

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

CABINET: 29<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024

REFERENCE FROM CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 15<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024

“ DRAFT CAPITAL PROGRAMME PROPOSALS 2024/25 TO 2028/29 (REF) –

Cabinet, on 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2024, had referred the draft Capital Programme proposals to all Scrutiny Committees for consideration, with any feedback to be reported to Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee, as the Lead Scrutiny Committee, to report back to a Special Cabinet meeting to be held on 29<sup>th</sup> February, 2024. The report set out for Members the current five year Capital Programme for the period 2024/25 to 2028/29. The capital bids that had been submitted for the period were outlined at Appendices 1 and 2 to the report. A reference from the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee of 8<sup>th</sup> February had also been circulated prior to the meeting.

It was noted within the report that the Council was facing significant pressures in relation to price inflation and the cost of living crisis which had seen increases in the cost of materials and labour. This had had an impact on the current schemes within the Capital Programme and also the funding available to fund new schemes within the Capital Programme. The total value of Capital Programme schemes over the next five years was reported as £376.618m which included £22.349m for the Band B sustainable communities for learning programme, £78.565m for education pipeline schemes and £205.775m for the Housing Improvement Programme.

In presenting to Committee, the Section 151 Officer stated that having regard to the schemes that had been taken out of the Programme at this stage, the Llanmaes Flood Alleviation Scheme although not finalised as yet, was to be brought back in to be funded 85/15 by Welsh Government. In total £18m worth of schemes were going back in and had been reprioritised with additional funding for resurfacing and an ongoing commitment in relation to Penarth Leisure Scheme which had cost more than initially thought. The works would be profiled over 2024/25 and 2025/26. Tree planting was to be further accommodated and a number of smaller schemes were also to be included. Consultation had been undertaken with all Scrutiny Committees with the view to reporting to Cabinet on 29<sup>th</sup> February and Full Council on 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2024.

Councillor Haines enquired as to the terminology in respect of bridge structures and queried the £100k to be utilised to improve the Llandow site. The Section 151 Officer in response advised that with regard to bridge structures, this referred to general bridge structures not any specific bridge and monies for the Llandow site, were to improve access to the site. Councillor Haines requested that further details in relation to the Llandow project be forwarded to Members.

Councillor Goodjohn enquiring about the £376k monies for the decarbonisation scheme requested that further details be provided to Members. The Director of Corporate Resources advised that £250k had been put in for the next year, however he would obtain further information from the Energy Team with regard to the proposal, it being noted that it was one of a range of initiatives that would promote the Project Zero programme.

In referencing the work of the City Deal Councillor Franks said he would welcome some further information in relation to the work of this Committee. Having regard to pipeline schemes, he said £28m was a significant sum to ask the Council to agree to and in referring to the £200k proposed for the retaining wall repair work on Windsor Road, he had heard that this sum was not an appropriate figure.

The Section 151 Officer responded advising that some of these issues had also been picked up at the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee and that his understanding was that there was going to be a presentation from the City Deal Team to that Scrutiny Committee. The detail in respect of the pipeline schemes he said was contained within Appendices to the report being primarily for sustainability for learning schemes such as for example St. Richard Gwyn with funding to be received in due course following the working up of business cases. In relation to the £200k that was being provided for Windsor Road, he said this was the relevant Directors initial estimate prior to tenders being received. Members commented that it would be helpful to consider the wider implications in relation to the Windsor Road landslip as the £200k was an additional pressure and the concern of the Committee was that the £200k may not be enough. As far as they were concerned it looked a far bigger job than that that was being proposed seeking further clarification on the work that was required.

Following a further query from Councillor Franks relating to the small sum of money proposed for traffic signals as he considered a number of the Council's traffic signals were dated, he sought clarity as to what assessment had been made as he considered the sum proposed may be inadequate. He was also concerned that it looked like only one playground would be replaced in the next financial year. The Section 151 Officer said that the proposals within the Programme had been undertaken having regard to a significant rationing of resources and with regard to the concern relating to traffic signals offered to obtain a detailed response for Members from the relevant Director.

Councillor Dr. Johnson, in echoing Councillor Franks' comment regarding the significant amount of money proposed for the pipeline scheme, he sought further clarification in relation to this and Edge switching scheme and also enquired as to what a non-investment strategy meant. He further commented on the obvious demand for capital plans and spend and with the Council being unable to respond to the mounting demands asked how would the Council resolve this and get more income in and indeed attract grants for such schemes.

