

**TO: THE EXECUTIVE  
13 DECEMBER 2016**

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**CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2017/2018 - 2019/2020  
(Borough Treasurer/Chief Executive)**

**1 PURPOSE OF DECISION**

- 1.1 Under the Council's constitution, the Executive is required to consult on its detailed budget proposals with the Council's Overview & Scrutiny Commission and any other interested parties or individuals for a period of at least six weeks. This report summarises the current position on the Council's Capital Programme budget preparations for 2017/18.
- 1.2 This report draws together each department's proposals so that the Executive can agree a draft capital programme for 2017/18-2019/20 as the basis for consultation. In compiling the draft programme the main focus is inevitably on determining the requirements for 2017/18, although future year's schemes do also form an important part of the programme.
- 1.3 The financial implications of the recommendations in this report are reflected in the subsequent report on the Council's draft revenue budget. Any revisions to the proposals put forward by each service would also need to be reflected in that report which will also be published as the basis for consultation following the Executive's meeting.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That the Executive:**

- 2.1 **Approves, for consultation, an initial Council funded capital programme of £48.531m for 2017/18 as set out in paragraph 5.23 and summarised in Annex A, including the new schemes listed in Annexes B – F.**
- 2.2 **Recommends to Council the release of £190,000 capital funding in 2016/17 from the 2017/18 Capital Programme to fund the investment required at South Hill Park**
- 2.3 **Approves, for consultation, the inclusion of an additional budget of £1m for Invest-to-Save schemes.**
- 2.4 **Approves, for consultation, the inclusion of £0.942m of expenditure to be funded from S106 as outlined in paragraph 5.24.**
- 2.5 **Approves, for consultation, the inclusion of £18.041m of expenditure to be externally funded as outlined in paragraph 5.24.**

**3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The reasons for the recommendations are set out in the report.

## 4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 The alternative options are considered in the report.

## 5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### Capital Resources

5.1 Each year the Council agrees a programme of capital schemes. In the past these schemes have been funded from three main sources:

- the Council's accumulated capital receipts
- Government Grants
- other external contributions

5.2 The Local Government Act 2003 brought in radical changes to the financing of capital expenditure and from that date, the Government no longer issued borrowing approvals. Instead, under a new "prudential framework", Councils can set their own borrowing limits based on the affordability of the debt.

5.3 As the Council's accumulated capital receipts have been fully utilised, the Council returned to a position of internal borrowing in 2010 and as such a revenue contribution is required each year to repay this internal borrowing. Once the Council's current level of investments is exhausted, which is expected to be within the next 18 months the Council will need to borrow externally.

5.4 The Council's estimated total usable capital receipts at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 are zero. As a debt free authority the Council is partly reliant on capital receipts to fund its capital programme, although interest generated from capital receipts can also help support the revenue budget in the short term – however with investment rates at historic lows it makes more economic sense to defer borrowing. The Council still receives a share of any Right-To-Buy proceeds from Bracknell Forest Homes in addition to a share of capital receipts from the VAT Shelter scheme, however this is now coming close to the end of the 10-year agreement.

5.5 The proposed capital programme for 2017/18 has been developed, therefore, on the assumption that it will be funded by a combination of Government grants, other external contributions and borrowing in addition to capital receipts. Historically capital receipts have averaged around £5m per annum, however with the introduction of CIL and the forthcoming sale of the Sandy Lane land there is potential for a much larger level of capital receipts in 2017/18. However the exact value received will depend largely on the value of receipts from Sandy Lane and the timing of the sale. Even so with such a large programme there is a likelihood that the Council may need to borrow externally however this will depend largely on the progress made at Binfield Learning Village and at Coral Reef. Internal resources will be used in the first instance and borrowing from external sources (e.g. the PWLB) will be used when necessary. The financing costs associated with the General Fund Capital Programme have been provided for in the Council's revenue budget plans which also appear on tonight's agenda.

### **New Schemes**

5.6 Within the general financial framework outlined above, Service Departments have considered new schemes for inclusion within the Council's Capital Programme for 2017/18 – 2019/20. Given that both capital and revenue resources are under pressure, each Department has evaluated and prioritised proposed schemes into broad categories in line with the Council's Asset Management Plan. Having done

this, only the very highest priority schemes and programmes are being recommended for inclusion in the Capital Programme.

### **Town Centre**

- 5.7 Following the conclusion of the Development Agreement with Bracknell Regeneration Partnership (BRP) the Council set out its own planned investment on wider Town Centre infrastructure as part of the 2015/16 Capital Programme. These investment plans follow through into 2017/18.
- 5.8 Similarly in order to facilitate transport movements around the Borough, including the planned Town Centre redevelopment, it is necessary to continue to fund a number of infrastructure schemes. As such a funding need of £1.5m has been identified in the 2017/18 proposals (and a further £0.5m in 2018/19) to ensure that the regenerated town centre functions as a “whole centre” and not just as an isolated shopping outlet. As such spending levels of this magnitude are likely to be required until the new Northern Retail Quarter area is open and established for trading. This additional expenditure is aimed at maximising the positive experience of visiting the regenerated town centre.
- 5.9 All of these items have a much wider impact than the new development itself and will benefit the whole Borough. However the expenditure needs to be co-ordinated with the specific work that BRP are planning to carry out.

### **Commercial Investment Strategy**

- 5.10 The Council’s Medium Term Financial Strategy forecasts a substantial budget gap over the next three financial years. This is a challenging target but the Efficiency Plan 2016 – 2020 approved by Full Council on 14 September 2016 demonstrates how the Council will achieve balanced and sustainable budgets throughout the period of the four year settlement. The Transformation Programme initiated during 2015 is critical to the achievement of our financial objectives.
- 5.11 A key project within the Transformation Programme is a Commercial Property Investment Strategy (as outlined in the Report to 16<sup>th</sup> November Executive) designed to deliver additional income of £1m in 2017/18 with a further £1m in 2018/19 and a further £1m in 2019/20. Assuming an average net yield of 5% per annum this will require the Council to invest £20m per annum in commercial property during 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19.

