

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2021/22

Head of Service:	Lee Duffy, Chief Finance Officer
Wards affected:	(All Wards);
Urgent Decision?(yes/no)	No
If yes, reason urgent decision required:	N/A
Appendices (attached):	Appendix 1 – Proposed Capital Programme Appendix 2 - Capital Appraisal form for Bid 1

Summary

This report summarises the proposed 2021/22 capital programme. The Committee's approval is sought for the programme to be submitted to Council in February 2021.

Recommendation (s)

The Committee is asked to:

- (1) submit the capital programme for 2021/22 as identified in section 4 of this report to the Council for approval on 16 February 2021.

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 To seek the Committee's approval to submit the proposed capital programme for 2021/22 to Council in February 2021.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Capital Strategy was last agreed by the Council on 13 February 2020 at which time the capital programme was approved for 2020/21. Schemes for 2021-2023 were provisional pending the annual budget review and an annual assessment of funds for capital investment.
- 2.2 Strategy and Resources provided the Capital Member Group (CMG) with a remit for the preparation of a capital programme for 2021/22. Under this remit, CMG assessed all capital bids and recommended a programme to Financial Policy Panel ('the Panel') for approval on 1 December 2020.

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- 2.3 The programme presented to the Panel assumed funding from capital receipts, revenue funding, reserves and government grants. The Panel were advised that the proposed level of investment over three years 2021/22 to 2023/24 is £2.7m, of which £255k is to be funded from a planned contribution from revenue. Combined with funding from other sources including CIL, S106 and Disabled Facilities Grants, this will allow the forecast available capital receipts to remain at £2.57 million at the end of this period. The agreed minimum threshold of capital receipts is £1 million.
- 2.4 The receipts forecast assumes a £300k revenue contribution to fund capital schemes in 2021/22, which is subject to the budget being approved at Council in February 2021. With £255k allocated to fund the proposed capital programme, the £45k balance of the revenue contribution would be held in a reserve for funding future capital programmes.
- 2.5 The Panel's guidance relevant to this policy committee's recommendations was as follows:-
- 2.5.1 Priority schemes identified by the Capital Member Group should be presented with project appraisals to the policy committees in January to establish whether there is support for the individual projects, with any projects not supported being removed from the draft programme.
- 2.5.2 The scheme identified in section 4 of this report, totalling £225k, funded by a planned revenue contribution, should be included in the capital programme, subject to support for the project appraisal by this Committee.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 The Committee is asked to approve the proposed capital programme for 2021/22.
- 3.2 The timing of the programme should be based on the ability to deliver with a realistic number of projects in any one year.
- 3.3 If all schemes in the proposed corporate capital programme for 2021/22 were to progress, and given the use of £300k of revenue funds, this would reduce the capital reserves to £2.57 million at 31 March 2024. Where possible the Council will prioritise the use of other funding sources such as revenue, external grants, S106 and Community Infrastructure Levy to preserve the level of capital receipts.

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4 Core Programme 2021/22 Funded from Capital Reserves

- 4.1 The Financial Policy Panel recommended that the following schemes should be considered by this Committee for inclusion in the capital programme in 2021/22, subject to the Committee approving the project appraisals.
- 4.2 The proposed core programme for 2021/22 funded from capital reserves consists of the following scheme:-

Capital Appraisal form reference	Scheme	2021/22 £'000s
Strategy & Resources Bid 1	ICT Programme of Works	225
Total		225

- 4.3 The full programme of ICT works for 2021/22 includes £275k of expenditure, but it is proposed that unspent budget from the 2020/21 programme, up to a value of £50k, be rolled forward into 2021/22 to fund the balance. This anticipated underspend has arisen due to changes in priority as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 4.4 The individual projects are detailed in the table below:

Project	Description and Benefits	Budget
Citrix Cloud	Migration of Citrix environment infrastructure to a cloud solution, to improve resilience through equipment being located at a remote purpose built datacentre and enable upgrades to be performed by the vendor.	£25,000
Uniform Cloud	Migration of the IDOX Uniform system, used by Planning and Environmental Health, into the cloud, to improve resilience through the equipment being located at a remote purpose built datacentre and enable upgrades to be performed by the vendor.	£35,000
Security Issue and Event Monitoring	Monitoring of connections to the network, and blocking access in the event of irregular behaviour, to mitigate the risk of cyber-attack which has increased with remote working meaning users connect from a variety of un-managed devices.	£20,000

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Networking - video conferencing	Improvement of network bandwidth to enable seamless video conferences and voice calls to be made from computers within the EEBC network, to meet the needs of increased remote working.	£25,000
Networking - switch refresh	Replacement of switches in the Town Hall server room at the end of their life, before they suffer reliability issues and to ensure continued third party support.	£25,000
Drupal 7	Replacement of Drupal 7 which is at end of life, to ensure continuity of the EEBC website.	£15,000
Parking System	Replacement of parking back office system to increase functionality and improve operational efficiency.	£30,000
R&B DMS	Replacement of Revenues & Benefits document management system which is no longer supported, which will also allow better integration with the Academy system.	£100,000
		£275,000

- 4.5 A report to update members on progress of the 2021/22 ICT programme will be brought to a future meeting of S&R.

5 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

5.1 Impact Assessment

5.1.1 None for the purposes of this report.

5.2 Crime & Disorder

5.2.1 None for the purposes of this report.

5.3 Safeguarding

5.3.1 None for the purposes of this report.

5.4 Dependencies

5.4.1 The 2021/22 capital programme is dependent upon agreement of a planned £300k revenue contribution to fund the capital programme being considered by Full Council in February 2021 as part of the revenue budget for 2021/22.

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5.5 Other

5.5.1 None for the purposes of this report.

6 Financial Implications

6.1 Section 151 Officer's comments: all financial comments have been included within the body of the report.

7 Legal Implications

7.1 **Monitoring Officer's comments:** None arising from the contents of this report.

8 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

8.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged: Effective Council.

8.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is included within the current Service Delivery Plan.

8.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** none for the purposes of this report.

8.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** none for the purposes of this report.

8.5 **Partnerships:** none for the purposes of this report.

9 Background papers

9.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

Previous reports:

- Financial Policy Panel papers - 1 December 2020

Other papers:

- Capital Strategy for agreement at Full Council in February 2021