



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

14th FEBRUARY 2019

THE COUNCIL'S CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2019/20 – 2021/22

REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND FRONTLINE SERVICES IN DISCUSSION WITH THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, CLLR A MORGAN

Author: Chris Lee (01443 424026)

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide Cabinet with a proposed three year capital programme for 2019/20 to 2021/22 that if acceptable, will be presented to Council for approval.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- 2.1 Review, and if acceptable propose the attached three year capital programme at Appendix A to Council on in March 2019 which includes:
- 2.1.1 A review and proposed release of earmarked reserve balances as detailed in paragraph 5.3 of the attached report;
 - 2.1.2 Proposed investment priorities as detailed in paragraph 5.7 of the attached report;
 - 2.1.3 The Council's core capital programme;
 - 2.1.4 The Council's total capital programme including additional non core funding.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To agree that the report at Appendix A is acceptable and is proposed by Cabinet to Council in March 2019.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Cabinet agreed the recommendations in the report presented on the 25th January 2018 titled "[Delivering the Corporate Plan – “The Way Ahead” – Investing for the future](#)". These were to agree in principle to a strategic outline capital investment programme of in excess of £300M over the next 5 years over and above its

recurring annual capital programme, and that regular reports are presented to Cabinet and full Council. The draft report at Appendix A expands on this and proposes the Council's three year capital programme commencing 1st April 2019.

5 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not needed because the contents of this report relate solely to the proposed report to Council at Appendix A.

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Details regarding consultation relating to the Council's budget strategy are subject to a separate report.

7 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 7.1 All financial implications are included in the proposed report to Council at Appendix A.

8 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 8.1 There are no legal implications as a result of the recommendations set out in the report.

9 LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.

- 9.1 The Council's capital programme is focussed on investing capital resources in line with all the Corporate Plan priorities and the Council's five workstreams. The capital investment also contributes to all of the seven national well being goals.

10 CONCLUSION

- 10.1 The draft report at Appendix A sets out the proposed capital programme from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2022.

Other Information:-

Relevant Scrutiny Committee: Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee

Contact Officer: Chris Lee (01443 424026)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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DISCUSSION WITH THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, CLLR A MORGAN**

Item: THE COUNCIL'S CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2019/20 – 2021/22

Background Papers

Cabinet 25th January 2018; Delivering the Corporate Plan – “The Way Ahead” – Investing for the Future.

Officer to contact: Chris Lee (01443 424026)

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2018-2019

COMMITTEE:

COUNCIL

6th MARCH 2019

Item No:

**THE COUNCIL'S THREE YEAR
CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2019/20 -
2021/22 INCORPORATING A
REVIEW OF EARMARKED
RESERVES**

REPORT OF THE CABINET

**AUTHOR: CHRIS LEE, GROUP DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND FRONTLINE
SERVICES (01443) 424026**

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report sets out the Council's proposed Capital Programme for 2019/20 to 2021/22, following confirmation of the local government settlement for 2019/20.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

2.1 Note the detail of the final 2019/20 local government settlement for capital expenditure, reproduced at Appendix 1;

2.2 Agree to the release of the Earmarked Reserve balances as detailed in paragraph 5.3;

2.3 Agree to allocate the funding released from Earmarked Reserves to the investment priorities as detailed in paragraph 5.7;

2.4 Agree the proposed 'core' three year programme detailed at Appendix 2;

2.5 Agree the proposed total three-year Capital Programme, detailed at Appendix 3, which includes the following non core capital funding:

- Prudential borrowing to support 21st Century School Schemes, the Taff Vale Development and Highways Improvements schemes;
- Capital grants for specific schemes;

