

Scrutiny Overview Committee

2 FEBRUARY 2021

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

Ward(s) All

Portfolios: All - specifically in relation to services within the Committee's remit -
Cllr M Bird – Leader of the Council
Cllr A Andrew – Regeneration (Money Home Job)
Cllr G Perry – Resilient Communities
Cllr B Chatta – Personnel and Business Support

Executive Summary:

During this item Members will have the opportunity to consider the draft capital programme and receive a verbal update on the revenue budget 2021/22 – 2023/24.

Capital Programme

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.

Scrutiny Overview Committee are asked to consider the Draft Capital Programme as presented to Cabinet on 9 December 2020 as attached at **Annex 1**. Those capital schemes relating to services within the specific remit of this Committee are highlighted grey in the report for ease of reference, split into 2 areas -

1. Council funded schemes – those schemes funded from the councils own resources (borrowing and capital receipts) – see **Appendix 2** of Cabinet report. 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 3** of Cabinet report.

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 4** of Cabinet report.

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.

Revenue budget

The final draft revenue budget will be presented to Cabinet on 10 February 2021.

Due to report publishing deadlines it is not possible to provide a copy of this report to members in advance of the meeting. Therefore the Leader will provide the Committee with a verbal update on the revenue budget at the meeting. A copy of the final budget report being considered by Cabinet will be sent to scrutiny members on 3 February 2021.

Reason for scrutiny:

For Scrutiny Overview Committee to consider the draft Capital Programme as reported to Cabinet on 9 December 2020, specifically in relation to capital schemes that fall within 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, specifically those that relate to the remit of this committee.**
2. **The Committee are asked to note that consultation 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 (attached).

Contact Officers:

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Cabinet – 9 December 2020

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

Portfolio: Councillor M. Bird – Leader of the Council (Lead Portfolio)

Related Portfolios: All

Service: Finance – council wide

Wards: All

Key decision: No

Forward plan: Yes

1. Aim

1.1 For Cabinet to:

- approve, subject to consultation, a draft capital programme for 2021/22 to 2023/24,
- consider feedback from Overview Scrutiny Committees on the draft revenue budget reported to Cabinet on 28 October 2020 to inform the final budget to be presented to Council in February 2021.
- Receive a summary of the Spending Review 2020.

2. Summary

2.1 Cabinet on 28 October 2020 agreed the process and timeline for the setting of a four-year revenue budget and capital programme; an updated medium term financial plan; and first draft revenue proposals, referring the latter to Overview Scrutiny Committees for consultation and feedback, to allow Cabinet to then consider this feedback in setting their final budget recommendations in February 2021.

2.2 This report covers:

- The impact of the Spending Round announced on 25 November 2020;
- Feedback from Overview Scrutiny Committees on draft revenue budget proposals;
- A draft capital programme for 2021/22 to 2023/24.

2.3 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.

- 2.4 Despite reductions in capital funding in recent years and going forward, the draft capital programme contains significant investment into highways, education, and into adult social care and housing to support vulnerable households through Health through Warmth and provision of aids and adaptations. A reserve list of new projects is also included, where funding could be redirected in-year if it becomes available.
- 2.5 We would normally include reference to announcements made in the Chancellors Autumn Budget. However, due to Covid-19 this was cancelled along with an expected longer term Government Spending Review, with a one year Spending Round presented on 25 November 2020 for 2021/22, a summary of which is outlined in this report.
- 2.6 The final budget, including any changes arising from consultation arrangements, tax base changes and the final allocation of direct Government funding and other specific grants will be presented to Cabinet on 10 February 2021 for recommendation to Council, and this will be considered by full Council on 25 February 2021.

3. Recommendations

Cabinet are requested to:

- 3.1 Note the feedback from Overview Scrutiny Committees, and consider this feedback in preparation for final budget recommendations in February 2021.
- 3.2 Note the main implications from the chancellors Spending Round announcement on 25 November 2020, and that any financial implications arising once the Provisional Settlement is received, will be included in the budget report to Cabinet on 10 February 2021.
- 3.3 Approve as a basis for consultation the current draft capital programme of £65.99m for 2021/22, and refer the draft capital programme to Overview Scrutiny Committees to enable comments to be considered by Cabinet on 10 February 2021.

4. Know - Context

Draft Revenue Budget 2020/21 to 2023/24 – Consultation

- 4.1 The first draft revenue budget was reported to Cabinet on 28 October 2020. This was referred to Overview Scrutiny Committees, and the feedback and recommendations summarised at **Appendix 1**. Cabinet are requested to note these and consider the recommendations and any changes Cabinet may wish to make, arising from these, in making their final budget recommendations to Council in February.
- 4.2 The report to Cabinet on 28 October 2020 identified a gap of £12.32m in 2021/22, should all options identified be approved. A number of further options are currently being finalised to close the gap, and a balanced budget will be reported to Cabinet in February 2021.

Spending Round 2020 and MTFO Impact

4.3 The Spending Round (SR20) announced on 25 November 2020 set departmental budgets for 2021/22 only. Whilst this has provided some further detail for 2021/22, total funding is still uncertain, as the announcement did not include details of our core grant settlement which is expected in December 2020.

