

6 ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY AND HOUSING

The Department for Environment, Sustainability and Housing (ESH) leads on a wide range of issues: it leads on Assembly Government policy and delivery on climate change and sustainable development, including promoting energy efficiency and addressing fuel poverty. It is also responsible for policy and implementation on flood and water, waste, and energy. ESH leads on environmental protection and enhancement, including biodiversity and nature conservation, marine, and access to the coast and countryside, and improving local environments. The Department is responsible within the Assembly Government for housing, improving housing, its supply and quality, and tackling homelessness. ESH also leads on policy, legislative and regulatory aspects of planning.

Summary of Environment, Sustainability and Housing budget changes

Revenue funding has increased by £18.861 million compared to 2009-10.

Capital funding has reduced by £101.727 million compared to 2009-10, of which £68.0 million relates to the bringing forward of capital expenditure from 2010-11 to provide economic stimulus. The £68 million is the effect of a reduction of funding in 2010-11 of £40 million, with £28 million of this brought forward to 2009-10, and the remaining £12 million brought forward to 2008-09.

Compared to indicative revenue plans for 2010-11 published in December 2008, the revenue budget has decreased by £2.901 million to £369.094 million. This reflects:

- reprioritisations within the MEG, which have released £5.901 million; and
- the overall revenue budget also includes additional allocations of £3.0 million allocated to fund homelessness (£1.05 million), energy efficiency (£0.7 million), flood risk management (£0.8 million), planning (£0.37 million), and biodiversity (£0.08 million).

Compared to indicative capital plans for 2010-11 published in December 2008, the capital budget has decreased by £56.807 million to £348.558 million, reflecting:

- a reduction of £16.807 million resulting from the impact of UK fiscal decisions; and
- in particular, the bringing forward of capital expenditure of £40 million from 2010-11 into earlier financial years to contribute to meeting the *One Wales* target of 6,500 affordable homes and also support the construction and supply industries by stimulating building and development.

Environment, Sustainability and Housing Spending Programme Areas

Climate Change and Sustainability

Tackling climate change, environment protection and enhancing sustainability.

This includes an energy strategy, energy efficiency, microgeneration, environmental appeals, Carbon Trust, sustainable development and flood risk management, and supporting the *One Wales* commitment which aims to achieve annual carbon reduction-equivalent emission reductions of 3 per cent per year by 2011 in areas of devolved competence.

Funding

- Total Revenue £119.710 million. This is an increase of 13.7 per cent compared with 2009-10 due to:
 - £16.2 million increase in baseline (£13 million Waste, £1.5 million Energy Efficiency, £0.5 million Home Energy Efficiency Scheme (HEES), £1.2 million Flood);
 - £1.5 million additional revenue funding (£0.8 million Flood, £0.7 million Energy Efficiency); and
 - £3.2 million in efficiencies (£3 million of these are from Waste).
- Total Capital £67.22 million. This is a decrease of 13.36 per cent (excluding Strategic Capital Investment Framework funding) due to:
 - £2.45 million capital savings.
 - 2.92m additional 2009/10 funding towards Home Energy Efficiency
 - £5m additional 2009/10 funding towards Energy Efficiency loans

Environment

Funding for the Countryside Council for Wales, the Environment Agency Wales and National Parks Authorities. Includes delivery of the Assembly Government's countryside access programme and an all-Wales coastal path.

Funding the Waste Strategy to deliver the Assembly Government's targets for reducing waste, to increase recycling rates and to reduce landfill to achieve the *One Wales* commitments in improving the local environment.

Funding

- Total Revenue £80.765 million. This is a increase of 0.6 per cent, due to efficiency savings to be achieved for 2010-11;
- Total Capital £8.259 million; and
- Total Non Cash £3.198 million.

Planning

Development and implementation of the planning system in Wales to ensure that it meets the needs of the people of Wales. This includes appeals casework, publication of planning documents, funding for Design Commission for Wales, Planning Aid Wales, local planning authorities, and planning research.

Funding

- Total Revenue £8.074 million. This is an increase of 5.7 per cent resulting from:
 - £0.370 million additional revenue funding; and
 - £0.057 million revenue efficiency savings.

Housing

Improving Housing: Includes capital grants to local authorities and registered social landlords to maintain and improve social housing stock, and funding for renewal areas, community land trusts and Home Improvement Agency and the Home Energy Efficiency Scheme. Key objectives include ensuring all social housing reaches Welsh Housing Quality Standard by 2012.

Housing New Provision: Capital funding for new-build social housing and grants for first-time buyers. Key objectives include *One Wales* commitments for the delivery of 6,500 additional affordable homes by 2011 and improving access to housing.

Supporting Vulnerable / At Risk People: Assisting vulnerable people to remain in their own homes and providing supported accommodation including Not for Profit Nursing Homes, and contributing to the delivery of the *One Wales* commitment of supporting social care.

Funding

- Total Revenue £157.3 million. This is a net increase of 2.7 per cent due to:
 - £5.4 million baseline increase (£4.9 million Supporting People, £0.5 million Home Improvement Agencies);
 - £1.05 million additional allocation for measures to tackle homelessness; and
 - £2.318 million revenue efficiency savings.
- Total Capital £273 million. This is a reduction of 17.1 per cent (excluding Strategic Capital Investment Framework funding) due to:
 - £40 million brought forward funding on Social Housing Grants;
 - £35 million increased 2009-10 budget resulting from additional in year funding (£28 million brought forward funding Social Housing Grants, £7 million Acceleration of Housing);
 - £2 million baseline reduction (Not for Profit Nursing Homes); and
 - £14.4 million capital efficiency savings.

Table 6.1 Environment, Sustainability and Housing SPA allocations

	£000s					
	2009-10			2010-11		
Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL)	Revenue	Capital	Total	Revenue	Capital	Total
Climate Change and Sustainability	105,938	77,585	183,523	119,710	67,220	186,930
Environment	83,485	8,259	91,744	83,963	8,259	92,222
Planning	7,641	-	7,641	8,074	-	8,074
Housing	153,169	364,441	517,610	157,347	273,079	430,426
Total DEL	350,233	450,285	800,518	369,094	348,558	717,652
Annually Managed Expenditure						
Housing	-72,000	-	-72,000	-52,000	-	-52,000
Total Managed Expenditure	278,233	450,285	728,518	317,094	348,558	665,652

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