- Third party contributions;
- Additional Council resources previously allocated to support existing schemes and Corporate Plan investment priorities;
- The investment priorities detailed in paragraph 5.7 which are funded by the release of Earmarked Reserves detailed in paragraph 5.3.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 Members will be aware that each year the Council is allocated a sum of unhypothocated “Supported” borrowing and General Capital Grant from the Welsh Government (WG). Details of the allocation for 2019/20 are shown at Appendix 1. The funding for 2019/20 has increased to £13.441M as a consequence of WG increasing General Capital funding over 3 years (to 2020/21) by £100M (in total). The annual base allocation for 2019/20 is £11.108M and our share of the additional allocation for 2019/20 is £2.333M. Even with this additional funding, there is a still a reduction of £3.865M compared to 9 years ago:

Year	WG Capital Support
2010/11	£17.306M
2011/12	£13.856M
2012/13	£12.828M
2013/14	£11.328M
2014/15	£11.194M
2015/16	£11.154M
2016/17	£11.164M
2017/18	£11.232M
2018/19	£11.214M
2019/20	£13.441M

3.2 In determining our core capital funding for 2019/20 we have included the base annual allocation of £11.108M with the additional £2.333M allocated to fund the investment priorities detailed in paragraphs 5.7 and 5.8.

3.3 This base allocation, together with estimated Capital Receipts and the utilisation of Capital Reserves, represents the Council’s ‘Core’ capital funding.

3.4 As referenced above, WG has indicated that general capital funding will be increased by £100M over 3 years from 2018/19 to 2020/21 at an all Wales level, with an additional £50M in 2018/19, £30M in 2019/20 and £20M in 2020/21. Allocations for individual authorities are not available for 2020/21 and 2021/22, and may vary from the current assumed levels.

4.0 ROLLING ON THE EXISTING ‘CORE’ THREE YEAR PROGRAMME

4.1 The existing programme for 2019/20 and 2020/21 proposed the use of £15.934M of ‘Core’ capital funding.

- 4.2 In recent years we have continued to maintain our core programme at £15.934M per year. The three year capital programme presented here is fully funded albeit there remains a risk that the projected capital receipts are less than anticipated. Capital receipts projections will continue to be closely monitored.
- 4.3 Whilst maintaining the core programme at the existing level, there remains the requirement for us to continue to review and challenge any commitments made into years two and three, to robustly monitor capital receipt projections and to position ourselves to respond as appropriate and necessary as we move forward.
- 4.4 Given the timing of external funding approval processes, it will be necessary to maintain flexibility of funding across individual schemes in order to ensure the most efficient delivery of the overall programme.
- 4.5 Section 6 details the proposed capital programme for 2019/20 to 2021/22 representing a total investment of £173.202M. This comprises:
- Core capital funding of £15.934M per year, representing a significant investment of £47.802M over the next 3 years;
 - Prudential borrowing of £48.979M to support the 21st Century Schools Programme, the Taff Vale Development and Highways Improvements schemes;
 - Specific grants of £22.101M;
 - Third party contributions of £5.949M;
 - Earmarked reserves and revenue contributions previously allocated to schemes and investment priorities of £34.632M;
 - Capital receipts, in addition to the 3 year core allocation, of £7.099M;
 - If agreed, additional earmarked reserves of £6.640M to fund the investment priorities detailed in paragraph 5.7 (excluding revenue projects).

5.0 ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT & EARMARKED RESERVES

- 5.1 As reported to Council in the Statement of Accounts (19th September 2018), the Council has revenue stream earmarked reserves at the 31st March 2018 of £64.157M (£63.153M at 31st March 2017) which are set aside for a variety of purposes. In addition, there are specific reserves relating to Capital Funding, Insurance and Treasury Management.
- 5.2 The level and use of earmark reserves is constantly reviewed as part of the Council's robust financial management arrangements. Budget setting and accounts closure traditionally provide opportunities for more in depth reviews and Cabinet have specifically requested that the Section 151 Officer undertake a detailed risk assessment of earmarked reserves with a view to:
- Assessing the underlying financial risk for which they have been set aside to determine if it remains or whether circumstances have changed;
 - The extent to which any amounts set aside for investment (Prior Year Commitments – Service "Carry Forwards") have been contractually committed;
 - Being clear on the reasons for holding reserves and ensuring that they are

- sufficient, but not excessive; and
- The need for continued support of a robust Medium Term Financial Plan.

