal Challenge	60
• HMO surveys	100
• Weekly recycling collections	175
• Additional Wardens	70
• Ward clean ups	141
• Ally Gating	40
• £25k allocated per ward	<u>350</u>
• Subtotal	1,066

- 5.9 Bids have been received from all wards for schemes, and a full list of these is attached at Appendix A. Some of the costs currently included are assumed and detailed costings will need to be calculated before schemes can be fully approved. The relevant directorate for the service schemes proposed will carry these out and where possible approved the schemes. Funding will be transferred to cover the costs up to the total of £25k per ward.

Lobbying

- 5.10 The Council continues to lobby against the use of inaccurate population figures.

- 5.11 In August the Office of National Statistics issued the latest 2006 population projects for the next 25 years. These now begin to show Slough's population beginning to grow and regain some of the lost population from before.

- 5.12 Currently analysis is being undertaken to determine the overall impact for Slough in relation to the rest of the Country. On the face of the figures Slough appears to be gaining at a faster rate and if the detailed analysis confirms this, then a revised lobbying strategy will be drawn together to process this. The focus will be on trying to influence a change in the second year of the three year fixed settlement. Full details of this will be brought to members at the earliest opportunity.

- 5.13 It is also important that the Council looks towards the next census in 2011 and plans as required to ensure an accurate reflection of Slough's population is gained.

- 5.14 To this end the Council Leader and Officers recently met with Sir xxxx to talk about Slough concerns around population statistics.

5.15 Slough has been selected by the ONS as one of the authorities they will liaise with to help plan the 2011 census. This gives us a real opportunity to help influence the approach of the collection of the hard to reach groups.

Financial reporting

5.16 The Council's 2008/09 net revenue budget is £98m. This excludes the schools' budget of £89m which is funded through the Dedicated Schools Grant.

5.17 A number of the Council's services are demand led services for which budgets for 2008-09 have been set on known placements and client activity at a point in time. Clearly these areas are subject to constant review as client levels change and thus subject to pressures that are not directly controllable.

Projected Outturn Position at 31st July 2008.

5.18 Currently there is a projected overspend by Directorates of £1.27M, this is a reduction of some £0.6m from the £1.85m previously reported to Cabinet in May 2008. There is also a further £680k of Corporate pressures making a total predicted overspend of £1.95M. The Projected Outturn position is analysed in Table 1 below.

Table1 – Projected Outturn 2008/09

	Current Budget	Projected Outturn	Variance Over / (Under) Spend	Variance Over/(Under) Spend	Movement
	B	C	D = C – B	Cab (9.7.08)	
	£'M	£'M	£'M	£'M	£'M
Education and Childrens Services	26.21	26.15	-0.05	0.03	(0.08)
Community and Wellbeing	33.30	33.20	0.60	0.95	(0.35)
Green and Built Environment	25.10	25.68	0.58	0.72	(0.14)
Central Directorates	19.50	19.65	0.15	0.15	(0.00)
Total Cost of Services	104.11	104.67	1.27	1.85	(0.58)
Treasury Management	(1.60)	(1.60)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Contingencies & earmarked reserves	3.40	4.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
Corp pressures and savings	0.00	0.68	0.68	0.47	0.21
Area Based grant	(7.35)	(7.35)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	98.55	100.50	1.95	2.32	(0.37)

