

## **Meeting of the Council – 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2010**

### **Report of the Cabinet**

#### **Capital Programme Monitoring**

#### **Purpose of Report**

1. To consider the recommendations of the Cabinet on proposed amendments to the Capital Programme.

#### **Background**

2. At its meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2010, 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 to the Cabinet meeting were determined under delegated powers. A copy of the Cabinet report is available from the Democratic Services Section (Telephone:01384 815236); or by e-mail to [richard.sanders@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:richard.sanders@dudley.gov.uk); or on the Council's website [www.dudley.gov.uk](http://www.dudley.gov.uk) (follow the links to Council Decisions / Committee Information).

#### **Adult, Community and Housing**

##### Social Care Minor Works

3. It is proposed that £250,000 of resources previously allocated for Mental Health capital projects be added to the Social Care Minor Works capital budget for projects that benefit social care and community services.

##### Community Energy Saving Programme

The Community Energy Savings Programme aims to reduce the occurrence of fuel poverty for low-income households by offering free or discounted central heating, energy efficiency measures and benefit checks. It also aims to contribute to the reduction of CO2 emissions. It is largely funded through a new and additional obligation on energy suppliers and electricity generators.

The value of the proposed scheme is £2.3m, of which £1.9m would be met by grant from British Gas. The remaining £0.4m could be funded from Private Sector Housing capital budgets, should there be a shortfall in other sources of potential match funding such as existing grant schemes and householder contributions.

The Cabinet, at its meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2010, authorised the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services to submit a bid to British Gas. Subject to the bid for funding being successful, it is proposed that expenditure relating to the scheme be included in the Capital Programme.

## **Children's Services**

### Specialist Schools

5. Specialist schools which have been successfully redesignated since September 2007 have the opportunity to access £25,000 of capital funding from the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) if they can match this with £25,000 of eligible sponsorship. This has 2 objectives:
  - to provide an opportunity to renew facilities and equipment;
  - to improve and sustain relationships with business/employer partners.

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

### Section 106 funding for School Expansion projects

6. The Council receives "Section 106" funding from developers of new residential properties, towards the provision of school places required as a result of their developments. This might be used for stand-alone new projects, or more usually to enhance existing projects being funded mainly from other sources. It is proposed that any expenditure which can be funded from such resources be included in the Capital Programme as appropriate.

## **Chief Executive's**

### Local Area Agreement (LAA) Reward Grant

7. At its January meeting, Cabinet confirmed that any grant received (net of the sum allocated to the Council in recognition of its direct investment in achieving economic development targets and as assumed in previous years in the Medium Term Financial Strategy) be allocated 50% to Dudley Community Partnership and 50% to its constituent theme partnerships in line with the themes and targets to which it relates and for the furtherance of partnership objectives.

The partnerships may choose to direct elements of their reward funding through the Council, including expenditure on capital projects. It is proposed that any such expenditure be included in the Capital Programme.

## **Finance**

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

## **Law**

9. 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**

10. These proposals comply with the Council's policy on Equality and Diversity.
11. 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**

12. That the Council be recommended:
  - That £250,000 be added to the Social Care Minor Works capital budget for projects that benefit social care and community services, as set out in paragraph 3.
  - That subject to the bid for funding being successful, expenditure relating to the Community Energy Saving Programme be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 4.
  - That grant allocations to successfully redesignated Specialist Schools be noted, and that the related expenditure be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 5.
  - That expenditure on School Expansion projects funded from Section 106 funding be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 6.
  - That expenditure on capital projects funded by Local Area Agreement Reward Grant be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 7.



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**Leader of the Council**