5.3 With the review complete, Cabinet have now been able to take a view on the extent to which any amounts could be released. These are listed below:

a) Prior Year Commitments (£11.957M as at 31st March 2018)

Sums have been set aside in the previous year to fund intended initiatives which were to be carried out in the following financial year. A review of these reserves has been undertaken with particular regard to their necessity and whether the spend is considered essential in respect of it representing a key priority of the Council.

This review has identified, that of the £11.957M earmarked, a sum of **£1.086M** can be released from these reserves (following the £2.247M released in October 2018).

b) Financial Management and Human Resources Risk Management (£29.766M as at 31st March 2018)

This reserve includes funding for a number of risk assessed potential future liabilities including VER costs, potential future legal claims, welfare reform implications, social care risks etc.

A review has been undertaken of the levels of risk associated with the relevant areas to which these reserves relate.

Following this review, it is proposed that a sum of **£2.759M** can be released from this reserve (following the £3.932M released in October 2018).

c) Other Specific Reserves (£3.692M as at 31st March 2018)

Sums are set aside for specific purposes such as building maintenance repair requirements, data centre modernisation and fees charged to specific projects (such as capital schemes).

Following review, it is proposed that a sum of **£0.172M** can be released from these reserves (following the £0.239M released in October 2018).

d) Investment/Infrastructure (£6.855M as at 31st March 2018)

Sums are set aside to fund current and future costs of maintaining and enhancing infrastructure across the County Borough.

Following review, it is proposed that a sum of **£1.723M** is released from this reserve (following the £5.132M released in October 2018).

e) Insurance Reserve (£8.931M as at 31st March 2018)

The Insurance Reserve is set aside as cover for incidents that may have occurred but are not yet claimed alongside mitigating annual volatility in claim numbers (and

spend) and insurance premiums.

Following review, it is proposed that a sum of **£1.000M** can be released from this reserve.

- 5.4 The total amount of reserves therefore which have been identified to be released amounts to **£6.740M**.
- 5.5 The Section 151 Officer is content that releasing the above resource does not compromise our financial standing. As such, Cabinet have carefully considered the options available around the use of the resources identified above. A key consideration continues to be supporting the delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan 2016 – 2020 and the strategic outline capital investment programme of in excess of £300M over the next 5 years (over and above the recurring Capital Programme), as agreed by Cabinet on the 25th January 2018.
- 5.6 Accordingly, the Cabinet believe that the most appropriate use of these one off resources is to invest in our infrastructure and to support the aspirations and priorities of the Corporate Plan as presented in the report referenced above.
- 5.7 In being able to support the above objectives, Cabinet have identified the following specific areas which it is proposed that Council agree can be invested in, with funding available through use of one off reserves, existing resources and additional General Capital Grant from WG:

Investment Priority	£M
Highways & Roads	1.500
Highways Structures	1.500
Parks Structures	1.000
Making Better Use/Traffic Developments	0.350
A4119 Dualling	1.500
Land Drainage	0.200
Bryn Pica Eco Park	0.200
Empty Property Grants	1.500
Town Centre Maintenance Grants (revenue project)	0.200
Schools	1.500
Extra Care	1.000
Parks	0.900
Play Areas	0.500
Skate Parks/Multi Use Games Areas	0.200
Cemeteries	0.400
Leisure Centre Enhancements	0.150
King George V Track	0.500
Total Investment	13.100
Reprioritise existing resources (Town Centre Maintenance Grants)	(0.100)
Additional General Capital Grant 2018/19	(3.927)
Additional General Capital Grant 2019/20	(2.333)
Total Council Investment	6.740

- 5.8 As outlined in section 3, WG has increased the general capital funding for Wales by £100M over 3 years starting in 2018/19. The amount for this Council for 2018/19 is £3.927M and WG is allowing authorities to carry this forward into 2019/20, therefore we have allocated this to the investment priorities, along with the additional allocation of £2.333M for 2019/20.
- 5.9 Further details on the investments proposed in paragraph 5.7 are included in section 6.

