

**TO: THE EXECUTIVE
15 DECEMBER 2020**

**CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2021/2022 - 2023/2024
(Chief Executive/Director: Finance)**

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 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 2021/22.
- 1.2 This report draws together all service area proposals so that the Executive can agree a draft capital programme for 2021/22-2023/24 as the basis for consultation. In compiling the draft programme the main focus is inevitably on determining the requirements for 2021/22, although potential 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, a Council funded capital programme of £12.032m for 2021/22 as set out in paragraph 5.19 and summarised in Annex A, including the new schemes listed in Annexes B – C.**
- 2.2 **Approves, for consultation, the inclusion of £5.174 of expenditure to be externally funded (including £1.335m of S106 funding) as outlined in paragraph 5.20.**
- 2.3 **Approves, for consultation, the inclusion of an additional budget of £1m for Invest-to-Save schemes.**

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 these main sources:
- the Council's capital receipts
 - Government Grants
 - other external contributions
 - internal and external borrowing
- 5.2 The Council's total usable capital receipts at 31st March 2020 are zero as all receipts have been applied to fund prior capital investment – all receipts during 2020/21 will be used to finance the 2020/21 Capital Programme. The Council is partly reliant on capital receipts and other contributions 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 offset borrowing.
- 5.3 The proposed capital programme for 2021/22 has been developed, therefore, on the assumption that it will be funded by a combination of Government grants, other external contributions, capital receipts and borrowing only if required. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) contributions and some small miscellaneous property sales should enable £3m of the capital programme to be funded from receipts. Internal resources will be used in the first instance and borrowing from external sources (e.g. the PWLB) will be used only 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

- 5.4 Within the general financial framework outlined above, Service Departments have considered new schemes for inclusion within the Council's Capital Programme for 2021/22 – 2023/24. 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 agreed Asset Management Plan approach. Having done this, only the very highest priority schemes and programmes are being recommended for inclusion in the Capital Programme.

Other Unavoidable & Committed schemes

- 5.5 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 2020/21 Capital Programme – major schemes started in 2020/21 which have not yet completed will be carried forward as per normal capital expenditure rules. 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)

- 5.6 The figures below are based on the information held in the Building Groups' property management system as of August 2020 – this is earlier than usual as access was made easier to empty properties as a result of COVID. However, they have not been adjusted to exclude those works that are already budgeted for within existing 2020/21 schools and corporate planned maintenance programmes, so the figures below are overstated and will be updated in 2021.

- 5.7 In addition to this, several more comprehensive surveys have been included namely the Commercial Depot, Waterside Park and a major update of the Council's housing stock. The Commercial Depot makes up almost £2m of the Corporate Properties Priority costs and should be discounted in light of the proposals for its re-development which are included in this report.
- 5.8 The Council's overall maintenance liability remains in the region of £68m (see table below). In line with the policy adopted in previous years the Asset Management Board (AMB) 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 £1.27m is recommended to address the most pressing 1C & 1D priorities.

		£'000	£'000
Schools	Priority 1C & 1D	2,433	
	Priority 2C & 2D	11,134	
	Lower Priorities	27,686	41,253
Corporate Properties	Priority 1C & 1D	4,222	
	Priority 2C & 2D	7,779	
	Lower Priorities	14,816	26,837
Total			68,090

- 5.9 There are remaining Landlord liabilities left with the Council with regard to the Leisure sites and based on updated condition surveys these works are necessary in order for the Council to fulfil these responsibilities. The table below summarises the key investment areas for planned maintenance in 2021/22.

Location	Description	Value
Bracknell Leisure Centre	Re-Roof – Pool Roof / Gym Roof	£300,000
Bracknell Leisure Centre	Landlord Responsibilities	£50,000
Coral Reef	Landlord Responsibilities	£50,000
Downshire Golf Course	Landlord Responsibilities	£40,000
Time Square	Heating & Ventilation System Works	£225,000
Time Square	Replace/Overhaul BMS System	£180,000
Residential Housing	Refurbishment Works Programme	£125,000
Easthampstead Park Crem & Cem	Facia Replacement – Phase II	£80,000
Commercial Depot	Reactive Works	£75,000
Harmans Water Shops	Window Replacements	£60,000
Owlsmoor Community Centre	Replace BMS System	£30,000
Sandhurst Community Centre	Replace BMS System	£30,000
Longshot Lane Industrial	External Road Repairs	£25,000
		£1,270,000

- 5.10 From an analysis of the work required some works, whilst urgent, cannot be legitimately capitalised and must be met from a revenue budget. An allowance of £200,000 is available to meet these liabilities; however this will not be sufficient to meet the level of works that continue to be identified within the 1C and 1D

categories considered to be of a revenue nature. It is becoming clear that there is a diminishing proportion of the 1C and 1D works that can be legitimately met from the Capital Budget. Unless additional revenue funds are identified then the level of outstanding works will increase. These combined bids will go some way to addressing the most urgent works within the estimated backlog identified above, with the potential to resolve some of the works currently prioritised as 1C and 1D. However, other essential, albeit slightly lower priority, works will still remain. The implications of failing to maintain buildings are progressive deterioration leading to building closures, health & safety problems, service delivery impacts and reduced property values.

Schools

- 5.11 Identified planned maintenance for 2021/22 will be drawn from building condition surveys carried out by the Council's Managing Partner Atkins Ltd and there is approximately £2.433m of Priority 1 (Urgent) planned maintenance works in schools on the current building condition surveys. Capital funding for planned maintenance is allocated for schools, but non school buildings (Youth Service, Childrens Social Care, Adult Learning and Early Years) form part of the Council-Wide programme. The Asset Management Board agrees the Council-Wide programme of works, and the Schools Planned Works Programme Board agrees the programme of works for schools.
- 5.12 A Schools Planned Works Programme of £1.5m is being put forward based on the level of grant expected to be received from DfE. This includes Planned Maintenance, Fire Safety, Asbestos and Legionella works which is normally funded from DfE Schools Capital Maintenance Grant. The programme of works will be matched to the available budget.

