

Meeting of:	Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	Wednesday, 09 December 2020
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Homes and Safe Communities
Report Title:	Initial Capital Programme Proposals 2021/22 to 2025/26
Purpose of Report:	To submit the Initial Capital Programme Proposals for 2021/22 to 2025/26 to Scrutiny Committees for consultation.
Report Owner:	Report of the Director of Environment and Housing
Responsible Officer:	Carys Lord, Head of Finance / Section 151 Officer
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	All Scrutiny Committees will be consulted on the proposals.
Policy Framework:	This report follows the procedure laid down in the constitution for the making of the budget. The 2021/22 budget proposals will require the approval of Council.
Executive Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This report submits the Initial Capital Programme Proposals for the 2021/22 to 2025/26 to Scrutiny Committees for consultation .

Recommendation

It is recommended :-

1. That Scrutiny Committee considers the Initial Capital Programme Proposals for 2021/22 to 2025/26 and forward its recommendations to Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee as the lead Scrutiny Committee.

Reason for Recommendation

1. In order to gain the view of Scrutiny Committees.

1. Background

- 1.1 Council on 26th February 2020 (minute no 710) approved the Capital Programme for 2020/21 onwards.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1 Any changes made to the 2021/22 Capital Programme onwards that were approved at Cabinet on the 16th November 2020 have been reflected in Appendix 1.

2021/22 to 2025/26 Capital Programme

- 2.2 The Provisional General Capital Funding for 2021/22 has not yet been announced by Welsh Government (WG) and is expected on 22nd December 2020 with the Final Settlement due on 2nd March 2021.
- 2.3 As stated in last year's Initial Proposals report, for the previous three years (2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21) additional General Capital funding had been received, however from 2021/22 onwards no further indication of additional funding has been received from Welsh Government and therefore the level of capital funding included in this report has reverted back to the same level as set out in the 2018/19 Provisional Settlement and will then remain constant for the remainder of the period of this programme. General Capital Funding has therefore been assumed as £5.505m for 2021/22 which is made up of £2.083m General Capital Grant and £3.422m Supported Borrowing. The General Capital Funding for 2020/21 was £6.796m therefore there is an assumed reduction of £1.291m between years.
- 2.4 Appendix 1 sets out the Initial Proposals for the Capital Programme between 2021/22 and 2025/26 for this Committee.

- 2.5** The Major Repairs Allowance (MRA), which is the grant that provides capital funding to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), has not yet been announced by the Welsh Government for 2021/22. Cabinet will be advised once the announcement is made. An assumption has been made in Appendix 1 that the grant will continue at the same level as in the current year, which is £2.764m in 2020/21 and throughout the period of the Capital Programme.
- 2.6** In addition to external funding, the Council will finance part of the Capital Programme from its own resources, e.g. capital receipts and reserves.
- 2.7** The table below details the General Capital Funding and internal resources required to fund the proposed schemes for the Council as a whole.

Analysis of Net Funding Required for the Indicative 2021/22 Capital Programme

GENERAL FUND	£'000	£'000
Welsh Government Resources		
Supported Borrowing	3,422	
General Capital Grant	2,083	
Total Welsh Government Resources		5,505
Council Resources		
General Capital Receipts	6,018	
Reserves/Revenue	9,760	
City Deal Unsupported Borrowing	675	
Unsupported Borrowing	4,194	
Total Council Resources		20,647
HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT		
Housing Reserves/Revenue	6,450	
Housing Unsupported Borrowing	24,806	
Total HRA Resources		31,256
Total Net Capital Resources		57,408

Capital Bids 2021/22 to 2025/26

- 2.8** New capital bids were invited for return by 25th September 2020 and the number of bids received were 19 (2 from Learning and Skills, 9 from Neighbourhood and Transport Services, 7 from Regeneration and Planning and 1 from Social Services). Departments were requested to rank and assess their own bids in order of importance before submission and bids from each Department were forwarded to the Insight Board for evaluation. There were no new bids received that are relevant to this Committee however the process is detailed below.
- 2.9** A number of criteria are used to assess the Capital Bids. The first criterion used is to classify the nature of the bids.
- 2.10** Where bids are rated an A or B on the criteria listed below there would clearly be a legal obligation to ensure that works are progressed in a timely manner within the confines of the funding available. Schemes that represent an invest to save opportunity or support the achievement of corporate priorities should also be prioritised. The criteria used is set out below:-

Priority Level	Criteria
A	Health and Safety legislation
B	Other Legislation/Statutory Requirement
Ci	Economic Sense/Invest to Save
Cii	Corporate Plan
Ciii	Sufficiency
D	Condition/Suitability
E	Welsh Government Requirements
F	Low Priority