5.19 Full details of variances to budgets by Directorates are set out in Appendix B to this report.

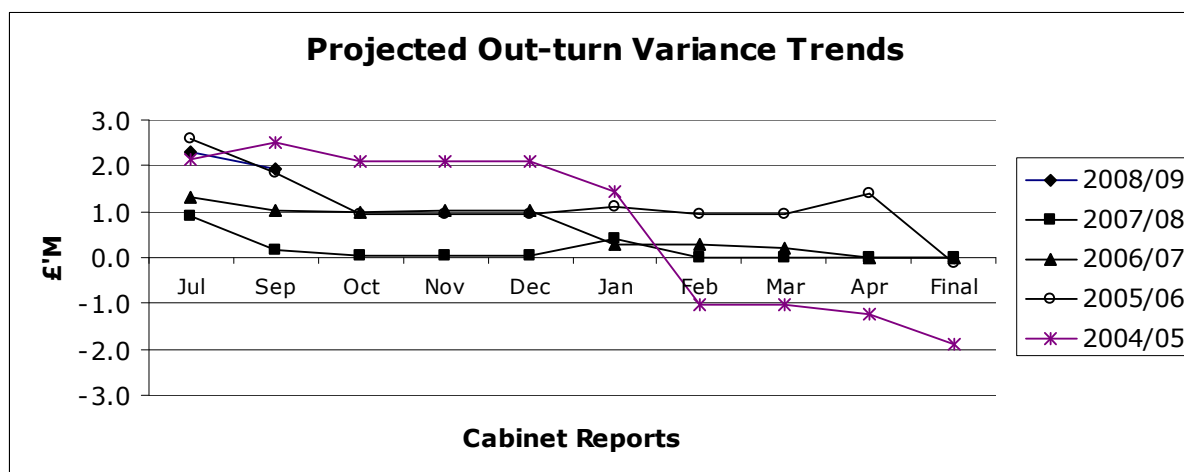
5.20 Cabinet instructed Directorates to produce detailed Action Plans about what be carried out to contain their budget pressures. The first drafts of these are included in this Monitoring Report, and some of the actions have already

demonstrated an improved outturn position. Further actions will come forward for the next report in October.

- 5.21 There are new pressures in the Directorate of Education and Children Services; in the service area of Children Looked After there is a net overspend of £133k due mainly to the extension of 2 external residential placements and the extension of 3 internal fostering placements. This has been offset by savings across the other services which include selling services to schools, use of grants, delays in recruiting to non front line services and along with £50 of savings in the Youth service to give an overall reduction of £80k.
- 5.22 In Community and Well Being, the Directorate's overspend position increased to a projected £1.6m from the reported £1m due to the incorporation of a number of budget pressures not funded as part of the 2008-09 budget build. The increased overspend reflected £184k for the "dual running cost" of the older peoples residential care homes due to the re-provision programme; a £200k pressure arising from the non closure of Langley Day Centre; an embargo placed on admissions to Oxford House (due to adult protection issues) resulting in the funding of three new placements as well as pressure arising from demographic changes.
- 5.23 A number of the Council's services are demand led services for which budgets for 2008-09 have been set on known placements and client activity at a point in time. Clearly these areas are subject to constant review as client levels change and thus subject to pressures that are not directly controllable. Members agreed at the end of the 2007/08 financial year, that sums should be set aside as part of closure of 2007/08 accounts to meet specific budget pressures which it was identified the Council would be facing during 2008/09. CMT has recommended that £700k from departmental contingencies be released to CWB to help fund this pressure and Members are requested to approve this release from corporate contingencies.
- 5.24 Further Management Action has been taken by the Directorate which has examined how to use central government allocated grants in the most flexible manner, as well as a number of other one-off budget realignment measures. Table 1, above, assumes that the £700k has been released to CWB.
- 5.25 There has been a reduction in the overspend reported previously from the Green and Built Environment of £140k. This is mainly due to Planning Appeals costs of £200K now likely to materialise in 2009/10 instead of in the current year, and the wardens' costs to be funded from LABGI. However, these savings have been offset by £129K due to the increased cost of the concessionary fares scheme.
- 5.26 The pressures across the Central budgets have increased through an additional fall of £200k in income from local land charges (with the continuation of impact from the property market during the current economic climate) and also through the loss from the music event. It is anticipated these additional pressures will be contained by the year end. BPR savings that were built into the budgets for the Customer Service Centre in the Community and Well Being Directorate have now been adjusted as they were un-achievable.

5.27 There are known savings to be delivered from Treasury Management (TM) during 2008/09. The actual figures depend on the finalisation of the capital program. In light of the current property market, the planned disposal of several properties may be delayed which mean's that officers are looking at advance borrowing in anticipation of capital receipts being delayed by at least 2 years.

5.28 **Table 2**, below illustrates the trends in Projected Outturn reported to Cabinet since July 2004/05.