### **South Hill Park**

- 5.12 An investment of £190,000 has been identified in order to secure long-term reductions in the grant aid to South Hill Park. The investment will secure a £100,000 reduction in each of the following two years which meets the expectations in the Council’s efficiency plan. It will improve the building which ultimately belongs to the Council and the additional commercial revenue made possible by this investment will support the grant reduction by the Council. The investment will create a new wedding venue, refurbish all toilets and upgrade kitchens.

### **Other Unavoidable & Committed schemes**

- 5.13 This category covers schemes which must proceed to ensure that the Council is not left open to legal sanction and includes items relating to health and safety issues, new legislation etc. Committed schemes also include those that have been started as part of the 2016/17 Capital Programme. Also included within this category are those schemes that were previously funded from the General Fund Revenue Account, but which by their nature could be legitimately capitalised, thereby reducing pressure on the revenue budget. Schemes in this category form the first call on the available capital resources.

### Maintenance (Improvements and capitalised repairs)

- 5.14 An assessment has been made of the condition of the Council's property assets to arrive at an estimate of the outstanding maintenance works required. An assessment is made of the state of each building element and its repair priority with a condition rating and repair urgency.

<b>Definition of Condition Categories:</b>
A: Good – Performing as intended and operating efficiently. B: Satisfactory – Performing as intended but showing minor deterioration. C: Poor – Showing major defects and/or not operating as intended. D: Bad – Life expired and/or serious risk of imminent failure.
<b>Priority:</b>
1 Urgent works that will prevent immediate closure of premises and/or address an immediate high risk to the health and safety of the occupants and/or remedy a serious breach of legislation. 2 Essential work required within two years that will prevent serious deterioration of the fabric or services and/or address a medium risk to the health & safety of the occupants and/or a minor breach of the legislation. 3 Desirable work required within 3 to 5 years that will prevent deterioration of the fabric or services and/or address a low risk to the health & safety of the occupants and/or a minor breach of the legislation. 4 Long-term work required beyond a period of 5 years that will prevent deterioration of the fabric or services.

The figures below are based on the information held in the Construction and Maintenance Groups' property management system. They have been adjusted to exclude those works that are already budgeted for within existing 2016/17 schools and corporate planned maintenance programmes.

The priorities can be broken down as follows:

#### Maintenance Backlog

		£ (000)	£ (000)
Schools	Priority 1C & 1D	2,914	
	Priority 2C & 2D	8,539	
	Lower Priorities	26,237	37,690
Corporate Properties	Priority 1C & 1D	2,553	
	Priority 2C & 2D	2,758	
	Lower Priorities	11,574	16,885
Total		<u>11,574</u>	<u>54,575</u>

- 5.15 The overall maintenance liability has increased from £52.5m in 2016/17 to £54.58m. The last couple of years have seen large increases in building costs. As the Council is now running a five year programme of condition surveys, some of the older data was quickly becoming out-of-date and, as a consequence, adjustments have been

applied to that data to bring it in line with current costs. Secondly, the nature of the condition surveys has evolved such that more emphasis is now given to predicting the need for works further in advance than was previously the case. This is partly because of the five year programme approach mentioned above and partly because the asset management package that we now use to manage this data lends itself to better recording. As such much of the value attributed to lower priority works is for things that are likely to be required over the next several years.

### **Schools**

- 5.16 Historically the Schools Maintenance Programme has been funded from the Capital Maintenance grant allocation from the Department for Education (DfE). The allocation from the DfE for 2017/18 of £1.931m will be used to tackle the highest priority items identified in the condition surveys indicated above.

### **Non-schools**

- 5.17 From an initial analysis of the work required it is clear that some works, whilst urgent, cannot be legitimately capitalised and must be met from a revenue budget. An allowance of £200,000 is available in the 2017/18 Revenue Budget proposals to meet these liabilities.
- 5.18 In line with the policy adopted last year the Asset Management Group has considered only those works that fall within categories 1C and 1D. Given the financial constraints on both the revenue and capital budgets an allocation of £1.775m is recommended to address the most pressing 1C & 1D priorities.
- 5.19 The implications of failing to maintain Council buildings and to address the backlog will be a significant issue for the Council over the coming years and efforts will be focussed on ensuring that the highest priority items are tackled first, that efficiencies are maximised in the procurement of works and that maintenance which will result in energy efficiencies are undertaken through the invest-to-save programme.

### **Rolling programmes**

- 5.20 These programmes cover more than one year and give a degree of certainty for forward planning schemes to improve service delivery. They make an important contribution towards the Council's established Asset Management Plans.

### **Other Desirable Schemes**

- 5.21 In addition to the schemes identified in the above categories, each service has requested funding for other high priority schemes that meet the needs and objectives of their service. The net cost of schemes which attract partial external funding are included in the schemes put forward.

### **Invest-To-Save Schemes**

- 5.22 These are schemes where the additional revenue income or savings arising from their implementation exceeds the Council's borrowing costs. In the past the Council has allocated £1m per annum to fund potential Invest-to-Save (ITS) schemes that may present themselves during the year

### **Capital Programme 2017/18 – 2019/20**

- 5.23 A summary of the cost of new schemes proposed by Departments is set out in the table below and in Annex A. A detailed list of suggested schemes within the draft capital programme, together with a brief description of each project, for each service is included in Annexes B – F. Total Council funding amounts to £48.531m. However excluding the funding for Binfield Learning Village, Coral Reef, the Invest to Save Schemes, the Local Housing Company, the Town Centre Redevelopment and the

Commercial Property Investment strategy the total Council funding requested is £7.865m in 2017/18 and this is in line with previous programmes and the amount allowed for in the Revenue Budget proposals.

<b>Capital Programme 2017/18-2019/20</b>				
<b>Annex</b>	<b>Service Area</b>	<b>2017/18 £000</b>	<b>2018/19 £000</b>	<b>2019/20 £000</b>
B	Adult Social Care, Health & Housing	7,002	0	0
C	Children, Young People & Learning	20,540	19,067	1,574
D	Corporate Services	1,678	2,110	70
E	Council Wide	23,860	20,500	510
F	Environment Culture & Communities	13,492	5,724	3,400
	<b>Total Capital Programme</b>	<b>66,572</b>	<b>47,401</b>	<b>5,554</b>
	<b>Externally Funded</b>	<b>18,041</b>	<b>19,221</b>	<b>4,209</b>
	<b>Total request for Council funding</b>	<b>48,531</b>	<b>27,730</b>	<b>1,345</b>

### **Externally Funded Schemes**

- 5.24 A number of external funding sources are also available to fund schemes within the capital programme. External support has been identified from two main sources:

#### Government Grants

A number of capital schemes attract specific grants. It is proposed that all such schemes should be included in the capital programme at the level of external funding that is available.