- 2.11** In addition, in accordance with the criteria set out in the Budget Strategy, the bids were prioritised in terms of their corporate priority and the risk they pose to the Council if they are not pursued. The risk assessment element was undertaken in line with the Council's Corporate Risk Management Strategy as follows;

Possible Impact or Magnitude of Risk	Catastrophic	MEDIUM	MEDIUM/HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH
	High	MEDIUM/LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM/HIGH	HIGH
	Medium	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM/HIGH
	Low	VERY LOW	LOW	MEDIUM/LOW	MEDIUM
Risk Matrix		Very Unlikely	Possible	Probable	Almost Certain
		Likelihood/Probability of Risk Occurring			

2.12 Taking into account the nature of capital schemes, the following criteria were applied to assess corporate priority:

Corporate Priority	Score
Commitments and areas where the Council has no control over the expenditure, e.g. contractual and legal commitments, absolute minimum statutory service, taxes, etc.	3
Very high priority (publicly announced commitment e.g. items included in the Community Strategy, Corporate Plan etc.)	2
“Invest to Save” and preventative expenditure	2
Statutory expenditure above the absolute minimum and other priorities	1
Low Priority	0

2.13 The bids are also reviewed for the contribution that they make to the Wellbeing and Future Generations criteria as set out below;

- Long Term
- Integration
- Collaboration
- Prevention
- Involvement

2.14 Each scheme is awarded one point for every one of the outcomes that it meets to a maximum of 5.

2.15 In previous years, only those schemes assessed as corporate priority 1 or higher and medium risk or higher were included in the capital programme. In addition, successful bids had also contributed to at least three Wellbeing and Future Generations outcomes and should have had a scheme priority factor of either

A/B/Ci/Cii/Ciii. Usually bids that did not meet these criteria were excluded from consideration.

- 2.16** These bids have been considered by the Insight Board where it was agreed that, when agreeing the final programme, consideration should also be given to those schemes that meet the requirements of the Coronavirus Recovery Strategy.
- 2.17** The value of capital bids received for the Council as a whole totalled £8.586m in 2021/22 and £20.506m over the 5-year period. While the evaluation process has been carried out this year for all capital bids in the normal manner, the settlement for 2021/22 has not been confirmed. It is therefore proposed that at this point, due to the uncertainty in the level of funding that will be provided, no schemes will be approved for inclusion in the Capital Programme and further assessment will be carried out by the Budget Working Group once the level of funding is known and consultation has taken place.
- 2.18** There have been a number of changes approved by Cabinet since the final budget proposals 2020/21 to 2024/25 were approved in February 2020. These changes including capital sums carried forward have been included in Appendix 1.

Housing Improvement Plan

- 2.19** The 2020/21 Housing Improvement Programme budget currently totals £22.5m. It has been requested at Cabinet on the 16th November 2020 that the budget be reduced by a net figure of £2.3m which is to be carried forward into 2021/22. The funding of the 2020/21 programme has been amended as set out in the table below, along with the funding for the proposed 2021/22 programme: -

Funding	Current 2020/21 £'000	Amended 2020/21 £'000	Proposed 2021/22 £'000
Major Repairs Allowance Grant	2,764	2,764	2,764
Other Grant	263	267	1,300
CERA	12,723	14,840	6,450
Unsupported Borrowing	5,559	1,138	24,806
AHG Borrowing	515	515	0
Appropriation	700	700	0
Total	22,524	20,224	35,320

Next Steps

- 2.20** The next stage is for the capital bids and programme to be submitted to Scrutiny Committees for consultation. Each Scrutiny Committee will be asked to first consider the Initial Capital Programme proposals as shown in Appendix 1. There are no further bids to be considered for 2021/22 onwards. If changes are requested then the reasons need to be recorded in order to assist the Cabinet and the Budget Working Group in drawing up the final proposals. Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee is the lead Scrutiny Committee and will consider both the Initial Capital Budget Proposals and any recommendations that other Scrutiny Committees have made. The responses of Scrutiny Committees must be made no later than the 16th December 2020.
- 2.21** Managers will be asked to revisit the recommended schemes contained in the final proposals prior to presentation to Cabinet and to confirm final costs and spend profiles.
- 2.22** Currently, the approved timetable requires Cabinet to approve the final budget proposals by no later than the 8th February 2021 and that Cabinet's final Capital Programme proposals will be considered by Council at a meeting to be held on 1st March 2021 to enable the Council Tax to be set by 11th March 2021.
- 2.23** Due to the late announcement of the final settlement it is proposed that the approved timetable is reviewed to ensure decisions regarding the budgets for 2021/2022 can be fully informed by the funding levels available.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1** The Capital Programme focuses capital investment to deliver the outcomes identified as part of the Corporate Plan. Some examples are :-
- **To work with and for our communities** - Consultations are carried out with the community on capital projects e.g. Band B and park schemes. Building Stronger Communities capital grants are being issued to support projects being carried out by members of the community.
 - **To support learning, employment and sustainable economic growth** - Further investment in schools through the School Investment Programme with Band A complete and development under Band B which commenced in 2019/20. Contributing as a partner in the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal will bring economic prosperity to the area. There will be continued investment in environment and regeneration programmes to support economic growth.