4.4 The impact of SR20 on Walsall is as follows. This is subject to further clarification on final allocations, confirmation of allocation methodologies, and in some cases, national consultation taking place. The impact on the council's budget for 2021/22 is not yet known. Any allocations for Walsall are expected to be confirmed with the Provisional Settlement and will be included in the final budget report to Cabinet and Council in February 2021.

- A council tax referendum threshold of 2% (this is already assumed within the budget);
- An additional Adult Social Care Precept threshold of 3%, for which conditions are awaited;
- A 4.5% increase in overall Core Spending Power (mainly due to the ability of Council's to raise council tax by up to 5% in total);
- £300m of new grant funding for Adults and Children's Social Care;
- Maintaining the existing New Homes Bonus scheme for a further year with no new legacy payments;
- Additional Covid-19 funding of £3.0bn for 2021/22, to include support for the first quarter of the year for income losses, and for support for tax revenue losses;
- A pause in public sector pay for 2021/22, except £250 for all those earning less than £24k, and an increase in the National Living Wage;
- A number of new infrastructure initiatives that may impact on local councils, include a new £4bn 'Levelling Up' fund for local projects, and £220m Shared Prosperity Fund.

4.5 The budget is an evolving process, with recognition that funding assumptions may change as the budget develops. The council awaits publication of the Provisional Settlement for 2021/22, which may impact on our MTFO projections. Any changes resulting from this will be reported in the final budget report to Cabinet on 10 February 2021.

Draft Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2023/24

4.6 The key objective of the Capital Strategy is to deliver a capital programme that:

- Ensures the council's capital assets are used to support the delivery of priorities within the Corporate Plan and the council's vision,
- Links with the council's Asset Management Plan,
- Is affordable, financially prudent and sustainable,
- Ensures the most cost effective use is made of existing assets and new capital investment, and;
- Supports other Walsall service specific plans and strategies

The approach to capital planning includes:

- the need to match priority capital investment decisions against the council's limited internal resources;
- to maximise external funding sources;
- to optimise borrowing where there is an agreed deliverable pay back mechanism;
- to ensure the council's health and safety, etc. commitments are adequately covered;
- and to minimise the call on revenue resources.

In practical terms the basic approach is to:

- Maintain existing assets to meet the needs of the services and people that use them,
- Evaluate options for disposal of surplus assets,
- Develop sustainable, cost effective new assets in response to the council's priorities.

However there will be an increasing emphasis on:

- Investing in activity that unlocks external investment in the borough,
- Investing in service redesign to drive out long term revenue savings,
- Investing in the creation of an efficient and effective operational estate,
- Investing in assets that support the strengthening of the borough's economy,
- Investing in assets to grow future income streams for the council.

4.7 Capital programme resources are limited. The financing for capital investment is heavily reliant on grants and funding received from the Government. The success that Walsall has had in securing a wide range of external funding may be harder to achieve as many of the sources of funding may stop or reduce.

4.8 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. There is further uncertainty in relation to asset valuations due to Covid-19 which may impact our capital receipts projections and this is being assessed and will be taken into account in setting the final capital programme in February 2021. Earmarking of capital receipts beyond what we are statutorily obliged to do is not recommended without overall strategic consideration of the entire capital programme. Use of unsupported borrowing incurs ongoing revenue debt charges and impacts on council tax payers.

4.9 Capital allocations and grants from Government and other sources have not, in some cases, been provided, therefore best estimates have been used, based on published information to date. Any further reduction in funding will require amendments to the draft programme.

4.10 Despite the above difficulties, significant investment is planned and funded over the four years to 2023/24. The council is able to fund existing commitments and has, through prioritisation of bids and resources and sound treasury management, been able to support new investment into key services, and areas of capital investment need, linked to the Walsall Proud Programme.

- 4.11 Cabinet determine the projects to be included within the capital programme in the light of the relative priorities and the overall impact on the revenue budget. Schemes that require use of the council's own capital resources (such as through borrowing or capital receipts), are categorised according to the following, in order to assist the decision making process:
- Level One Priority – relates to schemes that are unavoidable to meet statutory and legislative requirements in the provision of services. This includes items such as health and safety, new legislation etc. By their nature, these schemes are a first call on available resources. It also includes supported borrowing allocations which are ring fenced to a specific programme of activity. This category also includes prior year approved/rolling programme schemes.
 - Level Two Priority – relates to schemes that unlock external investment in the borough; drives out long-term revenue savings; support the strengthening of the borough's economy; delivers an efficient and effective operational estate; and invests in assets to grow future income streams for the council.
- 4.12 The list of schemes included in the draft capital programme for 2021/22 to 2023/24 are shown at **Appendix 2** (council funded) and **Appendix 3** (externally funded). **Table 1** below shows the draft capital programme against available resources -

