

MEETING OF THE CABINET - 16th March 2005

JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1. To report progress with the implementation of the Capital Programme, and propose certain amendments.

2.0 Background

- 2.1. The table below summarises the current 3 year Capital Programme updated where appropriate to reflect latest scheme spending profiles.

Service	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Housing	27140	27015	24516
Urban Environment	22676	24220	23594
Social Services	658	856	0
Education & Lifelong Learning	14675	29013	12733
Finance, ICT & Procurement	3895	1739	583
Law & Property	2919	2073	633
Chief Executive's	2426	1185	14
TOTAL	74389	86101	62073

Note that certain services have not yet had a capital programme agreed for 2006/07, largely due to uncertainty with regard to likely resource levels. Hence the "zeros" and other relatively small figures appearing in the above table for that year.

In accordance with the requirements of the Financial Management Regime (FMR), details of progress with the 2004/05 Programme are given in Appendix A. It is proposed that the current position be noted.

Proposals to update the Programme are set out below.

2.2 Urban Environment

2.2.1 Limestone Mines - Grant Funding Application

Following a successful programme to resolve the problems associated with abandoned limestone mines within the Borough, there are currently two remaining major areas underlain by untreated mines: Bluebell Park, including adjacent Council housing; and the Black Country Museum. In accordance with the Council's Limestone Mine Policy, both areas are situated within Consideration Zones, which until removed have the potential to create land and property blight. Following extended periods of mine monitoring it is proving difficult to determine the extent of any surface subsidence resulting from a mine collapse, and as a result the Consideration Zones must remain until the mines are stabilised.

Assistance with the costs associated with stabilisation of Limestone Mines may be available from English Partnerships via the National Land Stabilisation Programme. It is therefore proposed that the Director of the Urban Environment be authorised to make applications to English Partnerships for grant funding for the stabilisation works, and that subject to such applications being successful the works be included in the Capital Programme.

2.2.2 Highways - Local Safety Scheme Reserve List

At its meeting on 9th February, Cabinet approved a list of 16 Local Safety schemes to be undertaken within the available resources for 2005/06. As some schemes may be delayed or modified as a result of the consultation processes, it is proposed that the Cabinet member for Transportation be authorised, in consultation with Director of the Urban Environment, to use any residual funding to progress/implement the schemes shown on the reserve list at Appendix B.

2.2.3 Stourbridge Town Hall - Tiered Seating

In order to further improve the facilities at the Hall, a project has been developed to provide retractable tiered seating in order to enhance customer experience and create an ambience more in keeping with a theatre. In order to accommodate the tiered seating there is also a need to undertake floor strengthening works. The estimated cost of the project is £94,000 which can be funded as follows.

	£'000
Stourbridge Area Committee	5
Grant Aid & Contributions raised by Stourbridge Theatre Company	18
Corporate Repairs & Maintenance budget	20
Directorate Revenue budgets	51
Total	94

It is proposed that the project be approved and included in the Capital Programme.

2.3 Law & Property

2.3.1 Dudley Town Centre - Alcohol Consumption in Public Places

At its meeting on 22nd February 2005, the Licensing and Safety Committee, following extensive consultation, made an Order under Section 13 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 designating Dudley Town Centre as a place where the consumption of alcohol in public (apart from the curtilage of licensed premises) is banned. Such an Order is subject to formal consultation with the Home Secretary.

Before the Order takes effect, sufficient signage must be erected within the Town Centre to advise the public of the ban. The estimated cost for providing and installing this signage is £12,000. It is proposed that this expenditure be included in the Capital Programme, to be funded from resources earmarked for urgent or emerging priorities.

2.4 Social Services

2.4.1 Capital Grant Allocations

The Council has been notified of the following grants towards Social Services capital expenditure:

- Improving Management Information - to support the development of new systems - £155,000
- Integrated Childrens' Grant - to fund the development and implementation of ICT to support the Integrated Children's System - £121,000.

It is proposed that the allocations be noted, and the associated expenditure be included in the Capital Programme.

2.5 "Other Services" Capital Programme 2005/06

2.5.1 As in 2004/05, the only resources available for capital investment in Other Services - other than specific grants or specific Supported Capital Expenditure (SCE) approvals - will be those generated from disposal of surplus assets.