5.29 The actual variance is high at this period as can be seen from the graph is similar to the position at this point in time in previous years.

Virements

5.30 In accordance with the Financial Procedural rules, approval to virement requires the consent of officers and Members as set out in Appendix B, to this report.

5.31 It should be noted that Members agreed at the end of the 2007/08 financial year that sums should be set aside as part of the closure of 2007/08 to meet specific budget pressures that the Council would be facing during 2008/09. Members are asked to approve the following virements which mainly relate to the release of contingencies and earmarked reserves.

	£
Release of contingency to cover unachievable savings targets set in the Community and Well being directorate in respect of BPR from the customer service centre	306,000
Release of contingency to cover delay in implementation of BPR from the customer service centre	350,000
Release of contingency reserve to Community and Well Being to fund pressures detailed above	700,000

5.32 A further £138,000 of virements have been approved by relevant officers which gives total virements approved this year to date of £1,494,000.

5.33 £359,800 of budgets carried forward from 2007/08 has been allocated to the appropriate directorate budgets.

Financial Systems

5.34 iProcurement is now being used by over 600 staff. The feedback is that most of them like the new system.

5.35 A re-implementation is being planned linking with the CIPFA Financial Mode; this will greatly improve budget monitoring and the processing of financial transactions. This will also include a further review of businesses processes to make better use of the system.

5.36 Both the re-implementation and a new component of Oracle in Human Resources and Payroll are planned to go live during 2009. The cost of developing and supporting a top financial system such as Oracle is significant. There are several benefits including improved management information and opportunities to reduce transaction costs through new practices such as self service.

6. Conclusion

Members will receive a joint summary report covering Resources and Performance Management at each meeting in 2008/09. Action plans to contain the pressures identified already in 2008/09 will be presented to the next meeting.

7. Appendices Attached

- A** LABGI ward bids
- B** Schedule of Directorate variances to budget 2008/09
- C** Virement rules for 2008/09
- D** Action plans from Directorates

8. Background Papers

- '1' Finance Detailed working papers are held in Corporate Finance and the relevant departments.
- '2' Performance working papers are held in the Policy and Performance section
- '3' HR data is held in the HR department

Ward	Cllrs	No	Description	Budget	Anticipated Cost	Variance	Deliverable	Approved
Baylis & Stoke	Cllr Matloob, Cllr Pantelic, Cllr Qureshi		Picnic benches to be palced in Baylis Park.	25,000				
Baylis & Stoke	Cllr Matloob, Cllr Pantelic, Cllr Qureshi		Swings in Baylis Park					
Baylis & Stoke	Cllr Matloob, Cllr Pantelic, Cllr Qureshi		Jubilee Park Cromwell Drive, Hawthorne Estate development of park to reduce kids playing in the street etc.		20,000			
Baylis & Stoke Total				25,000	20,000	0		0
Britwell	Cllr Shine, Cllr Wright, Cllr Finn		Marescroft Rd - play repairs	25,000	350		YES	NO – Parks awaiting code
Britwell	Cllr Shine, Cllr Wright, Cllr Finn		Bridport Spur Way Play repairs, repaint goals and swings, replace swing seat and chains, remove damaged seats and replace with steel ones remove wooden edge to ball area and reprofile grass, painiting fence etc		4,670		YES	NO – Parks awaiting code
Britwell	Cllr Shine, Cllr Wright, Cllr Finn		Monksfield Way £5675 play repairs surfacing		5,675		YES	NO – Parks awaiting code

Britwell			Hopscotch Markings		250			
Britwell			New batteries for speedwell forklift truck		1,601			
Britwell			Fencing at Youth Club		4,850			
Britwell			Boundary fence for Britwell Parish Recreation Ground		7,604			
Britwell Total				25,000	25,000	0		0
Central	Cllr Khan, Cllr Aziz	1	An existing play area on Petersfield Avenue has a swing-frame in place, but no swing.	25,000	1,000		Order placed	YES
Central	Cllr Khan, Cllr Aziz	2	Green plot of land at the western end of Wellesley Road, which is owned by A2 Housing Association. Fenced play area created for young children. Cllr Smith has spoken to Tim Knight at Groundwork who has agreed to formulate a design specification. Corner of Wellesley Road and Stratfield Road play area closed by Labour due to new housing and drug dealing. New site is better.		N/a		No	Assuming not - cant find any information