Table 1: Draft Capital Programme			
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	£m	£m	£m
<u>Anticipated Capital Resources</u>			
Capital Receipts	1.50	1.50	1.50
Earmarked Capital Receipts	0.00	0.00	0.00
General Borrowing	9.06	10.32	6.70
Prior year underspends	1.00	0.00	0.00
Revenue contribution to capital	0.02	0.02	0.02
Borrowing for Regional Materials Recycling Facility	4.76	2.72	0.00
Borrowing/Capital Receipts for Proud Investment	0.00	0.00	0.00
Borrowing for Waste Strategy	8.89	3.00	0.00
Use of business rates – Enterprise Zone*	2.94	13.94	4.07
Flexible use of capital receipts	0.00	0.00	0.00
External funding - grants	37.82	16.27	10.83
<i>Total Estimated Resources</i>	65.99	47.77	23.12
<u>Capital Schemes</u>			
Rolling Programme Schemes	4.30	4.30	4.30
Prior Year Approvals	14.23	23.93	7.99
In Year Approval	8.89	3.00	0.00
Proud investment	0.00	0.17	0.00
New Capital Schemes – Health & Safety	0.50	0.00	0.00
New Capital Schemes – Council Priority	0.00	0.00	0.00
New Capital Schemes – Infrastructure	0.25	0.10	0.00
New schemes - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Total Council Funded Schemes – Appendix 2</i>	28.17	31.50	12.29
External Funded schemes – <i>Appendix 3</i>	37.82	16.27	10.83
Total Draft Capital Programme	65.99	47.77	23.12
Funding shortfall (surplus)	0.00	0.00	0.00

*Rephased by year - requirement to cash flow prior to generation of business rates

- 4.13 Council funded schemes identified in **Appendix 2** 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.
- 4.14 Capital receipts projections are based on professional estimates of property colleagues. Any additional receipts received in year (excluding those earmarked for specific schemes) will be considered to fund those projects on the reserve list at **Appendix 4**, subject to approval. The potential impact of Covid-19 on these is currently being assessed.
- 4.15 Borrowing is funded from the council's own resources – generated through savings, and/or paid for via council tax. Councils are allowed to borrow in accordance with the Treasury Management Code of Practice.
- 4.16 As well as those in the draft programme, there are a number of large capital schemes that are in development or planning stages. It is expected that as individual business cases are developed and considered by Cabinet and/or Council, they are then included in the latest update of the capital programme if they are deemed to be a high priority and affordable. Funding for these will need to be identified and may be through a combination of borrowing and/or other contributions. Where practical, a payback agreement will be implemented, whereby projects should, wherever possible be self-funded over the life of the project and beyond.
- 4.17 For externally funded schemes, where a bidding process is required, it is assumed the full cost of the project is met from external grant and/or third party contributions. If it becomes clear during the process that this is not the case, the project cannot proceed if the external funds cannot be sourced.

Draft Leasing Programme

- 4.18 The 2021/22 leasing programme totals £4.6m, summarised in **Table 2** below. Leasing minimises the call on capital resources by spreading the acquisition cost over a number of years. Revenue funds are required to finance operating leases, and are included in the revenue budget.

Table 2: Leasing Programme	Asset cost			Revenue
	b/f from	New	Total for	
	2020/21	vehicles	2021/22	
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Equipment	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.118
Light Commercial vehicles	1.892	0.036	1.928	0.362
Refuse Vehicles	1.860	0.000	1.860	0.653
Tractors & Agricultural Implements	0.059	0.232	0.291	0.231
Welfare vehicles	0.496	0.020	0.516	0.060
	4.307	0.288	4.595	1.424

Council Corporate Plan priorities

- 4.19 Resource allocation is an annual cycle aiming to support delivery of council priorities within available resources. It aims to achieve this through the delivery of efficiencies, income reviews and service reviews and redesign to redirect existing and reducing resources to areas of high council priority.
- 4.20 In order to meet the council's purpose and vision, the council will be focussing its' energy over the next four years on the following key priorities, recognising that it must do so with decreased and decreasing resources and concentrating efforts on those most in need:
- Economic growth for all people, communities and businesses.
 - People have increased independence, improved health and can positively contribute to their communities.
 - Internal Focus – all council services are efficient and effective.
 - Children have the best possible start and are safe from harm, happy, healthy and learning well.
 - Communities are prospering and resilient with all housing needs met in safe and healthy places that build a strong sense of belonging and cohesion.

Risk management

- 4.21 The council reviews capital planning and budget principles in accordance with the medium term financial strategy (MTFS) and Capital Strategy.
- 4.22 There is still uncertainty around Government funding for 2021/22 and beyond. The full details of the Governments Provisional Settlement will be assessed when received, and the final Settlement in the new year, and any implications on the budget and medium term financial outlook will be reported as they become clear. There is a risk that funding will reduce more than anticipated or that further pressures will emerge, which will require the council to make changes prior to setting the budget in February 2021.
- 4.23 The budget is risk assessed and this is used to formulate the recommended level of contingencies and reserves. The outcome of this will be reported to Cabinet and Council in the final budget report.

Financial implications

- 4.24 The Council must set a balanced revenue budget and capital programme to meet its legal requirements. A four year plan provides for sounder financial planning and management of financial risk.