A significant element of the grant-funded capital programme relates to the planned investment in Schools. The schools investment programme included in this report reflects the highest priority schemes identified by the Department and the Education Capital Programme Board. Discussions are continuing with Sandhurst school regarding works to the adjoining sports centre. A total of £11.327m will be invested in schools from specific capital grants.

A second key constituent of capital grant funding relates to the Highway Maintenance, Integrated Transport Block and grants from the Local Enterprise Partnership. Grant approvals of £5.132m are currently anticipated for 2017/18.

#### Section 106 (£0.942m)

Each year the Council enters into a number of agreements under Section 106 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 by which developers make a contribution towards the cost of providing facilities and infrastructure that may be required as a result of their development. Usually the monies are given for work in a particular area and/or for specific projects. The total money available at present, which is not financially committed to specific projects, is £3.8m, although conditions restricting its use will apply to almost all of this.

Officers have identified a number of schemes that could be funded from Section 106 funds in 2017/18, where funding becomes available. These are summarised below

Department	Schemes	Budget
		£000
CYPL	Various School Schemes	423
ECC	Leisure & Culture	169
ECC	Local Transport Plan	350
	<b>Total</b>	<b>942</b>

The level of new funding available through Section 106 is expected to reduce in the future following the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). However the more flexible CIL funding should offset this reduction.

#### **On-going Revenue Costs**

- 5.25 Schemes may have associated on-going revenue costs and tend to become payable in the year after implementation. As such will be included within the Council's Commitment Budget for 2017/18. These total £69,000 and relate to the licence and maintenance contracts associated with the new IT hardware investment.

#### **Funding Options**

- 5.26 Following the transfer of the housing stock in 2008, the Council's capital receipts are limited to miscellaneous asset sales, the contribution from the VAT Shelter Scheme and Right-to-Buy claw back agreed as part of the transfer and the new Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
- 5.27 The Council introduced CIL in April 2015. It is difficult to estimate the potential amount of CIL that will be generated as this will depend on the delivery of additional housing development in the Borough, which is to a large extent outside of the control of the authority. However based on the most recent housing trajectory estimates and knowledge of development schemes that will come forward in the next 18 months, it is estimated that £2m is an appropriate assumption for 2017/18.
- 5.28 The proposed capital programme for 2017/18 has been developed, therefore, on the assumption that it will be funded by a combination of approximately £8m of capital receipts, Government grants, other external contributions and borrowing. The financing costs associated with the Capital Programme have been provided for in the Council's revenue budget plans.
- 5.29 Given the level of investment proposed in 2017/18, in particular Binfield Learning Village and Coral Reef, it is inevitable that the Council will be required to borrow externally over the short-to-medium term. The timing of this will depend on the level of surplus cash held by the Council which will be used in the first instance to fund the Capital Programme commitments.
- 5.30 The use of these monies is known as internal borrowing and the Capital Finance regulations require the Council, through the General Fund, to set aside an amount, the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), which would be broadly equivalent to the amount the Council would need to re-pay if it borrowed externally. Any external borrowing will also require MRP in addition to an interest charge depending on the maturity of the loan.
- 5.31 If any amendments are made to the capital programme, the revenue consequences will need to be adjusted accordingly. Executive Members will therefore need to consider the impact of the capital programme as part of the final revenue budget decisions.

- 5.32 Following the introduction of the Prudential Borrowing regime local authorities are able to determine the level of their own capital expenditure with regard only to affordability on the revenue account. In practice this represents the amount of borrowing they can afford to finance, and will necessitate taking a medium-term view of revenue income streams and capital investment needs.
- 5.33 To achieve its aim of ensuring that capital investment plans are affordable, prudent and sustainable, the Local Government Act requires all local authorities to set and keep under review a series of prudential indicators included in the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities. The Capital Programme recommended in this report can be sustained and is within the prudential guidelines. Full Council will need to agree the prudential indicators for 2017/18 to 2019/20 in March 2017, alongside its consideration of the specific budget proposals for 2017/18 and the Council's medium-term financial prospects.
- 5.34 Members will need to carefully balance the level of the Capital Programme in future years against other revenue budget pressures and a thorough review, including the prioritisation of those schemes planned for 2018/19 onwards, will need to be undertaken during next summer.

## **6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS**

### Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 The authorisation for incurring capital expenditure by local authorities is contained in the legislation covering the service areas. Controls on capital expenditure are contained in the Local Government Act 2003 and regulations made thereunder.

### Borough Treasurer

- 6.2 The financial implications are contained within the report.

### Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.3 The Council's final budget proposals will potentially impact on all areas of the community. A detailed consultation process is planned in order to provide individuals and groups with the opportunity to comment on the draft proposals. This will ensure that in making final recommendations, the Executive can be made aware of the views of a broad section of residents and service users. Where necessary, impact assessments on specific schemes within the capital programme will be undertaken before work commences.

### Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.4 The most significant risk facing the Council is the impact of the capital programme on the revenue budget. The scale of the Council's Capital Programme for 2017/18 will impact upon the revenue budget and will itself be subject to consultation over the coming weeks. All new spending on services will need to be funded from new capital receipts or borrowing from internal resources. This effect is compounded by future year's capital programmes. As revenue resources are limited it is clear that a capital programme of this magnitude is not sustainable in the medium term without significant revenue economies. The generation of capital receipts in future years may mitigate the impact on the revenue budget, but as the timing and scale of these receipts is uncertain their impact is unlikely to be significant.
- 6.5 There are also a range of risks that are common to all capital projects which include:
- Tender prices exceeding the budget
  - Planning issues and potential delays
  - Uncertainty of external funding
  - Building delays due to unavailability of materials or inclement weather



- Availability of staff with appropriate skills to implement schemes

6.6 These can be managed through the use of appropriate professional officers and following best practice in project management techniques. The report also identifies the risk associated with the shortfall in maintenance expenditure compared to that identified by the latest condition surveys. With only those highest priorities receiving funding in 2017/18, there will be a further build up in the maintenance backlog and a risk that the deterioration in Council assets will hamper the ability to deliver good services.