Central	Cllr S Choundhry, Cllr A Dhaliwal, Cllr P Choundhry refused to sign		Bloom Park repairs to play equipment – new, recently added by Cllr Shafiq Choudry. Replacement of existing play equipment slides, swings and putting in new benches. Also need a walking track, football posts also required to accommodate youngsters to give them some play provision.D4		24,000		May not be – work wanted by Cllr is justified but extensive and may be beyond range of this scheme.	NO – Parks awaiting code
Central Total				25,000	25,000	0		0
Chalvey	Cllr Basharat, Cllr Zarait, Cllr Rasib		Parking bay outside Asnbala Sweet Centre high street Chalvey.	25,000	5,000			
Chalvey	Cllr Basharat, Cllr Zarait, Cllr Rasib		Play centre Brummas Close replacement of existing area equipment, slides and Swings.		5,000			
Chalvey	Cllr Basharat, Cllr Zarait, Cllr Rasib		Play centre at recreation ground behind play centre chalvey.		5,000			
Chalvey	Cllr Basharat, Cllr Zarait, Cllr Rasib		spackmans way childrens play area needs upgrading.		5,000			
Chalvey	Cllr Basharat, Cllr Zarait,		The Crescent lamp posts behind 84 spackmans way.		5,000			

	Cllr Rasib							
Chalvey Total				25,000	25,000	0		0
Cippenham Green	Cllr Howard, Cllr O'Connor, Cllr Swindlehurst	6	Contribution to the village carnival	25,000	5,134		CANT ANSWER	CANT ANSWER
Cippenham Green	Cllr Davis, Cllr O'Connor, Cllr Swindlehurst		Additional flower bed at green area in centre of oldway lane, cippenham. This green area was landscaped with several beds to stop older teens taking the whole area over. One area is still largely green and problem persists.		1,000			
Cippenham Green	Cllr Davis, Cllr O'Connor, Cllr Swindlehurst		Additional Parking bays in verge area to the Eastern or Southern side of Nos xxx, lower cippenham lane.		8,000			
Cippenham Green	Cllr Davis, Cllr O'Connor, Cllr Swindlehurst		Widening of entrance to Cul-de-sac (Nos 4 - 30) Barnfield / Reduction of Width of Green Area to accommodate turning vehicles, particularly the bin lorry which is destroying the verge.		8,321			

Cippenham Green	Cllr Howard, Cllr O'Connor, Cllr Swindlehurst		Cippenham News Letter, creation of quarterly news letter for residents. Initial start up costs, will become self funding.		2,545			
Cippenham Green Total				25,000	25,000	0		0
Cippenham Meadows	Cllr Dodds, Cllr Parmar, Cllr Chohan		37 Paxton Avenue, repair fencing next to 37 Paxton Avenue, people coming off the Motoryway climb over the fence to cross into Paxton Avenue	25,000	2,000			
Cippenham Meadows	Cllr Dodds, Cllr Parmar, Cllr Chohan		Alleyway next to No 8 Griffin Close needs cleaning and tree branches leaning over th footpath need trimming. This alleyway is walking route to school.		2,000			
Cippenham Meadows	Cllr Dodds, Cllr Parmar, Cllr Chohan		Griffing Close rear gardens between 19 & 21 griffin close adjoining stream is being used for dumping, fly tipping, overgrown shrubs, heaps of unwanted materials need removing.		2,000			
Cippenham Meadows	Cllr Dodds, Cllr Parmar, Cllr Chohan		Stream all along Keel drive to the back of Griffin Close houses needs cleaning and getting rid of overgrown bushes		2,000			