Legal implications

- 4.25 Under the Local Government Act, an authority must set a council tax and balanced budget, giving 14 days' notice of the council tax level prior to the date of billing. The council must set a budget before 11 March of each year. This will include the S151 Officer's report that deals with the robustness of the budget and the adequacy of the reserves for which the budget provides, together with an assessment of risk.

Procurement Implications / Social Value

- 4.26 None directly arising from this report. Any proposed changes arising from the Proud Programme will be considered alongside proposed changes to service provision.

Property implications

- 4.27 None directly arising from this report. Any proposed changes arising from the Proud Programme will be considered alongside proposed changes to service provision.

Health and Wellbeing implications

- 4.28 The health and wellbeing of communities in Walsall have direct implications on the resources required within the council and the wider public sector, and how resources are allocated. Any proposed changes arising from the Proud Programme will be considered alongside proposed changes to service provision.

Staffing implications

- 4.29 None directly arising from this report.

Reducing Inequalities

- 4.30 The council uses an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) to check the lawfulness of council decisions in relation to the impact on people with certain characteristics protected by the Equality Act 2010. An EqIA must contain relevant data and sufficient analysis to enable Members to understand the equality implications of a proposal and any alternative options before any decisions are arrived at. Whilst there are no directly equalities implications arising from this report, equality impact assessments will be undertaken on service and organisational change options as they develop and arise from the Proud Programme and any implications reported, to allow Cabinet to consider and make any revisions required.
- 4.31 Assessing the impact of proposed organisational changes and changes to policies, procedures and services is a positive opportunity for the council to ensure good decisions are made, based on robust evidence. It is clear that the decisions taken by individual services do not operate in isolation. Thus, when making policy changes, it is important not just to look at the potential impact of individual measures, but also to ensure that their interaction is properly understood and that the cumulative impact is taken into account. Understanding the cumulative impact on protected groups should be a pre-requisite of any policy making process.

Consultation

- 4.32 Section 138 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 placed a general duty on every local authority in England to take such steps as it considers appropriate to secure that representatives of local persons (or of local persons of a particular description) are involved in the exercise of any of its functions, among other things by being consulted about the exercise of the function. The 2010 Equality Act whilst not imposing a specific duty to consult, lays a requirement to have due regard to the equality impact when exercising its function.

4.33 All Overview and Scrutiny Committees have received the draft revenue budget options for consultation in respect of the portfolio of services falling within their remit, and their recommendations are reported at **Appendix 1**. Since 29 October 2020, consultation on proposed changes to services has been taking place and remains ongoing. Findings along with equality impact assessments will be reported to Cabinet for their consideration and to inform Cabinet's final budget recommendations to Council in February 2021.

4.34 This report will be referred to Overview and Scrutiny Committees for consultation in relation to the draft capital programme.

5. Decide

5.1 Cabinet are asked to approve the recommendations as set out and forward this report to Overview and Scrutiny Committees for consideration of the draft capital programme proposals.

6. Respond

6.1 The final revenue budget and capital programme will be presented to Cabinet on 10 February 2021, along with any feedback from the final settlement and stakeholder consultation.

7. Review

7.1 The final budget report to Cabinet in February 2021 will be recommended to Full Council on 25 February 2021, where the 2021/22 budget and council tax levels will be approved.

Background papers:

Various financial working papers.

Draft Revenue Budget 2021/22 – 2023/24 and in-year Position 2020/21 as approved by Cabinet on 28 October 2020.

Author

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Deborah Hindson
Interim Executive Director (s151 Officer)
09 December 2020



Councillor M. Bird
Leader of the Council
09 December 2020

Appendices: -

- 1** Feedback from Overview Scrutiny Committees –
 - a. Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee (3 November)
 - b. Children’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee (10 November)
 - c. Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee (19 November)
 - d. Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee (26 November)
 - e. Scrutiny Overview Committee (1 December)
- 2** Draft Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2023/24 – Council Funded.
- 3** Draft Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2023/24 – Externally Funded.
- 4** Draft Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2023/24 – Council Funded Reserve List approved allocations.

Draft Revenue Budget 2020/21 – 2023/24

Recommendations of the Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee following Budget Consultation - 3 November 2020

Summary of report

This report presents the comments and recommendations from the Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee following its consideration of the draft revenue budget for consultation for 2020/21 to 2023/24 at the meeting of the Committee held on 3 November 2020. This will enable consideration by the Cabinet on 9 December 2020.

All overview and scrutiny committees received the draft revenue budget options and for consultation in respect of the portfolio of services falling within their remit.

Any changes to these options, following consultation, will be reported to a future meeting of the Committee, providing an opportunity to make further recommendations to Cabinet. Cabinet are requested to consider the feedback contained within this report in formulating their draft budget proposals.

Response to the draft budget options

Summary of Operational Proposals by Outcome 2021/22 – 2022/23 relating to the remit of this Committee

The report to the Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee contained information around an operational savings proposal for home to school transport and the Committee sought clarification on how the savings would be made from 2020/21 to 2023/24.