- **To support people at home and in their community** - Investment in housing through the Housing Improvement Programme will maintain the Welsh Housing Quality Standard and there is a new build programme. Disabled Facility Grants are also issued to residents. Investment in leisure centres and playgrounds will encourage more use and activity. The core active travel fund allocation grant from Welsh Government is used to implement active travel schemes.
 - **To respect, enhance and enjoy our environment** - In response to the climate emergency, the Council launched a project to explore how construction practices could be adapted to support decarbonisation as part the 21st Century Schools Programme. Investing in the introduction of LED street lighting will bring environmental benefits. Funding has been made available for the installation of vehicle charging infrastructure and for the purchase of electric pool cars. The school decarbonisation programme consists of a variety of energy reduction measures and renewable energy installations have been identified across a number of assets within the school portfolio. Recycling is now to be sorted into separate containers, the change is aimed at improving the quality of the materials that are collected for recycling which is better for the environment and will help the Council to recycle more.
- 3.2** The setting and the monitoring of the Capital programme follows the Five Ways of Working.
- 3.3 Looking to the long term** - The development of the capital programme is a means of planning for the future and takes a strategic approach to ensure services are sustainable and that investments are affordable over the longer term and that future need and demand for services is understood.
- 3.4 Taking an integrated approach** – In setting the capital programme, working with partners is encouraged, as it allows the utilisation of funding from various sources, such as Welsh Government and S106 contributions, to deliver schemes.
- 3.5 Involving the population in decisions** – As part of the annual budget setting process there is engagement with residents, customers and partners. Prior to the implementation of certain capital schemes, consultation may also take place with the public which may in some cases be statutory.
- 3.6 Working in a collaborative way** – It is recognised that more can be achieved and better services can be provided by collaboration and it encourages this as a way of working in the future which includes providing funding to work with local communities.
- 3.7 Understanding the root cause of issues and preventing them** – The process for setting and monitoring the capital programme is proactive and allows an understanding of the financial and operational issues to be considered together so that issues can be tackled at the source.

4. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 4.1 The total net capital expenditure of the proposed programme for the Council as a whole over the 5 years, is £165.57m. If all these schemes are approved, the effect on General Fund useable capital receipts will be as follows.

Capital Receipts	General
	£'000
Anticipated Balance as at 1st April 2021	4,381
Anticipated Requirements – 2021/22	(1,182)
Anticipated Receipts – 2021/22	0
Balance as at 31st March 2022	3,199
Anticipated Requirements – 2022/23	(287)
Anticipated Receipts – 2022/23	0
Balance as at 31st March 2023	2,912
Anticipated Requirements – 2023/24	(300)
Anticipated Receipts – 2023/24	0
Balance as at 31st March 2024	2,612
Anticipated Requirements – 2024/25	0
Anticipated Receipts – 2024/25	0
Balance as at 31st March 2025	2,612
Anticipated Requirements – 2025/26	0
Anticipated Receipts – 2025/26	0
Balance as at 31st March 2026	2,612

- 4.2 In line with the overall strategy and specific suggestions proposed by the Budget Working Group, in order to resource the Capital Programme, reserves will be utilised over the period of the Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2025/26.

Employment

- 4.3 Some of the work included in the capital programme will be undertaken by Council staff and the relevant costs will be recharged to the capital scheme.

Legal (Including Equalities)

4.4 There are no legal implications.

5. Background Papers

Bids received from departments

Correspondence received from the Welsh Government

Schemes	2021/22		2022/23		2023/24		2024/25		2025/26		Comments
	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Community Safety											
Upgrade of CCTV system	345	345	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Requested at Cabinet on the 16th November 2020
Total Community Safety	345	345	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
HRA											
Housing Improvement Programme	31,256	35,320	18,992	21,756	18,790	21,554	17,472	20,236	14,473	17,237	
Private Sector Housing											
Disabled Facility Grants	1,500	1,500	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	
Additional Disabled Facility Grants	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	
Total Private Sector Housing	1,650	1,650	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,150	
COMMITTEE TOTAL	33,251	37,315	20,142	22,906	19,940	22,704	18,622	21,386	15,623	18,387	