## 7 CONSULTATION

7.1 The Overview & Scrutiny Commission will be consulted on the budget proposals and may also choose to direct specific issues to individual overview and scrutiny panels. Targeted consultation exercises will be undertaken with business rate payers, the Schools Forum, town and parish councils and voluntary organisations. Comments and views will be sought on both the overall budget package and on the detailed budget proposals. In addition, this report and all the supporting information are publicly available to any individual or group who wish to comment on any proposal included within it. To facilitate this, the full budget package will be placed on the Council's web site at <http://consult.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/portal>. There will also be a dedicated mailbox to collect comments.

7.2 The timetable for the approval of the 2017/18 Budget is as follows

Executive agree proposals as basis for consultation	13 December 2016
Consultation period	14 December 2016 - 24 January 2017
Executive considers representations made and recommends budget.	14 February 2017
Council considers Executive budget proposals	01 March 2017

### Background Papers

None

### Contact for further information

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**CAPITAL PROGRAMME - BY CATEGORY**

	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
<b>Committed</b>	21,185	21,085	635	42,905
<b>Unavoidable</b>	170	125	100	395
<b>Maintenance</b>	2,007	505	150	2,662
<b>Rolling Programme / Other Desirable</b>	10,005	2,515	460	12,980
<b>Town Centre Highway Works</b>	1,500	500	0	2,000
<b>Council Funding</b>	<b>34,867</b>	<b>24,730</b>	<b>1,345</b>	<b>60,942</b>
<b>Town Centre Improvements</b>	850	0	0	850
<b>Coral Reef</b>	574	0	0	574
<b>LED Streetlights</b>	3,650	0	0	3,650
<b>Binfield Learning Village</b>	8,590	3,000	0	11,590
<b>Total Council Funding</b>	<b>48,531</b>	<b>27,730</b>	<b>1,345</b>	<b>77,606</b>
<b>Total External Funding</b>	18,041	19,221	4,209	41,471
<b>Total Capital Programme</b>	<b>66,572</b>	<b>46,951</b>	<b>5,554</b>	<b>119,077</b>

**CAPITAL PROGRAMME - ALL DEPARTMENTS**

	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
<b>ASCH</b>	7,002	0	0	7,002
<b>CYPL</b>	20,540	19,067	1,574	41,181
<b>Corporate Services</b>	1,678	2,110	70	3,858
<b>Council Wide</b>	23,860	20,500	510	44,870
<b>ECC</b>	13,492	5,274	3,400	22,166
<b>Total Capital Programme</b>	<b>66,572</b>	<b>46,951</b>	<b>5,554</b>	<b>119,077</b>
<b>External Funding</b>	18,041	19,221	4,209	41,471
<b>Council Funding</b>	<b>48,531</b>	<b>27,730</b>	<b>1,345</b>	<b>77,606</b>

## CAPITAL PROGRAMME - ADULT SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH & HOUSING

	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000	2019/20 £000	TOTAL £000
<b>Committed</b>	0	0	0	0
<b>Unavoidable</b>	0	0	0	0
<b>Maintenance</b> See Council Wide	0	0	0	0
<b>Rolling Programme / Other Desirable</b> Downshire Homes	7,002	0	0	7,002
<b>TOTAL REQUEST FOR COUNCIL FUNDING</b>	<b>7,002</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7,002</b>
<b>External Funding</b> Community Capacity Grant	tba	tba	tba	tba
<b>TOTAL EXTERNAL FUNDING</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME</b>	<b>7,002</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7,002</b>

## **Adult Social Care, Health and Housing**

### **2017/18 Capital Programme Bids**

#### **1. Downshire Homes Ltd (DHL) – Local Housing Company Loan £7.002m**

To increase the loan by £7.002m to Downshire Homes so that it can purchase 15 properties for homeless households and 5 properties for households with learning disabilities. The total amount to be lent is based on an average purchase price of £350,000, inclusive of taxes and any required works before letting. The company is wholly owned by the Council. The company can decide to pay a dividend to its shareholder from its post tax surplus in future years.

Alternatively the Council could continue with current policy approach of procuring bed and breakfast and temporary accommodation to provide homes for homeless households. Such an approach would not generate economies for the Council or benefit from equity growth of the properties it owns. The risks accrue to Downshire Homes, the Local Housing Company, albeit the company is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Council. The risks are that acquisition prices will increase faster than anticipated, preventing the purchase of the requisite number of properties but also any changes in the welfare regime that provides housing benefit or housing costs under universal credit for the households that are housed in the properties.

## CAPITAL PROGRAMME - CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE & LEARNING

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	TOTAL
	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Committed</b>				
Priestwood Early Years Facility - Non Schools	70	0	0	70
Binfield Learning Village	8,590	3,000	0	11,590
	<u>8,660</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>11,660</u>
<b>Unavoidable</b>				
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Maintenance</b>				
Schools Maintenance externally funded	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Rolling Programme / Other Desirable</b>				
Carbon Reduction Measures	10	10	10	30
CP-IS Project	80	0	0	80
<b>Total</b>	<u>90</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>110</u>
<b>TOTAL REQUEST FOR COUNCIL FUNDING</b>	<u>8,750</u>	<u>3,010</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11,770</u>
<b>External Funding - DfE Basic Need Grant</b>				
Schemes agreed by Education Capital Programme Board	8,812	15,493	1,000	25,305
	<u>8,812</u>	<u>15,493</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>25,305</u>
<b>External Funding - Other</b>				
Schools Capital Maintenance Grant	1,931	0	0	1,931
Easthampstead Park Masterplan	274	274	274	822
Section 106 - Small Schemes	250	250	250	750
Section 106 - Binfield Learning Village	173	0	0	173
Carbon Reduction Measures	40	40	40	
Devolved Formula Capital (estimate)	310	tbc	tbc	310
	<u>2,978</u>	<u>564</u>	<u>564</u>	<u>3,986</u>
<b>TOTAL EXTERNAL FUNDING</b>	<u>11,790</u>	<u>16,057</u>	<u>1,564</u>	<u>29,291</u>
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME</b>	<u>20,540</u>	<u>19,067</u>	<u>1,574</u>	<u>41,061</u>