6.0 THE THREE YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2019/20 – 2021/22

- 6.1 The details of the 3 year proposed programme for each Service Group are provided below.

CORPORATE AND FRONTLINE SERVICES GROUP, CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DIVISION AND CORPORATE INITIATIVES

- 6.2 The latest projections show expected full year capital spend of £65.440M for Corporate and Frontline Services, the Chief Executive's Division and Corporate Initiatives in 2018/19.
- 6.3 The total resources for 2019/20, as outlined in the proposed three-year Capital Programme is £84.473M (of which £38.417M relates to Corporate and Frontline Services, £1.721M to Corporate Initiatives and £44.335M to the Chief Executive's Division).

CORPORATE AND FRONTLINE SERVICES

- 6.4 As identified in 5.7 additional investment has been provided in Corporate and Frontline Services in the following areas:
- Highways Infrastructure - £1.500M
 - Structures - £1.500M
 - Parks Structures - £1.000M
 - Transport Infrastructure - £1.850M (Making Better Use/Traffic Developments and A4119 Dualling)
 - Land Drainage £0.200M
 - Bryn Pica Eco Park £0.200M

This additional investment is included in the figures presented in Appendix 3b.

HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORTATION & STRATEGIC PROJECTS

Highways Technical Services

- 6.5 A budget for 2019/20 of £15.032M has been allocated to the next phase of the Council's Highways Improvement programme and in doing so supports one of the Council's current Corporate Plan Priorities: 'Place – creating neighbourhoods

where people are proud to live and work'. Schemes comprise:

- Road surface treatments and resurfacing – £7.943M;
- Car park improvements – £0.045M;
- Major repairs to structures such as bridges and walls – £5.794M;
- Parks Structures Improvements - £1.000M;
- Street lighting replacement and upgrades – £0.250M.

Strategic Projects

- 6.6 A budget for 2019/20 of £10.934M has been allocated to Strategic Projects for major transportation infrastructure schemes and to extend and enhance the programme of pinch-point and highways network improvement projects as well as road safety, traffic management and drainage improvements. Schemes comprise:
- Transportation Infrastructure which includes Park & Ride schemes, Mountain Ash Cross Valley Link, Llanharan Bypass, A4119 Coed Ely Dualling, Cynon Gateway North, Gelli – Treorchy Link Road, and the Making Better Use programme – £10.364M;
 - Traffic Management – £0.160M;
 - Drainage Improvements – £0.410M.
- 6.7 In recent years a number of grants have been made available by WG for delivery of projects on the transportation network. These include Local Transport Fund, Local Transport Network Fund, Active Travel, Road Safety Grant, Safe Routes in the Community Grant and Flood Alleviation Schemes. Guidance has been issued and bids for transport schemes were submitted on 18th January 2019 for 2019/20 funding. It is anticipated that available grants will be confirmed during March 2019.
- 6.8 A supplementary report on the detail of proposed schemes for Highways, Transportation & Strategic Projects will be presented to Cabinet shortly.

WASTE STRATEGY

- 6.9 The budget for 2019/20 is £5.620M. This relates to Eco Park at Bryn Pica and the new Materials Recovery Facility.

FLEET

- 6.10 The 3 year rolling programme for replacement vehicles continues. The 3 year allocation is £9.140M. This service area is subject to ongoing assessment and continuous review of requirements.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S

- 6.11 As identified in 5.7 additional investment has been provided in the Chief Executive's Division in the following area:
- Empty Properties Grants – £1.500M (capital investment)
 - Town Centre Maintenance Grants - £0.200M (revenue project)

This additional capital investment is included in the figures presented in Appendix 3a.