Cippenham Meadows	Cllr Dodds, Cllr Parmar, Cllr Chohan		Concord Way, A) play park area opposite 22 concorde way uneven floor area needs fixing. B) And the play equipment needs painting C) rubbish bin in the play area, once installed will require regular emptying. D) Dog walking area next to play area need dog fouling bin, and sign next to lamp post and emptying. E) woodland area fallen tress and uneven walking route needs clearing up.		4,000			
Cippenham Meadows	Cllr Dodds, Cllr Parmar, Cllr Chohan		Keel Drive ditch full of rubbish and overgrown shrubs need cleaning up.		2,000			
Cippenham Meadows	Cllr Dodds, Cllr Parmar, Cllr Chohan		Trees at 2 Spinny causing problems to adjoining 16 cress road.		2,000			
Cippenham Meadows	Cllr Dodds, Cllr Parmar, Cllr Chohan		Weeks drive play area community centre requiries thoroughly cleaning, broken playing equipments repaired.		2,000			
Cippenham Meadows	Cllr Dodds, Cllr Parmar, Cllr Chohan		Richards way play area opposite westgate school, broken swing needs replacing		2,000			
Cippenham Meadows	Cllr Dodds, Cllr Parmar, Cllr Chohan		Walking route from ASDA to Richards way rear along side stream, desperately need litter bin.		2,000			
Cippenham Meadows	Cllr Dodds, Cllr Parmar, Cllr Chohan		Colin way soakway in the council's garage areas needs fixing		1,500			

Cippenham Meadows	Cllr Dodds, Cllr Parmar, Cllr Chohan		Deerwood park behind earls lane community centre needs clean up		1,500			
Cippenham Meadows Total				25,000	25,000	0		0
Colnbrook with Poyle	Cllr Walsh, Cllr Pabbi		Comprehensive clean up of a residential estate blyted by flytipping and overgrown verges, broken car.	25,000	5,107			
Colnbrook with Poyle	Cllr Walsh, Cllr Pabbi		Installation of a nature trail around the school grounds for the school children		6,000			
Colnbrook with Poyle	Cllr Walsh, Cllr Pabbi		Three new picnic table for Crown meadow		1,500			
Colnbrook with Poyle	Cllr Walsh, Cllr Pabbi		Installation of wooden or stell bollards on two road facing sides of a green space to protect children and walkers from people who drive over grass as a short cut		1,000			
Colnbrook with Poyle	Cllr Walsh, Cllr Pabbi		Clean up a ditch used in the past for flytipping at Horton Road and mend fences and cut back trees		4,694			
Colnbrook with Poyle	Cllr Walsh, Cllr Pabbi		Replace broken fence panel along side the coln brook in Rudsworth close.		500			
Colnbrook with Poyle	Cllr Walsh, Cllr Pabbi		Crown Meadows To remove overgrown shrubs and improve street lighting at the rear of the housing estate, fix fences and		1,584			

			clear up waste.					
Colnbrook with Poyle	Cllr Walsh, Cllr Pabbi		Colnbrook Community Partnership require lighting for pippins park		2,000			
Colnbrook with Poyle	Cllr Walsh, Cllr Pabbi		Albany Park clean up clearing waterway of logs and debris to protect against flooding.		733			
Colnbrook with Poyle Total				25,000	23,118	0		0
Farnham	Cllr Anderson, Cllr , Cllr		Pedestrian Crossing at Northborough Road	25,000	25,000			
Farnham Total				25,000	25,000	0		0
Foxborough	Cllr Plimmer, Cllr Jenkins, Cllr Buchanan	3	Fencing and Signage for the recycling centres at Parlaunt Road car park and James Meadow, Langley Woods estate.	25,000	25,000		Quoted for and work programmed	YES - agreed
Foxborough Total				25,000	25,000	0		0
Haymill & Northborough	Cllr Hewitt, Cllr Stokes, Cllr Munkley		Improvement at Marescroft Playground	25,000	8,604			