ICT Schemes

- 5.13 The change in strategic direction of the Council towards cloud-computing and "software as a service" and the current review of Bring-Your-Own-Device, the ICT Steering Group is proposing that the current funding available in 2020/21 be prioritised for investment over the next 18 months. A move to cloud-computing will reduce the need for capital expenditure on traditional IT infrastructure and there has been considerable investment over the last 2 years with the move from desktops to laptops. There will however be a potential revenue pressure associated with this strategic change which the Council will need to fund in future years and resources have been identified in the Council's Revenue Budget.
- 5.14 However, the Council will continue to maintain a significant level of networking equipment particularly given the move to home-working that has taken place over the last 12 months. Whilst there is a risk of additional funds being required next year, at this stage it is believed that this can be managed and any emerging issues will be highlighted through the Capital Monitoring process in 2021/22

Rolling programmes

- 5.15 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

- 5.16 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

- 5.17 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. Any unspent budget is not carried forward and as such a request is made each year to enable new schemes (below £0.4m) to be brought forward and approved by Corporate Management Team. There have been no schemes approved to date however a number of schemes are being reviewed and may come forward in the coming year.

Capital Programme 2021/22 – 2023/24

- 5.18 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 – D.
- 5.19 Total Council funding for schemes amounts to £6.858m. However as outlined later in the report, external funding for a number of schemes (Commercial Depot (£1.8m) and A3095 Highways scheme (£2.8m)) will be received in future years and as such will reduce the overall funding costs to the Council.

Capital Programme 2021/22-2023/24				
Annex	Service Area	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000
B	Delivery	2,615	4,435	1,835
C	People	2,935	250	0
D	Central Directorates	6,482	3,564	3,164
	Total Capital Programme	12,032	8,249	4,999
	less Externally Funded schemes	5,174	2,614	2,364
	Council Funded Programme	6,858	5,635	2,635

Externally Funded Schemes

- 5.20 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. However as a result in a change to the capital funding

formula and the perceived relative need for school places in Bracknell compared to other areas of the country, the Council has received no Basic Needs Grant (BNG) in 2018/19 and only £0.735m in 2019/20. The allocation for 2020/21 suggests there will be no grant funding available to Bracknell Forest in 2021/22 – more details will be provided in the Local Government Settlement. However the Council has identified a number of schemes that require funding in the coming years and are set out in Annex B.

A second key constituent of capital grant funding relates to the Highway Maintenance and the Integrated Transport Block totalling £2.09m for 2021/22.

Section 106 (£1.335m)

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

Officers have identified a number of schemes that could be funded from Section 106 funds in 2020/21, where funding becomes available. These are summarised below

Department	Schemes	Budget
		<i>£000</i>
People	10a Portman Close Flats	200
People	Primary SEMH Hub	660
Central	LTP Schemes	200
Central	Sustainable Alternative Natural Green Space	150
Central	Natural Estate Improvements	125
	Total	1,335

On-going Revenue Costs

- 5.21 There are no immediate revenue costs associated with the schemes proposed for inclusion within the 2021/22 Capital Programme, however as noted above the change in strategic direction on IT investment will likely have a revenue impact.

Funding Options

- 5.22 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 £3m is an appropriate assumption for 2021/22.
- 5.23 The proposed capital programme for 2021/22 has been developed, therefore, on the assumption that it will be funded by a combination of approximately £3m of capital receipts (CIL and other miscellaneous property disposals), 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.
- 5.24 Any capital expenditure approved over and above capital receipts and external contributions will require the Council to borrow externally. 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. Any external borrowing

will require a sum to be set aside Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) in addition to an interest charge depending on the maturity of the loan.

- 5.25 Current long-term borrowing rates are approximately 2.75% - however the Government has signalled that it is to remove the 100bp increase that was made to PWLB borrowing rates last year. This will reduce long-term borrowing rates but will have a less significant impact on short-term rates. The net cash-flow required for the above proposed programme amounts to £3.752m, however of this £2.8m required to complete the A3095 scheme will be funded by future S106 receipts that will be available once the build-out of the housing development is complete. The developer has been unable to progress this scheme due to the ongoing issues surrounding COVID-19 – however the highway scheme needs to proceed.
- 5.26 The redevelopment of the Depot should also result in a capital receipt after the scheme is completed in 2023/24, estimated at a potential £1.8m. In addition, a bid has been made to support costs related to asbestos removal through One Public Estate
- 5.27 As such the Council funding in 2021/22 should be for a period of less than 2 years based on current projections. As such over the longer term there will be a zero interest cost associated with the proposals, but there is a short-term cost of £50k in 2021/22. The MRP charge reflects the life of individual assets that are being funded – the charge is not payable until the year after the assets come into being. The MRP charge in relation to the capital programme for 2021/22 is estimated to be a maximum of £0.05m and will be charged in 2022/23.
- 5.28 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.
- 5.29 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 2021/22 to 2023/24 in February 2021, alongside its consideration of the specific budget proposals for 2021/22 and the Council's medium-term financial prospects.
- 5.30 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. 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 2022/23 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.

Director:Finance

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 2020/21 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. 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 2020/21, 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 2020/21 Budget is as follows.

Executive agree proposals as basis for consultation	15 December 2020
Consultation period	16 December 2020 - 26 January 2021
Executive considers representations made and	09 February 2021

recommends budget.	
Council considers Executive budget proposals	24 February 2021

Background Papers

None

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