

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

CABINET: 27<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2023

REFERENCE FROM CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 15<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2023

“ DRAFT CAPITAL PROGRAMME PROPOSALS 2023/24 TO 2027/28 (REF) –

The reference from Cabinet of 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2023 as contained within the agenda was presented by the Head of Finance / Section 151 Officer as part of the consultation with, and consideration by, this and other Scrutiny Committees.

Alongside the revenue settlement, the Council had received the provisional settlement for capital, with the bulk of support from Welsh Government (WG) for capital totalling just under £7m made up of approximately £3.5m grant and £3.5m of supported borrowing, which amounted a modest increase of roughly £1m compared to 2022/23 general capital funding. WG had confirmed that the general capital funding would remain at the same level for 2024/25. No further projections beyond this point had been given.

The Council's ambitious 5 Year Capital Programme was also outlined to Members, as well as the related schemes, including their means of funding, via grants contributions and borrowing.

Following the outlining of the draft Capital Programme and its timetable, Councillor Franks asked about the proposed S106 funding referred to in the report, to which the Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources referred the Member to the Planning portal on the Council's website, where there was a section detailing S106 and the annual reporting of the same, including allocations of spending, etc. The Councillor raised a number of follow up questions regarding highway resurfacing, the current state of Leckwith Bridge, the glazing works for Penarth Leisure Centre and the Hayeswood Housing Development. It was explained that current spending on highway resurfacing, £1m, was the level historically that had been spent by the Council, plus any additional grants provided by WG. To increase this would require a corresponding increase in Council Tax or reduction in funding for other schemes. On Leckwith Bridge, a report would be produced by Council officers on the structure and its condition. Regarding Penarth Leisure Centre, work was being undertaken around the glazing, but this depended on the clemency of the weather and other factors, although any issues or delays would be reported on. Finally, on the Hayeswood Housing Development, it was explained that the Council would be taking over the contract to continue its construction and further information would be sought.

On Councillor Haines' query about the quite sizeable figures for Edge Switching, these would be checked to ensure that they were accurate; it was explained that this

related to a programme of asset renewal work to replace some of the ICT infrastructure across the Council's estate. On the Councillor's query concerning what due diligence was undertaken by the Council in procuring ICT equipment, it was explained that the ICT Team undertook a rigorous procurement exercise and were conscious of the associated security risks.

The Committee also considered the comments provided by the Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee on the report, which were endorsed and asked for these to be referred on to Cabinet for their consideration.

Having considered the reference and report, Scrutiny Committee subsequently

#### RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the draft Capital Programme for 2023/24 to 2027/28 be noted.
- (2) T H A T the Committee supported the comments made by the Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee and asks Cabinet to consider these, namely:
  - As a result of continued diligence shown by Council Officers, Committee are well aware of the significant costs incurred as a result of the requirement to place children and young people out of area.
  - The report is phrased as 'investment-to-save' and as such the Committee commends the report as presented which includes details on investing in community-based specialist accommodation provision despite the enormous financial pressures that the Council is facing.
  - The Committee welcomes the report which demonstrates the Council's approach of putting the needs of children and vulnerable adults before the requirement to save money.
  - As a Council and Committee, we look to offer the best protection we can offer to vulnerable individuals within the Vale of Glamorgan considering the financial constrictions placed upon the Council.
  - The Committee thank Finance Officers for a comprehensible report and useful supporting presentation.

#### Reasons for recommendations

- (1) Having regard to the contents of the reference, appended report and discussions at the meeting.
- (2) In order that Cabinet be informed of the comments made by any of the Scrutiny Committees before making a proposal on the Capital Programme."