REGENERATION AND PLANNING

- 6.12 The Council's Capital Programme continues to provide a long term funding commitment to the economic regeneration of the County Borough and in doing so supports one of the Council's Corporate Plan Priorities: 'Economy – Building a strong economy'.
- 6.13 In addition to the above, sustained investment has been maintained across a range of funding streams, supported by external funding and the Corporate Plan Investment Priorities. This has enabled a wide range of regeneration activity to be delivered to benefit the local economy.
- 6.14 The Council will continue to work with partners to develop and progress exciting and innovative schemes such as:
- Redevelopment of Taff Vale site;
 - Pontypridd YMCA – Redeveloping the YMCA to be fit for the future as a community centre for creative arts facilitating social enterprise, training opportunities and community involvement;
 - Development of modern industrial business units at Robertstown and Coed Ely;
 - Townscape Enhancements – a targeted approach to upgrading town centre buildings for increased business and commercial use and continuing to improve the quality of the townscape providing business investment and employment growth;
 - Strategic Opportunity Areas – a number of Strategic Opportunity Areas have been developed to deliver economic growth and job creation in Rhondda Cynon Taf. These areas are:
 - Cynon Gateway – Energising the Region;
 - The Wider Pontypridd, Treforest – Edge of the City, heart of the Region;
 - Pontypridd Town – Pivotal in the Region;
 - A4119 Corridor – Regional Rhondda Gateway;
 - Llanilid on the M4 – Driving the Regional Economy.
- 6.15 The programme of regeneration projects will add value to the significant regeneration investment that has already taken place and will act as a catalyst for further regeneration activity.

PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING

- 6.16 This programme comprises the following schemes, and in doing so contributes to the Council's current Corporate Plan Priorities: 'People – Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone':
- Disabled Facilities Grants, Maintenance Repair Assistance Grants and Renovation Grants in Exceptional Circumstances;
 - Community Regeneration budget which provides grants to support a number of initiatives underpinning the affordable warmth and energy efficiency agenda;
 - Empty Properties Grants Investment scheme.

CORPORATE INITIATIVES

- 6.17 As part of the Council's on-going programme to ensure high standards of health and safety within its premises, appropriate resources continue to be allocated to the management and remediation of Asbestos and Legionella.

EDUCATION AND INCLUSION SERVICES

- 6.18 The latest projections show expected full year capital spend of £58.171M for Education and Inclusion in 2018/19.
- 6.19 The total resources available to Education and Inclusion for 2019/20, as outlined in the proposed three-year Capital Programme is £26.199M.
- 6.20 As identified in 5.7 additional investment has been provided in Education and Inclusion in the following area:

- Schools – £1.500M

This additional investment is included in the figures presented in Appendix 3d.

SCHOOLS

- 6.21 The Council will continue to deliver and support its long term strategic investment programme of modernisation to create school environments that meet the needs of our communities and provide the best learning provision and outcomes for young people and the wider community. The programme of capital investment is supported with Council funding, WG 21st Century Schools Band A Capital Grant, WG Reducing Infant Class Sizes Capital Grant, WG Increasing Welsh Medium Provision Capital Grant, WG Flying Start Capital Grant and Community Infrastructure Levy funding. The following key school projects are either in progress or planned, and are included in the overall strategic programme and include a combination of refurbishments, remodelling, demolitions and new buildings:

- Ffynnon Taf Primary – to construct a four classroom extension to increase capacity;
- Gelli Primary – to construct a two classroom extension and external play area improvements;
- Llanharan Primary – to construct a two classroom extension and external play area improvements;
- Parc Lewis Primary – to refurbish and remodel the interior layout to create additional teaching space;
- YGG Aberdar – to construct a four classroom extension to increase capacity; to include dedicated, suitable premises for fee paying childcare services;
- Ysgol Llanhari – to locate a modular building on the school site to provide dedicated, suitable premises for flying start and fee paying childcare services;
- YGG Evan James – to refurbish and remodel the interior layout to create dedicated, suitable premises for fee paying childcare services;
- YGG Abercynon – to relocate the existing childcare setting into dedicated