The Committee resolved:

1. The Committee considered the draft revenue budget proposals relating to the remit of the Committee in order to formally report to the Cabinet.
2. The Committee noted that consultation would be undertaken on all new 2021/22 policy proposals and that feedback would be presented to the Cabinet on 9 December 2020.
3. The Committee noted that further savings proposals would be presented to the Cabinet on 9 December 2020 in order for a balanced budget to be delivered by February 2021, and that these would be reported to a future meeting of the Committee for consultation.

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Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. Jeavons', with a large loop at the top and several horizontal strokes at the bottom.

Councillor Lee Jeavons
Chair - Education Overview and Scrutiny
Committee

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Rowe', written in a cursive style.

Sally Rowe
Executive Director -
Children's Services

Draft Revenue Budget 2020/21 – 2023/24

Recommendations of the Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee following Budget Consultation - 10 November 2020

Summary of report

This report presents the comments and recommendations from the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee following its consideration of the draft revenue budget for consultation for 2020/21 to 2023/24 at the meeting of the Committee held on 10th November 2020. This will enable consideration by the Cabinet on 9 December 2020.

All overview and scrutiny committees received the draft revenue budget options and for consultation in respect of the portfolio of services falling within their remit.

Any changes to these options, following consultation, will be reported to a future meeting of the Committee, providing an opportunity to make further recommendations to Cabinet. Cabinet are requested to consider the feedback contained within this report in formulating their draft budget proposals.

Response to the draft budget options

Following challenge from Members, the Committee were provided with reassurance that the financial modelling used within the transformation plans for Children's Services would provide financial savings by achieving improved outcomes for young people and their families. For example, through new models of working, young people could be prevented from coming into care and foster care placement disruption could be avoided.

The Committee resolved:

1. The Committee considered the draft revenue budget proposals relating to the remit of the Committee in order to formally report to the Cabinet on the policy proposals.
2. The Committee noted that consultation would be undertaken on all new 2021/22 policy proposals and that feedback would be presented to the Cabinet on 9 December 2020.
3. The Committee noted that further savings proposals would be presented to the Cabinet on 9 December 2020 in order for a balanced budget to be delivered by February 2021, and that these would be reported to a future meeting of the Committee for consultation.

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Signed:

Councillor M. Statham

Councillor Mark Statham
Chair - Children's Services Overview and
Scrutiny Committee

Signed:



Sally Rowe
Executive Director -
Children's Services

Draft Revenue Budget 2020/21 – 2023/24

Recommendations of the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee following Budget Consultation - 19 November 2020 **Summary of report**

This report presents the comments and recommendations from the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee following consideration of the draft revenue budget proposals for consultation for 2021/22 to 2023/24 at the Committee's meeting on 19 November 2020. This will enable consideration by Cabinet on 9 December 2020.

All overview and scrutiny committees have received the draft revenue budget proposals for consultation in respect of the portfolio of services falling within their remit.

Any changes to these options, following consultation, will be reported to a future meeting of the Committee, providing an opportunity to make further recommendations to Cabinet. Cabinet are requested to consider the feedback contained within this report in formulating their draft budget proposals.

Response to the draft budget options

Deputy Leader of the Council and Regeneration

P6: Re-profile the highway maintenance mainstream budget for 2021/22

A Member sought clarification regarding the re-profile of the highway maintenance budget for 2021/22. In response, the Executive Director confirmed that the re-profile would allow the Council to manage cash flow and revenue expenditure. This was confirmed as a temporary 1 year only saving due to the extraordinary circumstances of the pandemic.

P8: Increased capitalisation of highway works

A Member sought clarification regarding the increased capitalisation of highway works. In response, the Interim Director of Place confirmed that this increase capitalisation was created as a result classification changes for highway works from revenue to capital expenditure. Due to the saving, there needed to be a long-term focus and monitoring on the condition of highways especially if the condition of highways deteriorated.

Deputy Leader of the Council and Resilient Communities

Ref: 20 - Unauthorised Encampment Works

A Member welcomed the increased expenditure with Unauthorised Encampments. However, there were concerns about the one-off investment as there was still a high number of vulnerable sites across the Borough. The Executive Director confirmed that whilst it was confirmed as a 100k cost pressure in 2021/22, the base budget would be adjusted in future years too.

P14: Bereavement Services – The sale of keepsake memorials and a range of personal memorabilia

A Member sought clarification proposal 14. The Executive Director confirmed that the sale of memorials and memorabilia would enable the Council to offer the service for individuals and families suffering bereavements.

OP102: Restructure and efficiencies within Regulatory Services and Community Protection

A Member sought clarification regarding the restructure and efficiencies with Regulatory Services and Community Protection. The Executive Director responded that the Council was developing a resilient communities model under the Economy, Environment & Communities directorate. As a result, the model would encompass a number of services from across the Council including Regulatory Services and Libraries to make greater efficiencies and savings overall.

OP103: Review of existing fees and charges within resilient communities

Member sought clarification in regard to review of existing fees and charges. The Executive Director informed that a detailed plan of the changes with fees and charges would be circulated to the Committee in writing.