## **Children, Young People and Learning**

### **2017/18 Capital Programme Bids**

#### **1. Carbon Reduction Measures - £10,000**

This project will provide a budget for short payback energy schemes in schools that will be prioritised by the Planned Works Project Management Group. BFC has a Management Agenda to drastically reduce carbon emissions namely the climate change action plan in which the council is committed to improving energy/carbon efficiency in schools. The bid envisages a £10,000 contribution from Council funding to be combined with funding from schools of £40,000 per annum

The objective is to reduce schools' energy costs and carbon emissions. This programme will mitigate and reduce the amount payable in future years by targeting energy projects that will have the greatest impact in reducing energy costs and carbon emissions. Suitable projects will be identified by the Borough Energy Manager but will include the proposals below.

- as a priority replace inefficient existing T12 fluorescent lighting which is still present in some schools by energy efficient LED lighting
- Part funding/ kick starting School Salix loans schemes to replace existing T8 fluorescents by LED lighting
- Further installation of Electricity and gas remote reading meters/loggers including sub meters when appropriate.
- Rationalisation of existing electricity meters where in some cases three meters are located in the one location resulting in three standing charges to the school.
- Part funding/kick starting schools renewables projects whereby where majority of the project is funded via school loan scheme
- Part funding the phased replacement of oil fired boiler within the borough via Salix or maintenance funds.
- Inclusion of remote buildings controls which are not currently connected to main building control system
- Basic pipework and valve insulation

#### **2. Child Protection Information Sharing - £80,000**

The Child Protection – Information Sharing (CP-IS) is a national project where all local authorities (LAs) in England are taking part in a NHS England work programme to share information. In Berkshire, all LAs have started their engagement with NHS England. CP-IS proposes to connect local authorities' child protection social care IT systems with those used by staff in NHS unscheduled care settings (Emergency departments; Out of hours GPs; Walk in Centres; Paediatric wards; Maternity wards; Minor Injury units; Ambulance services).

The information sharing focuses on three specific categories of child:

- Those with a child protection plan

- Those with looked after child status (children with full and interim care orders and voluntary care agreements)
- Pregnant women whose unborn child has a pre-birth child protection plan

The software supplier Corelogic, who supply and support the council's social care IT system have confirmed that functionality to integrate to CP-IS is available in the next release (MOSAIC). There are a number of technical aspects which need to be in place. The most significant is the pre-requisite to have a connection that will allow access to the N3 network. This will ensure a CP-IS Client can be installed locally to enable the submission and receipt of CPP/ LAC information. An N3 connection is in place for Adults Social Care to support Public Health working. Resources are required to achieve technical and business readiness in order to cover the following tasks:

- Data Matching: Obtaining NHS number prior to implementation.
- Project Management: Oversee and manage the overall implementation; Engagement with the relevant stakeholders;
- Manage configurable system changes with supplier (e.g. Design, Build, Test etc.): If we choose to configure or add new functionality to the new updated software specific to our local setting. These types of changes may incur additional costs from the supplier.

## CAPITAL PROGRAMME - CORPORATE SERVICES / CHIEF EXECUTIVE

	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000	2019/20 £000	TOTAL £000
<b>Committed</b>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Unavoidable</b>				
Compliance with EPC Regulations	50	25	0	75
	<u>50</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>75</u>
<b>Maintenance</b>				
See Council Wide	0	0	0	0
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Rolling Programme / Other Desirable</b>				
Civic Accommodation	1,628	2,085	70	3,783
	<u>1,628</u>	<u>2,085</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>3,783</u>
<b>TOTAL REQUEST FOR COUNCIL FUNDING</b>	<u>1,678</u>	<u>2,110</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>3,858</u>
<b>External Funding</b>				
<b>TOTAL EXTERNAL FUNDING</b>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME</b>	<u>1,678</u>	<u>2,110</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>3,858</u>



## Corporate Services

### 2017/18 Capital Programme Bids

#### 1. Compliance with EPC regulations - £50,000

Under the provisions of the Energy Act 2011, there will be a requirement for any properties rented out to have a minimum energy performance rating of E on an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC). The regulations will come into force for new lets and renewals of leases and tenancies with effect from 1st April 2018 and for all existing tenancies on 1st April 2020. It will be unlawful to rent a property which breaches the requirement for a minimum E rating, unless there is an applicable exemption.

The Department will commission consultants at an estimated cost of £25,000 to ensure that all Council properties which are subject to leases have an up to date EPC and to advise on the work required to all properties which have a rating lower than E to ensure compliance with the regulations. This will be funded from revenue as it is not a legitimate capital cost. A capital bid is requested to carry out the above work in 2017/18 at a cost of £75,000 phased over two years. Subject to the outcome of the consultant's report further work may be required in 2018/19.

#### 2. Civic Accommodation - £1.628m

As a result of the work of the Transformation Board, in particular the Property Review Group which is required to release revenue savings from the property portfolio the need to relocate all operations from Easthampstead House (EH) to Time Square (TS) has been identified as a key priority. The move will also support the preferred Target Operating Model agreed by the Council Wide Support Services Reviews (CWSS) which is best suited to council support services being co-located. The move allows the further rationalisation of the Council's property portfolio to deliver optimum value from existing assets which is the stated aim of the Asset Management Plan. The rationalisation takes the Council further towards releasing the whole EH site for development to enhance the Town Centre. The residual site of EH has significant redevelopment potential. Vail Williams looked at the potential and advised that value will depend on the use and density that the site can accommodate. The Council has ownership of the EH building (subject to a best value offer from Bracknell Regeneration Partnership (BRP) up to 2022), and has recently acquired the freehold of the former Magistrates offices, subject to overage period for 3 years. The Council are obtaining a pre-emptive option on the Police Station. Initial expectations are that the total site area could have a redevelopment value, depending on planning and costs, in the order of £6m.

The Library Service is currently subject to review and although there are no plans currently to move Bracknell Library, there is a wish to find a suitable alternative town centre site. It must also be noted that the Library, amongst other buildings, is dependent on EH for IT links.