- premises on the school site;
- YGGG Llantrisant – to construct a two classroom extension to increase capacity at the school;
- YGG Ynyswen – to locate a modular building on the school site to provide dedicated, suitable premises for fee paying childcare services;
- Tonyrefail Community School – to construct a new 3-19 school with improved external sports facilities, including a new 3G pitch at the adjacent leisure centre. Completion is due in spring 2019.
- Treorchy Comprehensive School – the remaining works into 2019/20 relate to remodelling of a classroom block due for completion in summer 2019.

PLANNED MINOR CAPITAL WORKS

- 6.22 The planned minor capital works programme allocation for 2019/20 is £6.886M. The allocation includes an on-going rolling programme for kitchen refurbishments/remodelling, window & door replacements, essential works, electrical rewiring, fire alarm upgrades, toilet refurbishments, Equalities Act/compliance works, access condition surveys, boiler replacement, roof renewal, improvements to schools, asbestos remediation works, schools investment programme and capitalisation of IT hardware/software & licences.
- 6.23 A supplementary report detailing proposals of works for consideration within the above mentioned programme will be presented to Cabinet shortly.

COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

- 6.24 The latest projections show expected full year capital spend of £7.687M for Community and Children's Services in 2018/19.
- 6.25 The total resources available to Community and Children's Services for 2019/20, as outlined in the proposed three year Capital Programme, is £8.018M.
- 6.26 As identified in 5.7 additional investment has been provided in Community and Children's Services in the following areas:
- Extra Care Facilities - £1.000M
 - Parks & Green Spaces - £0.900M
 - Play Areas - £0.500M
 - Skate Parks/Multi Use Games Areas - £0.200M
 - Cemeteries - £0.400M
 - Leisure Centre Enhancements - £0.150M
 - King George V Track - £0.500M

This additional investment is included in the figures presented in Appendix 3e.

ADULT AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

- 6.27 The programme for Adult and Children's Services includes a budget of £3.667M in 2019/20. This will continue to fund the essential refurbishment and improvement

works to the Council's Adult & Children's Services establishments, including asbestos costs, in line with care standards and health & safety legislation. Also included are additional costs associated with Telecare Services.

- 6.28 These investments will support one of the Council's current Corporate Plan Priorities: 'People – Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone'.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND PROTECTION

- 6.29 The Public Health and Protection programme has a budget of £4.351M in 2019/20. This budget is allocated across the ongoing rolling programmes for Parks Improvements, Cemeteries and Community Safety measures. Also included in this budget are allocations for investment and improvement works at Leisure Centres and Play Areas. These areas of investment support one of the Council's current Corporate Plan Priorities: 'Place – Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work'.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The three year Capital Programme is a key component of the overall Medium Term Financial Planning and Resources Strategy for this Council. Targeted capital investment can make a significant impact on service delivery and used effectively, is able to underpin the Council's Corporate Plan Priorities, where relevant.
- 7.2 This report sets out the capital investment priorities for the Council through to March 2022. It represents an ambitious and significant level of investment (£173.202M) over the next 3 years.
- 7.3 The programme includes some element of slippage identified throughout 2018/19, which is subject to change when final spend for the capital programme is known and the 2018/19 accounts are finalised. Any changes to slippage will be reported to Members in the quarterly performance reports.
- 7.4 This report has also identified the opportunity to invest £13.100M of additional resources in our local area including our own assets in order to improve the services which are available to our residents.
- 7.5 As the year progresses, changes will be made to the programme, for example where new schemes can be supported by specific grants. Approval from Members will be sought as these opportunities arise throughout 2019/20.