The Committee resolved:

1. The Committee considered the draft revenue budget proposals relating to the remit of the Committee in order to formally report to the Cabinet on the policy proposals.
2. The Committee noted that consultation would be undertaken on all new 2021/22 policy proposals and that feedback would be presented to the Cabinet on 9 December 2020.
3. The Committee noted that further savings proposals would be presented to the Cabinet on 9 December 2020 in order for a balanced budget to be delivered by February 2021, and that these would be reported to a future meeting of the Committee for consultation.

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Signed:



Councillor L Harrison
Chair, Economy and Environment Overview and
Scrutiny Committee

Signed:



Simon Neilson
Executive Director
Economy and Environment

Draft Revenue Budget 2020/21 – 2023/24

Recommendations of the Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee following Budget Consultation - 26 November 2020

Summary of report

This report presents the comments and recommendations from the Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee following consideration of the draft revenue budget proposals for consultation for 2021/22 to 2023/24 at the Committee's meeting on 26th November 2020. This will enable consideration by Cabinet on 9 December 2020.

All overview and scrutiny committees have received the draft revenue budget proposals for consultation in respect of the portfolio of services falling within their remit.

Any changes to these options, following consultation, will be reported to a future meeting of the Committee, providing an opportunity to make further recommendations to Cabinet. Cabinet are requested to consider the feedback contained within this report in formulating their draft budget proposals.

Response to the draft budget options

The Committee were provided with further detail on the key proposals within the Adult Social Care budget. Members acknowledged that, the announcement in relation to the Better Care Fund, was historically late and this made planning difficult. It was also noted that the proposal '*P10 Charge self funders to arrange care via adult social care*' would now be progressed in the financial year 2022/23.

Following challenge in relation to – '*OP91 Reduction of day care funded by direct payments*' - the Committee were informed that the pandemic had provided opportunities for individuals to explore alternative options to the traditional day care centres. In response to concern that, whilst individuals had adapted to alternative options during the pandemic, people may be keen to return to their 'normal activities'. The Committee were provided with reassurance that individual needs and preferences would be assessed through support plans.

Members also sought clarification on '*OP97 Review of all resources including Goscote and shared lives*'. The Committee were provided with clarification that resources would be reviewed to ensure a focus on re-ablement activity; however, it was acknowledged that more traditional support would be needed by some individuals.

The Panel Resolved:

That:

1. The Committee considered the draft revenue budget proposals relating to the remit of the Committee in order to formally report to the Cabinet on the policy proposals.

2. The Committee noted that consultation would be undertaken on all new 2021/22 policy proposals and that feedback would be presented to the Cabinet on 9 December 2020.
3. The Committee noted that further savings proposals would be presented to the Cabinet on 9 December 2020 in order for a balanced budget to be delivered by February 2021, and that these would be reported to a future meeting of the Committee for consultation.

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K. Hussain

Councillor K Hussain
Chair, Social Care and Health Overview and
Scrutiny Committee

Signed:



Kerrie Allward
Executive Director
Adult Social Care

Draft Revenue Budget 2020/21 – 2023/24

Recommendations of the Scrutiny Overview Committee following Budget Consultation – 1 December 2020

Summary of report

This report presents the comments and recommendations from the Scrutiny Overview Committee following consideration of the draft revenue budget proposals for consultation for 2021/22 to 2023/24 at the Committee's meeting on 1 December 2020. This will enable consideration by Cabinet on 9 December 2020.

All overview and scrutiny committees have received the draft revenue budget proposals for consultation in respect of the portfolio of services falling within their remit.

Any changes to these options, following consultation, will be reported to a future meeting of the Committee, providing an opportunity to make further recommendations to Cabinet. Cabinet are requested to consider the feedback contained within this report in formulating their draft budget proposals.

Response to the draft budget options

Covid-19 Impact

The Committee sought to understand the potential impact on the in-year budget of Covid-19 and how this may impact future years. The loss of income and additional spending were discussed along with the potential best and worst case scenarios.

Budget proposals for services within the remit of the committee

Members considered the budget proposals for services within the remit of the committee. This covered proposals from the following portfolios:

- Leader
- Deputy Leader (Regeneration)
- Deputy Leader (Resilient Communities)
- Personnel and Business Support

As part of the presentation from Cabinet Members clarity was provided on the allocation and use of funding for the Towns Fund.

Council-wide proposals

The Committee heard from the Leader on overall financial position and noted that further savings proposals were required to present a balanced budget to Council.

The Committee received feedback on the budget scrutiny that had taken place at the remaining Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

It was reported the Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee had discussed changes to the allocation of the adult social care budget.

The Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee had considered proposals to make changes to the Home to School Transport Service.

The Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee sought to understand the ambitions transformation programme and new models of working that were proposed.

An overview of the budget discussions from the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee was provided.

The Panel Resolved:

The draft revenue budget 2021/22 – 2023/24 be noted.

