

Meeting of the Council – 27th February, 2012

Report of the Cabinet

Update of the Council's Capital Strategy

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the update of the Council's Capital Strategy following consideration by Scrutiny Committees and the Cabinet.

Background

2. The Capital Strategy describes how the deployment of capital resources contributes to the achievement of the Council's goals, and to help ensure that assets - and the resources tied up in them - are efficiently and effectively used. It forms an integral part of the strategic financial and service planning within the annual budget setting process and supports decisions on the Council's capital investment. The Capital Strategy also forms part of the Council's Budget and Policy Framework, and can therefore be amended only by the full Council following consideration by the Scrutiny Committees. It sets out the key Capital Investment Priorities for each Directorate over the next five years, linked to the relevant Council Plan themes.
3. The draft Capital Strategy was approved by the Cabinet on 26th October, 2011 and has now been considered by each Scrutiny Committee. No issues have been raised. Some minor amendments have been made where necessary to bring the draft Strategy up to date, and the latest version is available in the Members Room. The strategy is available electronically on the Committee Management Information System (www.dudley.gov.uk - follow links to Council Decisions and Committee Information). A paper copy can also be obtained from Democratic Services (01384 815235).
4. The Cabinet, at its meeting held on 8th February, 2012, resolved to recommend the Council to approve the revised Capital Strategy.

Finance

5. 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.

Law

6. 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

7. 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.
8. 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.

Recommendation

9. That the revised Capital Strategy be approved.



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Leader of the Council