

CORPORATE MANAGEMENT COSTS

All figures refer to £000s. The first figure is the expenditure under this heading in 2001/2 and the second figure refers to the current year 2005/6. It should be noted that, even if there had been no increase in service, the normal inflation for these headings would be about 17% over the four years period.

Bank Charges 43//53

We keep our balances low (so as to get a higher investment return) and so we are charged for cheques. We could reduce our costs if we handled less cash (but there are no easy alternatives for car parks). We could also save by using fewer cheques and we are already trying to persuade suppliers to accept payment direct to bank via Bacs-tel.

Best Value 75//180

This is where we charge the costs of producing corporate reviews. IL responsible for this heading.

Best Value is split as follows –

Performance Management		Service Reviews	
Supplies and Services (computer systems, training etc)	29 (20 from 2006/07)	Supplies and Services (annual survey)	12
Employee time	56	Employee time	84
totals	84		96

Information and Promotion 158//460

This has grown significantly from 2001-02. This is explained by increase in the number of District Wide publications (including move to full colour) and Business Wide (20), more internal communications (10), Student Communications Officer (15). IL responsible for part of this heading, Chris Hall for the remainder. The possibility of subsidising costs of publications by taking advertising has been considered but rejected on the grounds that advertisers might be seen to be expecting preferential treatment in receiving contracts for DC work.

Internal and External Communications (IL) - District wide, business wide, mobile information unit Hunts matters, staff news letters, other small leaflets, video and sound recordings		Other (CH) – Website, HELP, Street Scene	
Supplies and Services	110 (95 from 2006/07)	Supplies and Services	47
Time and other charges	288	Time and other charges	283
Sub-Totals	398		330
less website recharged to services	-268		
	460		

External Audit **108//109**

Required by law therefore no choice.

Local Council Support **20//13**

Mainly officer time spent on giving advice to Parish Councils.

Pensions Increase **163//178**

This relates to the cost of any 'added years' that the Council has awarded in the past when staff have retired early due to redundancy or because the Council has considered it in its financial or operational interest. From April 2005 the cost of paying for the early payment will also be charged here rather than simply result in higher contributions when the general employer contribution is reviewed at the next triennial review. NB The DC is part of the Pensions Fund managed by Cambs CC and this is reviewed triennially to make sure that it will cover its obligations. These obligations have been increasing as longevity increases (ex-government employees live 2/3 years longer than the population in general!) and the value of the pension fund was hit in recent years by the stock market fall. It is now staging a recovery.

Policy and Strategy **697//794**

This is where the salaries of senior officers are recharged when they are undertaking tasks that relate to the Council's corporate policy and strategy. CIPFA requires all salary costs to be charged directly or indirectly to the services that benefit from that officer's involvement. 'Corporate' is defined as a service for this purpose, with a group of sub-divisions such as : Chief Executive; maintaining statutory registers; providing corporate information to members of the public exercising their statutory rights; completing, submitting and publishing corporate information; estimating, allocating and accounting for corporate level resources.

Public Accountability **64//61**

This comprises performance indicators, council budget and tax setting, statement of accounts, council tax leaflet, statistical returns, publication of forward plan.

Unutilised depot space **91**

This is the cost of spare space at the depot since the removal of the HHP factor