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John Murray

Councillor John Murray
Chair, Scrutiny Overview Committee

Signed:



Deborah Hindson
Executive Director
Resources and Transformation

Appendix 2: 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				
Memorial Safety Management in Cemeteries (<i>Economy, Env and communities</i>)	The continued inspection and making safe of memorials in Walsall cemeteries and to discharge the council's duty of care within the cemeteries. Increased safety of memorials benefits the residents of Walsall by delivering a safer environment within Walsall cemeteries.	20,000	20,000	20,000
Highways Maintenance Programme (<i>Economy, Env and communities</i>)	As Highway Authority the Council has a legal responsibility to maintain the highway network. Failure to do so inevitably leads to a deterioration of our roads, increasing the likelihood of accidents and would ultimately expose the council to increased risk of third party claims.	2,800,000	2,800,000	2,800,000
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.	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.	75,000	75,000	75,000
Health & Safety (<i>Council Wide</i>)	Provision for urgent schemes to meet health and safety regulations.	250,000	250,000	250,000
Funding to support essential works including health and safety, and other projects that cannot be programmed at start of year (<i>Council Wide</i>)	1: Asbestos removal - the authority is required by legislation to manage asbestos within its properties and to remove to comply with health & safety legislation. 2: Statutory testing of gas and electrical systems in buildings. 3: Control of Legionella - statutory requirement to test all water systems and undertake upgrades and improvements as required. 4: Fire Risk Assessment - statutory requirement to ensure compliance with health & safety. 5: Demolition of redundant buildings to provide saleable assets and increase market value of sites. 6: General repair & maintenance of buildings, historic buildings, aiding relocations. 7: Self-insured property damage – insurance excess. 8: Risk Management - unforeseeable events.	750,000	750,000	750,000
Total Rolling Programme Schemes		4,295,000	4,295,000	4,295,000
Prior Year Approvals				
Traffic Signals Infrastructure (<i>Economy, Env and communities</i>)	The Council has a statutory duty to maintain all its traffic signal infrastructure. This programme of planned pedestrian crossing replacements will ensure the safe and efficient movement of pedestrians across the borough (Traffic Mgt Act 2004). Also supports delivery of councils CO2 reduction targets.	200,000	200,000	200,000
Provision of Community Dropped Crossings (<i>Economy, Env and communities</i>)	These are dropped kerbs at strategic points along footways which permit access for wheelchairs, pushchairs, mobility scooters etc. to cross roads. The investment will allow the Council to provide a rolling programme of community crossing points.	20,000	20,000	20,000

Capital Scheme	Detail of Capital investment	2021/22 £	2022/23 £	2023/24 £
Promotion of Community Health and Road Safety <i>(Economy, Env and communities)</i>	To fund road safety schemes, to address local community concerns, which fail to achieve the strategic priorities associated with the Local Transport Plan funding in terms of casualty reduction. In supporting the delivery of these local schemes it is possible to improve local quality of life and safety creating safer communities. Year 4 of 4.	120,000	0	0
Open Water Safety Schemes - Signage etc. <i>(Economy, Env and communities)</i>	Health and safety upgrades to Council owned open water sites per the Council's proposed open water policy. Year 4 of 4.	2,000	0	0
M6 Junction 10 - Widening of Bridges <i>(Economy, Env and communities)</i>	Walsall Council is working in partnership with Highways England to improve Junction 10 of the M6 motorway. The scheme will include the widening of the existing bridges over the motorway to improve traffic flow and reduce congestion. In addition improvements will be made to the junction of A454 Wolverhampton Road/Bloxwich Lane/Tempus Drive and the A454 Black Country Route.	0	650,000	0
Walsall Arboretum Extension and County Park - Infrastructure Improvements <i>(Economy, Env and communities)</i>	To widen and resurface the main footpath running from the Grange Car Park to the children's play area and historic core of the park, to replace the currently used wheelie bins and to improve access into and around the country park area.	190,000	0	0
New Rail Stations at Willenhall, Darlaston and Aldridge - local 10% contribution <i>(Economy, Env and communities)</i>	The new rail stations at Darlaston and Willenhall are promoted by WMCA/TfWM and WMRE at an estimated total package cost of £50m based on the preliminary design. A local contribution of 10% is required at the request of WMCA, which currently amounts to circa £4.93m. The Council has made provision for an element of this contribution and is negotiating with other strategic stakeholders, such as the Black Country LEP, to match fund.	1,500,000	1,500,000	0
Yorks Bridge (Top Up) <i>(Economy, Env and communities)</i>	Yorks Bridge has suffered over recent decades and the bridge is currently the subject of a 7.5 tonne weight limit. The replacement scheme will be funded using a combination of WMBC capital funding and the Department for Transport Maintenance Block.	0	750,000	750,000
Town Centre Strategic Acquisition for Third Sector Hub <i>(Resources)</i>	Purchase of accommodation in Walsall Town Centre to support the formation of a third sector co-located hub and provide additional office accommodation for the Council to support its ongoing rationalisation of its operational estate. Year 3 of 3. As approved by Cabinet March 2019.	219,373	0	0
Regional Materials Recycling Facility Project <i>(Economy, Env and communities)</i>	Cabinet on 4 September 2019 approved for the council to enter into a Joint Working Arrangement with 5 partner councils in order to facilitate the delivery stage of a local authority owned Materials Recycling Facility.	4,758,000	2,722,000	0
Enterprise Zones <i>(Economy, Env and communities)</i>	Required for the Council to cash-flow borrowing costs associated with capital investment into the Enterprise Zone. Financial modelling forecasts that these costs are expected to be recovered from future business rates generated from within the zone, although the Black Country LEP are the decision making body in relation to where business rates within the zone are invested. Therefore on the basis that the BCLEP approve that costs on Walsall sites can be recovered through the business rates mechanism, then the Council will only be required to cash-flow these costs.	2,937,001	13,938,273	4,072,473