Haymill & Northborough	Cllr Hewitt, Cllr Stokes, Cllr Munkley	7	Refurbishment of fence at The Millie Nature Reserve, Littlebrook Avenue, Quote is for 120ft of fencing, but a greater distance needs replacing Local residents quote £7.5k. £16,396 Full quote		16,396		YES	NO – Parks awaiting code
Haymill & Northborough Total				25,000	25,000	0		0
Kidderminster	Cllr Small, Cllr Mann, Cllr Grewal		Remove parade ground from langley Recreation ground, put back grass. £13k Hanging flower baskets for Trelawney Avenue for 3 years. £12k	25,000	25,000			
Kidderminster Total				25,000	25,000	0		0
Langley	Cllr Dale-Gough, Cllr Coad, Cllr Cryer		towards the stting up of a citizens advice bureau in langley	25,000	10,000			
Langley	Cllr Dale-Gough, Cllr Coad, Cllr Cryer		Improvement of Play facilities at Springgate Field, opposite Maryside and Mary's play facilities (especially seating)		15,000			
Langley Total				25,000	25,000	0		0

Other	Cllr Munkley	5	In eventuality that Baylis & Stoke or Farnham not fully utilising £25k's then the Local Access Forum set up by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW) with which statutory consultation is required would like the Cinder Track enhanced – Jackie Wheeler can suggest one off schemes of enhancement	0	25,000		Unknown cost – work seems to have been scoped by Savio Decruz to convert cinder track to a cycle way. Cant establish more without talking to him. Back from leave 25/6	Only if sufficient slippage across other wards
Other Total				0	25,000	0		0
Upton	Cllr Dhillon, Cllr Bains, Cllr Long			25,000				
Upton	Cllr Dhillon, Cllr Bains, Cllr Long		10 benches to be installed on upton court road at convenient distances along the road. Litter bins to be installed with each bench		10,000		Suggestion of 4 in Hershall Park	
Upton Total				25,000	10,000	0		0

Wexham Lea	Cllr Haines, Cllr Khan, Cllr Maclsaac		Two speedcheck signs	25,000	1,800			
Wexham Lea	Cllr Haines, Cllr Khan, Cllr Maclsaac		Contribution to footpath and fencing from car park to tennis courts		10,000			
Wexham Lea	Cllr Haines, Cllr Khan, Cllr Maclsaac		Contribution to Uxbridget Road Underpass works.		10,000			
Wexham Lea	Cllr Haines, Cllr Khan, Cllr Maclsaac	4	3-4 dog bins in Wexham Court Estate – 1. back of Knolton way shops grass area before crossing onto the cherries 2. Church Lane before allotments 3. Frithe / Knolton Way junction on green 4. possibly in Berryfield on greenWexham court parish Council would make contribution to annual charges £350 per bin for 4 bins £1400	0	1,400		Enterprise will bill Wexham Parish Council direct for emptying. No revenue cost.	Work done
Wexham Lea Total				25,000	23,200	0		0
Grand Total				350,000	351,318	0		0

Variance Analysis as at July 31st 2008

Education & Childrens Services

Pressure/Savings	Projected Variance (£000)	Comment
Children Looked After	330	This is an estimate of the cost for the balance of this financial year fundamentally arising as a result of health funding being withdrawn for one client. This budget pressure assumes that the client will remain in his current placement for the full financial year. This adverse pressure also includes a legislative change in respect of increased liabilities for children in Foster care that want to pursue Further Education which extends the borough's financial commitment to their foster support beyond their 18th birthday until they are 21. July has also seen extensions to 8 placements across foster care and residential settings as well as 4 new clients within external fostering.
Other Children & Families Service	(135)	Clients leaving care qualify for financial allowance support for 3 years up until their 21st birthday (or 24th depending on whether they pursue FE). A detailed analysis of activity indicates that not all clients exercise this right following changes in their circumstance thus resulting in a cost reduction to the borough. The cost of providing supported lodgings for children leaving care is also expected to reduce this year following expectation that a publicity campaign to recruit carers will not take place until later this financial year.
School Services	(126)	An estimated under spend reflecting current school children take up linked to efficient procurement of contracts across Home to School, the successful sale of school crossing patrol services to schools and the application of grant funding to offset costs as a one-off in 2008-09.
Resources	(90)	The management team are confident to report that savings measures (described below) of £90k can be delivered based on the current level of activity and expenditure. This savings target will be re-allocated across the directorate service areas in the forthcoming months.
Youth	(50)	Reflects a delay in the recruitment of vacant posts
Other	17	