2.5.2 It is estimated that around £1m of such resources might be available in 2005/06. Existing commitments against this total are as follows:

Asset Management Plan (AMP) team:	£133,000
Priory Hall Security:	£160,000

leaving around £0.7m for allocation. This is substantially less than the £1.5m that was available in 2004/05 - as that included a significant roll-forward of uncommitted resources from the previous year.

2.5.3 Following consideration by Corporate Board, it is proposed that this sum be allocated as follows.

	£000
Area Committee Capital - on the basis of £10,000 per Ward	240
Disability Discrimination Act compliance works - to be allocated after appropriate prioritisation to buildings requiring long term public access	100
Economic Regeneration - Feasibility Funding, Town Centres (inc. Xmas Lights), etc.	100
Contingency retained for Urgent Priorities and Matchfunding, etc. which may emerge during the year - including pressures arising from the development of Customer Access to Services (CATS)	260
Total	700

3.0 Proposals

3.1. That the Cabinet:

- 3.1.1. Notes current progress with the 2004/05 Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 2.1 and appendix A.
- 3.1.2 Authorises the Director of the Urban Environment to make applications to English Partnerships for grant funding for Limestone Mine stabilisation works, and agrees that subject to such applications being successful the works be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 2.2.1.
- 3.1.3 Authorises the Cabinet member for Transportation, in consultation with Director of the Urban Environment, to use any residual Local Safety Scheme funding to progress/implement the schemes shown on the reserve list at Appendix B, as set out in paragraph 2.2.2.
- 3.1.4 Approves the project to provide Tiered Seating at Stourbridge Town Hall, and its inclusion in the capital Programme, as set out in Paragraph 2.2.3
- 3.1.5 Agrees that the expenditure on signage advising the public of the ban on alcohol consumption in Dudley Town Centre be included in the Capital Programme, to be funded from resources earmarked for urgent or emerging priorities, as set out in paragraph 2.3.1.
- 3.1.6 Notes the Social Services grant allocations, and agrees that the associated expenditure be included in the Capital Programme as set out in paragraph 2.4.1.
- 3.1.7 Agrees the allocation of Other Services capital resources for 2005/06, as set out in paragraph 2.5

4.0 Finance

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

5.0 Law

5.1 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.

6.0 Equal Opportunities

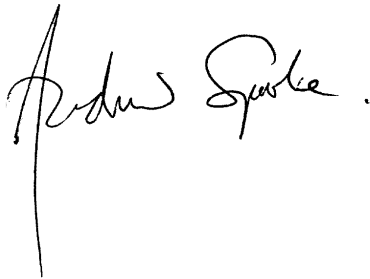
6.1 These proposals comply with the Council's policy on Equal Opportunities.

7.0 Recommendation

7.1. That the proposals set out in Section 3 be approved.

8.0 Background Papers

8.1 Various internal e-mails relating to individual schemes and proposals.
Relevant resource allocation notifications.



.....
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

.....
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Contact Officer: John Everson - Ext. 4806

2004/05 Capital Programme Progress to Date

Service	Budget £'000	Spend to 31st January £'000	Forecast £'000	Variance £'000	Reasons for Variance
Housing	27140	19959	27140		
Urban Environment	22676	15339	22691	+15	See note
Social Services	658	110	658		
Education & Lifelong Learning	14675	12049	14675		
Finance, ICT & Procurement	3895	2447	3895		
Law & Property	2919	1277	2919		
Chief Executive's	2426	1089	2426		
TOTAL	74389	52270	74404	+15	

Note: Mainly relates to Hill Street Derelict Land project as previously reported.

LOCAL SAFETY SCHEME RESERVE LIST 2005/6

No.	Location	Total Relevant Accidents	Total Relevant Casualties	Comments
1	Queens Cross / Wellington Road, Dudley	2	2	Pedestrian phases & improved crossing points at signals
2	Bower Lane / Saltbrook Road, Quarry Bank	10	14	Junction highlighting (Investigate Signalisation)
3	Park Road, Cradley	11	14	Footway widening at toucan, improved signs & markings
4	Buffery Road, Netherton	15	22	Junction highlighting with improved signs & markings
5	Oakham Road, Dudley	12	18	Improved warning signs, markings & antiskid surfacing
6	Bowling Green Road, Netherton	2	3	Mobile speed cameras & associated signs
7	Himley Road, Dudley	5	5	Gateway at speed limit change, bend & School Crossing Patrol highlighting