In order to increase the capacity of the building, the implementation of more robust flexible working practices will be required to change the current desk ratio from 5:4 to 5:3 to achieve the relocation. To reduce business rates whilst in sale negotiations and to achieve the best resale price, Easthampstead House will be demolished when all operations have been relocated. Demolition of Easthampstead House alone will cost in the region of £1m. EH

costs the Council approximately £400K per year to run. The Town Centre regeneration is progressing rapidly and once complete the dated and aesthetically unpleasing building will soon become something of an eyesore.

The most recent condition survey of EH was undertaken in 2013. It highlighted several high priority maintenance issues. If the building were expected to be utilised beyond the next two years, it would be recommended to undertake works to address these issues to ensure its' continued operational use. These works would cost in the region of £1.75m

The atrium in TS is no longer fit for purpose. A recent failure of a glazed unit in the atrium has caused disruption to residents trying to access services in TS as well as to council staff. The condition of the atrium is already at a point where it needs to be totally replaced. The recladding of the atrium frame and upgrading the mechanism within the lobby and atrium space, whilst taking the opportunity to incorporate additional floors into the atrium void, is integral to increasing the staff density in TS and cannot now be avoided.

With this refurbishment to the atrium, internal remodelling to create new offices and a reorganisation of department locations within TS it is possible to create a building which will accommodate not only its current operations, but also all staff from EH and a complete democratic suite to include a Council Chamber. Due to the nature of the surrounding car park deck and the load restriction there is no possibility of extending TS. It is proposed that some parking spaces be removed from the underground car park in order to locate specialist storage in that area.

	<b>2017/18 £000</b>	<b>2018/19 £000</b>	<b>2019/20 £000</b>	<b>TOTAL £000</b>
COUNCIL FUNDING	1,628	2,085	70	3,783

**CAPITAL PROGRAMME - COUNCIL WIDE**

	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000	2019/20 £000	TOTAL £000
<b>Committed</b>				
Commerical Property Investment Strategy	20,000	20,000	0	40,000
Capitalisation of buildings, highways and ITC project management costs included in revenue budget proposals	400	400	400	1,200
Asbestos	30	0	0	30
Town Centre Redevelopment	550	0	0	550
Town Centre Redevelopment - Stamp Duty	300	0	0	300
	<b>21,280</b>	<b>20,400</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>2,080</b>
<b>Unavoidable</b>				
	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Maintenance</b>				
Buildings Planned Maintenance	1,775	n/a	n/a	1,775
	<b>1,775</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,775</b>
<b>Rolling Programme / Other Desirable</b>				
ASCHH Workstyle Changes	220	0	0	220
IT Schemes	585	100	110	795
	<b>805</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>1,015</b>
<b>TOTAL REQUEST FOR COUNCIL FUNDING</b>	<b>23,860</b>	<b>20,500</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>4,870</b>
<b>External Funding</b>				
<b>TOTAL EXTERNAL FUNDING</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME</b>	<b>23,860</b>	<b>20,500</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>4,870</b>

## **Council Wide**

### **2017/18 Capital Programme Bids**

#### **1. Planned Building Maintenance - £1,775,000**

Planned maintenance is an annual programme of repairs and maintenance to the Councils' building stock and associated assets. It encompasses a wide range of activities but typically includes the repair or replacement of elements of building fabric, fixtures or fittings that are worn, obsolete or otherwise damaged. The purpose of the work is to maintain the Councils' buildings to a sufficient standard to provide a safe and appropriate environment from which its' various services can operate. The works included in the programme are identified through a series of condition surveys, which are currently undertaken on our behalf by external engineers and surveyors. The present arrangement generally allows for each property to be surveyed every five years and we are currently four years into our first five year programme. As a consequence, a combination of both new and much older data is used in the creation of each individual programme.

#### **2. Adult Social Care Health and Housing (ASCHH) Work-style Changes - £220,000**

In order to deliver the work-style changes being planned within ASCHH a significant investment in IT is requested.

#### **3. Various IT Schemes - £585,000**

A programme of IT schemes is being developed based on the highest priorities identified resulting from refreshing and replacing the Council's IT infrastructure. The precise programme will be reviewed over the coming months and may include elements of the following schemes.

##### **MFD / Network Printers**

The investment is required for the refresh of MFD's (multi-functional device) plus local and network printers across the authority.

##### **Desktop Services Estate Management**

Investment required to fund replacements, upgrades and new equipment including scanners, docking stations, SSD upgrades and a fund for "replacement, break and fix".

##### **Network Refresh**

The proposal is to cover a number of ICT Network infrastructure replacements to ensure equipment is both current and supportable and to maintain the network and ensure that it has the capacity to serve the business in the forthcoming year.

##### **Server Refresh**

The proposal is to cover a number of ICT infrastructure replacements to ensure equipment is both current and supportable and to provide consultation to support the design of the new Citrix farm. The budget is also to maintain the server hardware estate and ensure that it has the capacity to serve the business in the forthcoming year.

### **Data Centre 10G Ports**

There is a need to increase the number of high-capacity 10Gbps LAN switch ports within the Time Square data centre to support the rationalisation of VMWare servers and to maintain throughput and performance required to provide acceptable user response-times, and to ensure that backups are completed in a timely manner.

### **Idox Upgrade/Migration**

Idox will be issuing an 'End of Life' notice for the DMS software used by HR and ECC in October 2016. There will be a 6 month grace period and after this support for the software will cease.

### **Alert System Replacement**

The current Alert system is based on technology that is no longer supported and is very vulnerable. It also no longer adheres to compliance rules under PSN. It is estimated that the time to set up an Alerts system with similar functionality to that previously provided would be 20 days. This would involve creating an incident reporting facility which can be viewed and managed, logged and archived at all permissible levels.

### **Intranet Development**

The council's intranet is well used by staff, and is an essential tool for the operation of the organisation. However, it is currently running on unsupported content management software, and therefore new developments would be high risk, and no development has been undertaken in the last two years. The intranet needs to be refreshed, if it is to enable increased self-service and host a staff self-service portal.