(54)

Community & Wellbeing

Pressures/Savings	Projected Variance (£000)	Comment

Care Packages	400	This is due to £300k overspend on residential care clients and £200k for clients in receipt of Direct Payments, offset by £100k underspend on Home & Other Care.
Internal Residential Homes	486	These are additional costs being incurred by the Internal Residential Homes mainly due to the reprovision programme.
Langley Centre	Day 132	This centre has not been closed/changed in line with the Star Chamber decision although the budget has been reduced.
Social Teams	Work (220)	Net underspend due to vacancies.
Other	(195)	
	<u>603</u>	

Green & Built Environment

Pressure/Savings	Projected Variance (£000)	Comment
Waste Disposal	80	Contractual dispute - disposal of fridges
Waste Disposal	70	EfW Plant - delayed completion
Slough Enterprise/APCOA	80	Contracts - index linked inflation uplifts
Concessionary Fares	329	Increased demand/Shortfall of government grant
Housing	60	L & Q Housing - old invoices
Staffing	(140)	Potential savings from staff vacancies (net)
Sub Total	479	
Other Variances under £50K (net)	98	Wexham Nursery rent income; Chalvey Depot business rates; Flood Defence Levy; employment tribunal costs; Alcohol intervention; Bulky Waste collection.
	<u>577</u>	

Central Directorates & Corporate

Pressure/Savings	Projected Variance (£000)	Comment
CSC	123	Delays in savings from BPR .
Fundamental Review	125	Delays in the implementation of the Fundamental Review- will not achieve full year effect of savings.
Commercial Rents	149	Reduction in Commercial rental income due to a number of vacant units, and higher bad debt required from backdated rent invoices and loss of income from Accord (c£74k).
Accommodation Strategy	287	Unachievable savings for Accommodation Strategy.
Capital Disposal & Feasibility costs	425	additional Capital Disposal and Feasibility costs around asset disposal & spend .
Local Land Charges	259	Dramatically reduced income due to HIPS & lower demand as result of economic climate.

Slough Music Event	74	Loss on the Slough Music Event.
Targeted Salary Savings	393	Targeted savings from Vacancy Factors/Self Funding Harmonisation.
All Cost Centres	(617)	Gross savings from vacant posts
All Cost Centres	(1,072)	funding from action plan.
	146	
Total Variance	1,272	

Virement rules

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Within Directorate</u>	<u>Between Directorates</u>
Up to £100,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relevant Service Manager(s) - Directorate Lead for Finance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relevant Service Managers
Between £100,000 and £250,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relevant Service Manager(s) - Directorate Lead for Finance - Directorate Strategic Director - Strategic Director Resources - Relevant Cabinet Commissioner (For Information) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Directorate Leads for Finance - Directorate Strategic Directors - Strategic Director Resources - Relevant Cabinet Commissioner (For Information)
Between £250,000 and £500,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relevant Service Manager(s) - Directorate Lead for Finance - Directorate Strategic Director - Strategic Director Resources - Relevant Cabinet Commissioner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relevant Service Managers - Directorate Leads for Finance - Directorate Strategic Directors - Strategic Director Resources - Cabinet agreement required
Over £500,000	All single or cumulative virements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cabinet agreement required - Council agreement required 	

ACTION PLANS from Directorates**EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

In accordance with the current and future departmental strategy, management are continuing to look at reducing expenditure across all budget heads with the objective of achieving their identified savings target. This is against the potential increase in client activity which is permanently subject to fluctuations in demand. This includes;

- Reduced staffing / managed vacancies (although per above constantly reviewed to ensure safe levels of service provision).
- More cost effective placement decisions and keener price negotiation.
- Increasing the level of income generation where possible (e.g. chargeable services to schools via SLA's).
- Partnership work via Children's Trust, Health & Voluntary sector to achieve economies of scale by shared service delivery.
- The use of grants to subsidise core budget spend and activity - although this is one-off funding

