

Meeting of the Council – 8th October, 2012

Report of the Cabinet

Capital Programme Monitoring

Purpose of Report

1. To report progress with the implementation of the Capital Programme.
2. To propose amendments to the Capital Programme.

Background

3. At the meeting held on 12th September, 2012, the Cabinet considered a report on Capital Programme Monitoring and made a series of recommendations to the Council which are contained in this report. Other recommendations contained in the report were determined under delegated powers. A copy of the report is available from the Democratic Services Section (telephone 01384 815235) or by e-mail to steve.griffiths@dudley.gov.uk; or on the Council's website (follow the links to Meetings and Decisions).
4. The table below summarises the current 3 year Capital Programme updated where appropriate to reflect latest scheme spending profiles.

Service	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Public Sector Housing	35,741	29,839	30,861
Other Adult, Community & Housing	9,658	1,953	0
Urban Environment	24,316	15,343	12,968
Children's Services	22,535	4,979	67
Corporate Resources	2,922	1,651	920
Chief Executive's	1	228	0
TOTAL	95,173	53,993	44,816

Note that the capital programme for future years is in particular subject to government grant allocations, some of which have not yet been announced.

5. In accordance with the requirements of the Council's Financial Regulations, details of progress with the 2012/13 Programme are given in Appendix A. It is proposed that the current position be noted, and that budgets be amended to reflect the reported variances.

Adult, Community and Housing

Dementia Gateways

6. It is planned to undertake a programme of improvements to Brettell Lane Day Centre (£960,000) and Brett Young Day Centre (£650,000) to create new Dementia Gateways to meet the specific needs of people with dementia. The total cost of £1,610,000 can be funded from available resources within the existing Adult Social Care Minor Works budget (£950,000) together with a contribution of £240,000 from next years annual capital Adult Social care grant received from the Department of Health and £420,000 from the estimated capital receipts from the sale of Amblecote House (adjacent to Brettell Lane Day Centre). It is proposed that Amblecote House now also be declared surplus and disposed of; and that the capital receipt be earmarked for this project; and that subject to resource availability the overall project be approved and included in the Capital Programme.

Adult Social Care Grant

7. In February 2011, the Cabinet agreed that spend to be funded from the above grant be included in the Capital Programme, to be used for initiatives such as the promotion of personalisation, alternatives to residential care, and to support service redesign.

It is proposed that it be noted that the minor works programme to be funded from these resources this year includes £80,000 of investment in Libraries and Archives. These items have been included as Libraries and Archives play an important role in the provision of information and advice which is central to our delivery of the personalisation agenda for which Adult Social Care has the lead role. Libraries are meeting and access points for people and are clearly seen as priorities by the Government in the recent Adult Social Care white paper.

Urban Environment

Leisure Centre Lockers

8. The 3 main leisure centres in Dudley, Halesowen and Stourbridge attract over 1.5 million visits per year and the lockers used by customers are in need of replacement after 5 years. The cost of replacement is £114,000 and can be met from existing revenue budgets over a four year period. It is proposed that this project be approved and included in the Capital Programme.

Active Travel Network Development

9. The Council is currently working on a number of initiatives that seek to improve and expand the Borough's Active Travel Networks to provide better facilities for walking and cycling and encourage the use of sustainable modes of travel to access a range of destinations across the borough. Given the importance active travel plays in increasing physical activity, Dudley NHS Public Health have offered a contribution of £120,000 to be spent over the next 2 years (2012/13 – 2013/14).

It is proposed that the contribution be noted and the associated spend be included in the Capital Programme.

West Midlands Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) Project -
Smart Network Smarter Choices

10. Centro, the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority, has been awarded £33.218m LSTF grant to deliver the Smart Network Smarter Choices project on a number of strategic corridors across the West Midlands over the next few years.

In Dudley the main elements within the project are the A4123/A459 corridor linking Dudley and Wolverhampton, and the route 404 Bus service corridor linking Walsall, Sandwell and Brierley Hill. The overall project includes both revenue and capital elements, with the revenue elements concerning travel planning, training and promotion being co-ordinated by Centro and the capital elements being delivered by the district within which the measures fall.