## CAPITAL PROGRAMME - ENVIRONMENT CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES

	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000	2019/20 £000	TOTAL £000
<b>Committed</b>				
Coral Reef Roof and Flumes	574	0	0	574
LED Streetlights	3,650	0	0	3,650
Roads & Footway Resurfacing #	200	200	200	600
Equipment Replacement Downshire Golf Complex #	35	35	35	105
Matched Funding for LEP Funding (A329)	450	450	0	900
Town Centre Highway Works	1,500	500	0	2,000
	<b>6,409</b>	<b>1,185</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>7,829</b>
<b>Unavoidable</b>				
New Cash Mechanisms for Parking	20	0	0	20
BSLC Replacement Locker Locks	20	0	0	20
Land Drainage	80	100	100	280
	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>320</b>
<b>Maintenance</b>				
Minor Works at Leisure Sites	50	150	150	350
Replacement works to toilet area BLC	56	0	0	56
Cem & Crem - Park Area Pathways	35	0	0	35
Management of Parks & Countryside Open Spaces On Confirm	35	0	0	35
Self Service Technology Assisted Opening In Libraries	56	355	0	411
	<b>232</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>887</b>
<b>Rolling Programme / Other Desirable</b>				
South Hill Park *	190	0	0	190
Cem & Crem - Burial Area Memorial Grips	20	0	0	20
Improvement and Maintenance of Play Areas	70	70	70	210
Update Traffic Signal Infrastructure	200	200	200	600
The Look Out Play Area Upgrade	0	50	0	50
	<b>480</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>1,070</b>
<b>TOTAL REQUEST FOR COUNCIL FUNDING</b>	<b>7,241</b>	<b>2,110</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>10,106</b>
<b>External Funding</b>				
Highways Maintenance	1,512	1,369	1,200	4,081
Integrated Transport & Maintenance	720	720	720	2,160
LEP Funding (A329)	2,900	0	0	2,900
Section 106 Schemes (LTP)	350	350	0	700
Self Service Technology Assisted Opening In Libraries - S106	44	0	0	44
Disabled Facilities Grants (cash grant to be confirmed)	450	450	450	1,350
Sustainable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANGS)	150	150	150	450
Section 106 Leisure & Culture (smaller schemes)	125	125	125	375
	<b>6,251</b>	<b>3,164</b>	<b>2,645</b>	<b>12,060</b>
<b>TOTAL EXTERNAL FUNDING</b>	<b>6,251</b>	<b>3,164</b>	<b>2,645</b>	<b>12,060</b>
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME</b>	<b>13,492</b>	<b>5,274</b>	<b>3,400</b>	<b>22,166</b>

# Part Capitalisation of Revenue

\* Funding to be released in 2016/17

## Environment, Culture & Communities

### 2017/18 Capital Programme Bids

#### 1. New Cash Mechanisms for Parking - £20,000

With the introduction of the new £5 note and £1 coin there is a requirement to upgrade the coin mechanisms in the parking pay machines. In September 2016 the new £5 note will come into circulation with the existing note being withdrawn in May 2017. New mechanisms for the multi-storey car parks will need to be ordered for delivery and installation in April 2017 to ensure they are available prior to the withdrawal of the existing £5 note and introduction of the £1 coin. The new £1 coin will come into circulation in March 2017 with the current coin being phased out over time.

#### 2. BSLC Replacement locker Locks - £20,000

This project is for the replacement of all the current locks in lockers for public use primarily due to the change in the £1 coin in March 2017. We have over 400 lockers for public use in swimming pool changing rooms and for dry activities, with the introduction of the new £1 coin in March 2017 our locks will not be suitable to take them. As a result of this all the locks will need to be changed for a new version.

#### 3. Land Drainage - £80,000

Under the Floods and Water Management Act 2010 the council has a responsibility to take the lead role in managing (and reducing) the risk of surface water flooding throughout the Borough. There is a continuing need to improve land drainage and watercourses throughout the Borough to reduce the risk of flooding to properties and roads. Operational experience and past seasons rainfall volumes indicate that the risk of flooding in both rural and urban areas has increased. Preliminary investigations indicate that a number of sites would benefit from local (often modest) improvements reducing the risk or frequency and severity of flooding incidents. The following schemes will be implemented in 2017/18

- Waterloo Road, Crowthorne
- Yorktown Road, Sandhurst
- Foresters Way, Crowthorne
- Warfield Street, Warfield
- Bagshot Road, Bracknell
- Winkfield Lane, Winkfield
- Maidens Green, Winkfield
- Binfield Road, Binfield

#### 4. Minor Works at Leisure Sites - £50,000

This £50k fund provides for some facility/site refurbishment and replacement of plant/equipment/machinery across the Leisure sites. These sites compete in a real market and generate income of over £10m/year. Failure to refurbish these facilities will result in a poorer quality product which in turn will result in decreased income. Projects to be progressed include:

- New fitness equipment at Bracknell Leisure Centre
- New exhibits at The Look Out Discovery Centre.
- Course drainage works at Downshire Golf Complex
- Improvement works to bunkers/tees/pathways at Downshire Golf Complex

#### **5. Replacement works to toilet area at BSLC - £56,000**

The project is to totally refurbish three toilet areas within the leisure centre, including walls, floors, sanitary ware and sinks. The three areas are the Time Out male, female/disabled toilets and male Hospitality Suite toilets. The current toilet facilities are of a very old design, which makes them difficult to maintain and get replacement parts for. New equipment will not fit which leads to make-do repairs and poor quality finishes.

The Sales team are finding that prospective members refuse to take out memberships because of the dated nature and general decor of the toilets. The customer experience now includes not only the activity they might sign up for but also the general ambience of the building. We have spent money over the years on updating equipment and sporting/leisure areas however the toilets have been missed out. They do not meet the expectations of today's customers.

#### **6. Cemetery & Crematorium Park Area Pathways - £35,000**

Easthampstead Park Cemetery & Crematorium is a high income earning facility, with a net budget surplus of £1.1m. If standards are not maintained this is at risk. The original burial area when the cemetery first opened was designed to have flat grave stones to allow for easier maintenance of the grounds. The flat memorials are separated with a footpath running between them. There are 3 sections with 5 rows of pathways in each section. Each pathway was originally laid at ground level using basic sand and little else. Although it was installed in a rudimentary way it has lasted over 45 years but is now crumbling, moving, breaking, separating and becoming a hazard and a problem for grounds maintenance due to weed control. There has been little or no investment in this area since 1971. The area is the most complained about by the public on the entire site.