COMMUNITY & WELL BEING

To deal with the remaining overspend of £603k shown above, the following management actions have been agreed to reduce the adverse budget pressure:-

- All new care package placements to be agreed at Asst. Director/Director level;
- Move to providing care to only new clients who meet "critical and substantial" criteria;
- More cost effective placement decisions , keener price negotiations and more effective use of block contract arrangements;
- Recruitment of agency or permanent staff for essential posts only, e.g. personal care is required and health and safety is of concern;
- Moratorium on all non-essential purchases, e.g. no purchase of office equipment or other related items unless it can be supported by health and safety risk assessment;
- Use of grants, where possible to cover existing commitments;
- Review of care packages for home care and mental health services

These actions will be closely monitored in the coming months to see if they are achieving the objective of reducing the overspend.

GREEN BUILT & ENVIRONMENT

The Directorate continues to undertake further analysis of these early indications of budget pressure. Whilst some of the pressures are unavoidable, the senior management team is assessing what options are available and what actions can be taken to alleviate or contain some of the issues.

See action plan 1

CENTRAL DEPARTMENTS & CORPORATES

- Review of Property Services costs
 - Possible savings from the Repairs & Maintenance budget.
 - Review of planning permission to allow advertising
- Review of the Accord agreement regarding rental income together with a strategy for unlet properties.

- Continuation of restrictions to fill any vacant posts across all services except where a justified business case.
- Review of release of earmarked reserves set aside
See action plan 2

Action Plan 1

DIRECTORATE:

GREEN & BUILT ENVIRONMENT

PERIOD July 2008

ACTION PLAN

Pressure/Savings	Projected Variance (£000)	Action Plan	Revised Variance (£000)
Waste Disposal	80	Implement greater control of disposal at Chalvey Depot and maximise income from trade waste. Potential saving of £50K.	30
Waste Disposal	70	Capitalise all costs of new recycling scheme. Potential saving of £70K	0
Slough Enterprise/APCOA	80	Consider minor reduction in works programme to partially offset the higher than anticipated inflationary contract price increases. Potential saving of £40K	40
Concessionary Fares	329	Increased demand/Shortfall of government grant	329
Housing	60	L & Q Housing - old invoices	60
Staffing	-140	Revisit anticipated agency staff projections to manage down usage/cost. Potential saving of £20K	-160
Sub Total	479		299
Other Variances under £50K (net)	98	Employment tribunal costs to be contained; loss of income from Bulky Waste collection to be funded from LABGI, as agreed. Potential saving of £20K	78
Total	577		377

Action Plan 2

DIRECTORATE:		CENTRAL DEPARTMENTS & CORPORATE ACTION PLAN	PERIOD	
			JULY 2008	
Pressure/Savings	Comment	Projected Variance (£000)	ACTION PLAN	
CSC	Delays in savings from BPR	123.2		
Fundamental Review	Delays in the implementation of the Fundamental Review-will not achieve full year effect of savings.	125.0	draw on earmarked reserve	(125)
Commercial Rents	Reduction in Commercial rental income due to a number of vacant units, higher bad debt required from backdated rent invoices and loss of income from Accord (c£74k).	149.2	revisit planning permission for advertising	(50)
			Delay spending on maintenance budgets	(100)
Accommodation Strategy	Unachievable savings for Accommodation Strategy.	286.7	draw on earmark reserve	(100)
			review possibility of charging Accord for rent of premises	?
Capital Disposal & Feasibility costs	additional Capital Disposal and Feasibility costs	425.0	use of Treasury management savings	(425)
Local Land Charges	Dramatically reduced income due to HIPS & lower demand as result of economic climate	259.1	draw down on contingency reserve if position does not improve	250)
Slough Music Event	Loss on the Slough Music Event.	73.6		
Targeted Salary Savings	Targeted savings from Vacancy Factors/Self Funding Harmonisation.	393.8	Gross savings from vacant posts	(640)
Major Variance Total =		1,835.6		(1,690)
	less action plan	(1,690.0)		
		145.6		