

Meeting of the Council – 22nd February, 2010

Update of the Council's Capital Strategy

Report of the Cabinet

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the update of the Council's Capital Strategy in the light of its consideration by Select Committees and the Cabinet. The strategy is available electronically on the Committee Management Information System (www.dudley.gov.uk - follow links to Council Decisions and Committee Information). A copy is also available in the Member's Room.

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 strategy reflects (at paragraph 6a) the revised wording as it will be if the Council agrees to the amendment recommended by the Select Committee as follows:

"The Capital Strategy and its priorities recognise current and anticipated demographic changes, including in particular the ageing population in Dudley and its impact on the pattern of demands on services in the future."
7. On consideration of the information above, the Cabinet, at its meeting held on 10th February, 2010, resolved to recommend the Council that the revised Capital Strategy be approved.

Finance

8. 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

9. 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

10. 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.
11. 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

12. That the updated Capital Strategy be approved.



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Leader of the Council