#### **7. Management of Parks and Countryside Open Spaces on Confirm - £35,000**

The Parks and Countryside Service currently manage 320 hectares of heavily used and highly valued public open space. In the coming years, land transfers created by new developments will increase land in management by approximately 50%. This is a significant increase in the public estate and it naturally increases the number and range of council owned features, such as trees, footpath networks, play equipment and other ongoing maintenance obligations. Parks and Countryside have set the ambitious target of maintaining the significantly larger area of land to the existing high standards, but with no increase in staff resource. This goal requires significant efficiencies in working methods to be found, and this project is one component of finding those efficiencies.

#### **8. Self Service Technology Assisted Opening In Libraries – £56,000**

Capital funding of £110,000 has already been allocated to the department in 2016-2017 in order to introduce self-issue kiosks in Bracknell Library. The most successful and widely used system is based on Radio Frequency Identification (RFID), in which the current item



barcode is replaced by a tag containing information about that item. This tag can then be scanned and read by a terminal connected to the Library Management System which then updates the borrower's record as appropriate. It also acts as a trigger for the security system, helping to prevent theft. The public are already accustomed to using self-issue facilities in shops and banks, and they will benefit from a faster service, without the need to join a queue in order to borrow or return items, pay their fines, or access information about stock availability. Expansion of self-issue to the remaining 8 libraries will enable customers to issue and return books and pay library charges for themselves, without the need of staff intervention, when the Library is open. This modernisation of the service will, potentially, enable volunteers to man libraries and reduce the number of frontline staff without curtailing the service provided.

However, the Transformation Review of Libraries has shown self-issue needs to go one step further, with the need to more efficiently employ limited staffing resources and to offer increased opening hours at no additional cost to the service. Technology-assisted opening enables Library members to access Library premises when the Libraries are closed and to make use of the full range of facilities on offer. Access is gained via E+ card and keypad entry, using an external control panel, whilst the technology unlocks / locks the doors, switches on lights, powers up the public PCs, self-issue kiosks and turns them off again. CCTV cameras, linked to the technology, record activity externally and internally at strategic points so that misuse can be managed. Technology-assisted opening also improves efficiency during opening times, as it automatically boots up all of the ICT in the morning, opens every Library on time, and provides an audible announcement that staff are either present or no longer present, and shuts everything down at the end of the day without staff interaction.

There are many advantages to using technology-assisted opening. Customers are able to access library services at times that are convenient to them, rather than restricting use to normal opening hours. Furthermore, community groups can hire library premises out of hours, not only maximising use of Library buildings, but also enabling the service to raise income. More importantly, rather than closing libraries, it enables opening hours to be extended whilst simultaneously reducing staffing numbers. Over 200 libraries in Europe already use technology-assisted opening, mostly in Scandinavia. The principal supplier is Bibliotheca, whose system, Open+, has been successfully used by Peterborough Libraries to extend opening hours across their library network by 125 hours per week, in addition to saving £320k in staffing costs. However, other suppliers are now entering the market.

	<b>2017/18 £000</b>	<b>2018/19 £000</b>	<b>2019/20 £000</b>	<b>TOTAL £000</b>
COUNCIL FUNDING	56	355	0	411
EXTERNAL FUNDING	44	0	0	44
<b>TOTAL FUNDING</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>455</b>

**9. South Hill Park - £190,000**

An investment of £190,000 has been identified in order to secure long-term reductions in the grant aid to South Hill Park. The investment will secure a £100,000 reduction in each of the following two years which meets the expectations in the Council's efficiency plan. It will improve the building which ultimately belongs to the Council and the additional commercial revenue made possible by this investment will support the grant reduction by the Council. The investment will create a new wedding venue, refurbish all toilets and upgrade kitchens.

**10. Cemetery & Crematorium - Burial Area Memorial Grips - £20,000**

The cemetery at Easthampstead Park receives between 80 and 120 burials per year. At present we have sufficient space made available at the site to receive up to 150 new burials. There is a need to plan and prepare grips for the positioning of headstones within the grounds to receive 150 burials. Grips need to be installed 12 months before required so that they can settle firmly in the ground. This reduces the possibility of movement once headstones are installed and subsequent issues with reinstating fallen or leaning headstones. Failure to provide sufficient burial plots to meet demand will reduce income and damage the excellent reputation of Easthampstead Park.

**11. Improvement and Maintenance of Play Areas - £70,000**

There are currently 25 equipped play areas managed by Bracknell Forest Council. These have predominantly been provided through the planning process; either through funding contributions and/or as part of land transfers secured through Section 106 Agreements. Annual management and maintenance is co-ordinated by the Parks & Countryside service. This includes carrying out weekly inspections, routine maintenance, and repairs.

Capital monies are needed to refurbish sites as part of a rolling programme, with some of the play areas old and in poor condition. The project priority for 2017/18 is to refurbish the play area at The Greenway and will raise the quality of the play areas, sustain and add levels of use and satisfaction in addition to improving the safety of the play areas.

**12. Upgrade Traffic Signal infrastructure - £200,000**

On-going condition surveys carried out by the appointed signal maintenance contractor (Siemens) continue to highlight sites/issues requiring attention - in some cases these are deemed to be urgent and/or dangerous. Many of the traffic signal poles are showing signs of advanced corrosion, the signal heads and push button units for the pedestrian crossings are old and obsolete (becoming ever more difficult to source replacement parts), the controllers themselves are no longer capable of performing in line with other Intelligent Transport Systems the Council now operate. The 2016/17 approved funding is enabling the current refurbishment of the Downshire Way Bus Gate and the Crowthorne Rd/Longdown Rd Junction. This 2017/18 PAD is requesting funds to enable this work to

continue and highlights additional junction upgrade works for installations identified as beyond their life expectancy. These junctions are:

- Marshall Road/ Laundry Lane (A3095) junction
- Mill Lane/Ellesfield Avenue accesses (comprising Mill Lane (A3095) slip roads to the Southern Industrial and Mill Lane underpass Bus Link.