

Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

28 JANUARY 2021

Draft Revenue Budget Feedback and Draft Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2023/24

Ward(s) All

Portfolios: Cllr R Martin – Adult Social Care
Cllr S Craddock – Health and Wellbeing

Executive Summary:

The second budget report to Cabinet on 9 December 2020 includes feedback from this Committee on the draft budget plan as reported to Cabinet on 28 October 2020, along with a draft Capital Programme for the period 2021/22 to 2023/24.

The draft capital programme for 2021/22 totals £65.99m. It sets out new capital investment funded from the council's own resources of £28.17m (funded by capital receipts and borrowing) and externally funded schemes of £37.82m (funded by capital grants) and represents a balanced programme for 2021/22. In addition, the report sets out a further two years of indicative proposals to 2023/24.

Capital programme resources are limited. The financing for capital investment is heavily reliant on grants and funding received from the Government. The remaining flexibility is currently through capital receipts and borrowing. Capital receipts projections however are limited, and fully dependent on when council assets are sold.

This report provides an extract of the draft capital programme that relates to the services within the remit of the Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, split into 2 areas –

1. Council funded schemes – those schemes funded from the councils own resources (borrowing and capital receipts) – see **Appendix 1**. These include a refresh of the draft programme reported to Council in February 2020, along with additional schemes deemed as being high priority based on three categories (health & safety, council priority and unavoidable infrastructure). For 2022/23 onwards, the full impact of these projects will be reviewed, and funding revisited as part of the rolling annual budget process. There may be a number of schemes that will require match funding in year to secure external resources, which will be reviewed in year and funds drawn down as projects are confirmed.

2. Externally funded schemes – those schemes funded from grant or other external contributions – see **Appendix 2**.

Any additional receipts received in year (excluding those earmarked for specific schemes) will be considered to fund those projects on the reserve list. These are summarised at **Appendix 3**.

Walsall Proud Programme work streams will identify one off revenue and capital investment required to ensure the required savings are delivered. Regular Proud programme updates will be provided to Cabinet and Scrutiny, and the S151 Officer will report throughout the budget process on the robustness of budget estimates to ensure that a legally balanced 2021/22 budget is set in February 2021.

Feedback from this Committee on the content of this report will be reported back to Cabinet on 10 February 2021 prior to the recommendation of the final revenue and capital budget plan to Council on 25 February 2021.

Reason for scrutiny:

For Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the draft Capital Programme as reported to Cabinet on 9 December 2020, specifically in relation to capital schemes that fall with services under the remit of this Committee, and for feedback to be taken into account in the finalisation of the budget by Cabinet on 10 February 2021 for recommendation to Council on 25 February 2021.

Recommendations:

That:

1. The Committee are recommended to consider the draft capital budget proposals attached that relate to the remit of this committee.
2. The Committee are asked to note that consultation continues on all revenue policy proposals previously reported, and that feedback will be presented to Cabinet on 10 February 2021, along with further revenue options to close the gap to ensure we set a balanced budget for 2021/22.

Resource and legal considerations:

Cabinet, on 9 December 2020, were presented with the draft capital programme for 2021/22 to 2023/24. The full Cabinet report can be accessed at the following link:

[Draft Revenue Budget Feedback and Draft Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2023/24](#)

Background papers:

Draft Revenue Budget Feedback and Draft Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2023/24 as approved by Cabinet on 9 December 2020.

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Appendix 1: Draft Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2023/24 – Council Funded Schemes

Capital Scheme	Detail of Capital investment	2021/22 £	2022/23 £	2023/24 £
Rolling Programme Schemes				
Aids and Adaptations / Preventative Adaptations/ Supporting Independence <i>(Resources)</i>	This project directly supports the council's: 1. Statutory requirement to provide disabled facility grants (DFGs) this includes enabling the council to provide a continuous service rather than as some councils do in terms of stock-piling enquiries till new grant allocations are made to them. 2. Provision of maintenance of lifts and hoists. 3. Minor adaptation works. <i>Included for information as this scheme is managed by Housing Standards, and therefore comes under the remit of the Scrutiny Overview Committee.</i>	400,000	400,000	400,000
Health Through Warmth - Tackling Fuel Poverty <i>(Resources)</i>	To help provide a safety net for those who cannot access other funding sources and is available as a loan charged on the individuals' property that is repaid upon sale or relevant transfer of their home. For this sum per year, it could offer 28 new boiler systems and 25 boiler repairs. The fund also helps secure continued investment from external agencies in tackling fuel poverty and excess winter deaths in the borough. <i>Included for information as this scheme is managed by Housing Standards, and therefore comes under the remit of the Scrutiny Overview Committee.</i>	75,000	75,000	75,000
Total Draft Capital Programme – Council Funded Schemes		475,000	475,000	475,000

Appendix 2: Draft Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2023/24 – Externally Funded Schemes

Capital Scheme	Detail of Capital investment	2021/22 £	2022/23 £	2023/24 £
Disabled Facilities Grant <i>(Resources)</i>	This project directly supports the council's statutory requirement to provide disabled facility grants (DFGs). It is based on the delivery of the ring fenced award of grant money from government. The project has a direct positive impact on the number and subsequent varied costs to the council from the increasing level of demand for home adaptations. <i>Included for information as this scheme is managed by Housing Standards, and therefore comes under the remit of the Scrutiny Overview Committee.</i>	2,894,013	2,894,013	2,894,013
Integrated Community Equipment Store (ICES)	Supplies equipment to people with both a social care and a health need on an assessed needs basis. This is a pooled budget between the CCG and the Council, this capital funding will be used to purchase this equipment which will enable people to return home or continue to remain at home. This now forms part of the Better Care Fund (BCF) for which the Council is host. (Department of Health).	810,000	810,000	810,000
Total Draft Capital Programme - Externally Funded Schemes		3,704,013	3,704,013	3,704,013

Appendix 3: Draft Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2023/24 – Council Funded Schemes - Reserve List Allocations

Capital Scheme	Detail of Capital investment	2021/22 £	2022/23 £	2023/24 £
Aids and Adaptations / Preventative Adaptations and Supporting Independence (<i>Resources</i>)	Additional to the funds contained in the rolling programme section (£400k per annum) and external funding section (DFG - £2.9m) totalling £3.3m. This project directly supports the council's: 1. Statutory requirement to provide disabled facility grants (DFGs) this includes enabling the council to provide a continuous service rather than as some councils do in terms of stock-piling enquiries till new grant allocations are made to them. 2. Provision of maintenance of lifts and hoists. 3. Minor adaptation works. <i>Included for information as this scheme is managed by Housing Standards, and therefore comes under the remit of the Scrutiny Overview Committee.</i>	250,000	250,000	250,000
Health Through Warmth - Tackling Fuel Poverty (<i>Resources</i>)	Additional to the funds contained in the rolling programme section (£75k per annum). To help provide a safety net for those who can't access other funding sources and is available as a loan charged on the individuals' property that is repaid upon sale or relevant transfer of their home. For this sum per year, it could offer 28 new boiler systems and 25 boiler repairs. The fund also helps secure continued investment from external agencies in tackling fuel poverty and excess winter deaths in the borough. <i>Included for information as this scheme is managed by Housing Standards, and therefore comes under the remit of the Scrutiny Overview Committee.</i>	75,000	75,000	75,000
Total Draft Capital Programme – Council Funded Schemes Reserve List		325,000	325,000	325,000