

Meeting of the Cabinet – 10th February 2010

Report of the Interim Director of Finance

Update of the Council's Capital Strategy

Purpose of Report

1. To re-consider the update of the Council's Capital Strategy following consideration by Select Committees.

Background

2. The Capital Strategy forms part of the Council's Budget and Policy Framework, and can therefore be amended only by the full Council following consideration by the Select Committees.
3. The draft Capital Strategy (attached, subject to minor rewording and updating as necessary) was approved by the Cabinet on 9th September 2009 and has now been considered by each Select Committee.
4. Specific concerns and comments arising from consideration of the draft Strategy at the various Committees have been forwarded to the appropriate persons.
5. In addition, the Select Committee on Health and Adult Social Care resolved that it be recommended to Cabinet and Council that the Strategy be amended to recognise the ageing population in Dudley and its impact on the pattern of demands on services in the future.
6. The draft strategy attached reflects at paragraph 6a the wording as it would be if Cabinet agrees to the amendment recommended by the Select Committee.

Finance

7. As described above, the Capital Strategy forms an integral part of the Council's strategic financial and service planning and supports decisions on capital investment under the "Prudential" system.

Law

8. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council to do anything which is calculated to facilitate or which is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of its statutory functions.

Equality Impact

9. The proposed Capital Strategy complies with the Council's policy on Equality and Diversity. In particular, through this Strategy and the Asset Management Plan the Council will be seeking to comply with its responsibilities with regard to access for disabled people to its buildings.
10. With regard to Children and Young People:
 - The Capital Investment Priorities for Children's Services wholly relate to improving services for children and young people. Other Directorates' investment priorities will also have a significant impact on this group.
 - Consultation is undertaken with children and young people, if appropriate, when developing individual Capital projects.
 - There has been no direct involvement of children and young people in developing the proposals in this report.

Recommendations

11. That the Cabinet:
 - (i) considers the recommendation of the Select Committee on Health and Adult Social Care as set out in paragraph 5 above;
 - (ii) subject to (i) recommends the draft Capital Strategy attached for approval by the Council.



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Interim Director of Finance

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Background Papers

Community Strategy
Council Plan