The Section 151 Officer advised that pipeline schemes were schemes that were not yet fully advanced but the Council was expecting them to go forward with potential borrowing where required having been built into the revenue proposals and which

would form part of the Capital Programme going forward. The Non-Treasury investment Strategy had been brought forward to invest in economic development where it was signalling that investment was available but the Council had no schemes ready as yet to be put forward.

In response to the query in respect of Edge Switching, the Director of Corporate Resources explained that the ICT Department was reviewing whether to continue to invest further in this. Edge Switches were infrastructure issues on the edge of the Council's network that allowed connections from the Council to the wider world to facilitate for example home working, the connection of buildings to other buildings and to other organisations.

Following the detailed discussion of the reference, the report and having regard to the reference from the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee, it was subsequently

**RECOMMENDED – T H A T** the Capital reference received from the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee and the views / comments of this Committee be forwarded to Cabinet for their consideration.

Reason for recommendation

Having regard to the comments made at the meeting and in particular to the need for other officers to be present when capital proposal discussions were taking place in order that the detail of the proposed schemes could be presented to Committee Members.”

Attached as Appendix: Reference from Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee (8<sup>th</sup> February, 2024)

## Appendix

### THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

#### EXTRAORDINARY CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 15<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024

#### REFERENCE FROM LEARNING AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024

#### “ DRAFT CAPITAL PROGRAMME PROPOSALS 2024/25 TO 2028/29 (REF) –

Cabinet had referred consideration of the report to the Committee on 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2024. The report set out the current 5-year Capital Programme for the period 2024/25 to 2028/29 and the Capital Bids that had been submitted for the period detailed in Appendices 1 2 to the report.

The Council was facing significant pressures in relation to price inflation and the cost-of-living crisis which had seen increases in the costs of materials and labour. This had an impact on the current schemes within the Capital Programme and also the funding available to fund new schemes within the Capital Programme.

The total value of capital schemes over the next 5 years was £376.618m and this is summarised in the table below. This included £22.349m for the Band B Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme, £78.565m for Education pipeline schemes and £205.775m for the Housing Improvement Programme.

Table 1 – Summary of schemes in the 5-year Capital Programme

Directorate	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Learning and Skills	21,360	2,360	3,750	4,435	2,000
Social Services	1,297	975	100	100	100
Environment	9,519	5,662	3,685	3,685	3,685
Housing	38,745	38,209	41,970	39,634	47,217
Place	3,643	1,605	1,305	1,305	1,150
Corporate Resources	704	250	569	862	862
City Deal	1,069	1,117	844	0	930
Pipeline Schemes	28,108	43,750	17,057	3,000	0

Total	104,445	93,928	69,280	53,021	55,944
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Table 2 – Summary of funding of the schemes in the Capital Programme

Funding	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
General Capital Funding	6,986	6,986	6,986	6,986	6,986
Capital Receipts	3,259	2,044	1,166	2,346	2,191
Reserves	13,713	10,749	8,362	7,960	7,262
Unsupported Borrowing	32,473	35,633	31,082	27,624	33,935
Grants and Contributions (Including S106)	48,015	38,516	21,684	8,105	5,570
Total	104,446	93,928	69,280	53,021	55,944

Since the initial Capital Programme proposals, other pressures had emerged, and some additional schemes had been included in Appendix 1. A list of bids and additional pressures that had been included in the 2024/25 to 2028/29 Capital Programme were detailed in Appendix 3 to the report. New schemes funded over the five-year programme included over £5.5m of Education bids to support the school estate, £480k to improve Social Services Residential Homes, an additional £6.5m to contribute towards highway improvements and £875k for tree planting and cyclical maintenance of trees.

The Finance Support Manager presented the proposals noting that as no further indication had been received from Welsh Government it had been assumed that from 2025/26 onwards the level of Capital funding would be flatlined at £6.986m and would then remain constant for the remainder of the period of the Programme.

The Chair referred to documentation where it mentioned that funding had been sought for the specialist resource base at Pencoedre High School with a request as to where that money was being sourced from. The Operational Manager advised that she was aware that the Council was considering looking internally for that funding as the need to identify funding was quite urgent, and that she would aim to provide an update for Members as soon as possible. The Chair subsequently requested that his comment be referred back to Cabinet with it subsequently being.

RECOMMENDED – T H A T, having considered the draft Capital Programme for 2024/25 to 2028/29, the comments of this Committee regarding Pencoedtre High School be passed to the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee, as the lead Scrutiny Committee, in order for the Committee's views to be forwarded to Cabinet.

Reason for recommendation

In order that Cabinet be informed of the comments of this Committee, before making a proposal on the Capital Programme.”