The capital cost identified for infrastructure improvement works on the corridors in Dudley is £1,326,000. This can be met by a Council contribution of £175,000 (from the Local Transport Plan Integrated Transport Block funding) and £1,151,000 of the Department for Transport LSTF grant. These measures, which are yet to be fully developed and consulted upon, will address network efficiency along the route 404 corridor at Quarry Bank including improved cycle and pedestrian routes. On the A459 corridor it is proposed to improve pedestrian facilities within the existing traffic signals at the Kent Street/Jews Lane junction.

It is proposed that the grant allocation be noted and that subject to detailed confirmation the project be included in the Capital Programme.

Urgent Amendment to the Capital Programme

Ward House Refurbishment

11. A Capital project was agreed by the Cabinet at its meeting on 14th March for the refurbishment of Ward House, Himley at an estimated cost of £43,000 to allow the co-location of the Construction and Design Team (formerly Corporate Property) with the Buildings and Estates Team within the Directorate of Children's Services.

In addition to the originally planned works, it became apparent that there was a requirement for the replacement of part of the electrical board and repair work to toilet areas. The extent of the work has been increased to include the redecoration of all of the public corridor areas. Also, to minimise impact to the daily business of the Regional College and officers working within the building, it has, on occasion, become necessary to work out of hours and/or with additional labour on-site.

The total estimated cost of the project is now £96,000. Directorate revenue funds of £83,000 have been set-aside for this purpose and £13,000 can be met from the Repairs and Maintenance budget.

To enable continuity of work with the preferred contractor, minimise disruption to the conference facilities at Ward House during term time, offer better value for money and enable swift co-location, a decision (ref. DCS/28/2012) was made by the Leader of the Council in consultation with the Treasurer on 5th July 2012 that the Capital budget for the refurbishment of Ward House be increased to £96,000.

Finance

12. This report is financial in nature and information about the individual proposals is contained within the body of the report.

Law

13. The Council's budgeting process is governed by the Local Government Act 1972, the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980, the Local Government Finance Act 1988, the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, and the Local Government Act 2003.

Equality Impact

14. These proposals comply with the Council's policy on Equality and Diversity.
15. With regard to Children and Young People:
 - The Capital Programme for Children's Services will be spent wholly on improving services for children and young people. Other elements of the Capital Programme will also have a significant impact on this group.
 - Consultation is undertaken with children and young people, if appropriate, when developing individual capital projects within the Programme.
 - There has been no direct involvement of children and young people in developing the proposals in this report.

Recommendations

16. That the Council be recommended:
 - That current progress with the 2012/13 Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix A, be noted and that budgets be amended to reflect the reported variances.
 - That Amblecote House be declared surplus to requirements and disposed of by the Director of Corporate Resources; that £420,000 from the capital receipts from this disposal be earmarked for the Dementia Gateways project; and that subject to resource availability this project be approved and included in the Capital programme, as set out in paragraph 6.
 - That it be noted that the Adult Social Care minor works programme this year includes £80,000 of investment in Libraries and Archives, as set out in paragraph 7.
 - That the replacement of Leisure Centre Lockers be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 8.
 - That the contribution of £120,000 from Dudley NHS Public Health towards Active Travel Network development be noted, and the associated spend included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 9.

- That the Local Sustainable Transport Fund allocation be noted, and that subject to detailed confirmation, Dudley's element of the Smart Network Smarter Choices project be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 10.
- That the urgent amendment to the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 11 be noted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. J. ...', written in a cursive style.

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Leader of the Council

2012/13 Capital Programme Progress to Date

Service	Budget £'000	Spend to 31 st July £'000	Forecast £'000	Variance £'000	Comments
Public Sector Housing	35,741	6,504	35,741	-	
Other Adult, Community & Housing	9,658	1,458	9,658	-	
Urban Environment	24,316	2,526	24,318	+2	Minor variances
Children's Services	22,535	2,096	22,535		
Corporate Resources	2,922	831	2,916	-6	See note 1
Chief Executive's	1	-	1	-	
TOTAL	95,173	13,415	95,169	-4	

Note 1: Outturn savings on Tower St. ICT Relocation project.