Capital Scheme	Detail of Capital investment	2021/22 £	2022/23 £	2023/24 £
Council House windows <i>(Resources)</i>	Replace aged windows within the council house.	1,307,025	0	0
Civic Centre Plumbing - non heating related <i>(Resources)</i>	Essential works of planned / programme maintenance given age of existing supply / parts.	66,600	0	0
Council House general heating <i>(Resources)</i>	Upgrading of council house heating systems.	1,085,000	0	0
Upgrade of CCTV Cameras <i>(Resources)</i>	Upgrade of cameras in Bloxwich, Leamore, Willenhall, Darlaston, Palfrey, and Caldmore. 10 x New Redeployable Cameras plus costs for 5 years.	200,000	0	0
School Estate Condition Survey <i>(Children's)</i>	Ongoing provision to cover school conditions. Part allocation from 2020/21 proposed to be carried forward to 2021/22.	79,300	250,000	250,000
School Temporary Classrooms <i>(Children's)</i>	Ongoing provision for improving / replacing permanent mobile classrooms when they reach a state of disrepair. This has been held corporately to fund emergency costs arising.	250,000	250,000	250,000
Children's Locality Model <i>(Children's)</i>	The Children's Services Right 4 Children Transformation Programme is looking to connect services and professionals by integrating staff into the communities using a locality model of working to help develop a stronger approach in helping young children, young people and their families in partnership with the voluntary and community sector. The intention is to move Social workers within Children's Social Care into locality areas across the borough with Early Help Services already based in 4 well established localities. Wherever possible, the aim is to use current operational buildings in order to keep costs to a minimum.	TBC	0	0
Council House Roof Repairs <i>(Resources)</i>	Replace roof as it is at the end of its life, plus timber repairs.	750,000	750,000	0
Replacement of 'tablet' technology <i>(Resources)</i>	A 'tablet rollout' programme was completed during 2019 enabling agile working and the adoption of Office 365, with replacement starting in 2022.	0	2,250,000	2,250,000
Smartphones <i>(Resources)</i>	Current mobile phone devices will require replacement beginning in 2021/22. Out of life devices will not receive security patches nor upgrades to the android operating system - will result in 'apps' not being updated, including 'outlook app' used to receive email.	200,000	200,000	0
Proud card payments, digital website etc) <i>(Resources)</i>	To ensure the council remains PCI compliant and allows for citizens to pay for services on line.	250,000	250,000	0
Maintaining a safe and secure environment <i>(Resources)</i>	Hardware & software upgrades to maintain compliance for current standards e.g. BACS software & open banking compliance.	100,000	200,000	200,000
Total Prior Year Approvals		14,234,299	23,930,273	7,992,473
Current Year Approvals (2020/21)				
Waste Management Strategy <i>(Economy, Env and communities)</i>	Strategic Acquisition of property to support the future delivery of the Council's Waste Management strategies.	8,890,338	3,004,788	0
Total Current Year Approvals		8,890,338	3,004,788	0

Capital Scheme	Detail of Capital investment	2021/22 £	2022/23 £	2023/24 £
Proud investment				
Bloxwich Active Living Centre landing development (<i>Economy, Env and communities</i>)	Development of landing and office space to extend fitness suite, create bespoke indoor cycle studio, and install virtual instructor will deliver c.£90k per annum additional income.	0	170,000	0
Total Proud investment		0	170,000	0
New Capital Schemes – Health and Safety				
Walsall Gala pool filters (<i>Economy, Env and communities</i>)	Filters clean the pool water, with all of the 1.4 million litres of water passing through them every 6 hours. Project proposal is to replace current failing system with ceramic filters (new technology) which offer efficiency savings, energy savings, and are fully portable.	104,000	0	0
Brine pool air handling (<i>Economy, Env and communities</i>)	The air handling system supplying the brine pool has been recommended for replacement.	65,000	0	0
Health and Safety	Additional funding to support new health and safety works / security measures / social distancing measures during Covid-19.	332,000	0	0
Total Capital Schemes – Health and Safety		501,000	0	0
New Capital Schemes – Council Infrastructure				
Computer Aided Facilities management system (<i>Resources</i>)	To provide a comprehensive computer based integrated system to manage repairs, minor and major works, stock condition, financial modelling, asset evaluation, new build evaluation, contract management, DLO module for staff allocation such as direct labour and soft FM caretaking and cleaning, asset management property records, valuation toll, gis integration, finance loading of invoicing, statutory compliance, asbestos etc.	250,000	100,000	0
Total Capital Schemes – Council Infrastructure		250,000	100,000	0
Total Draft Capital Programme – Council Funded Schemes		28,170,637	31,500,061	12,287,474

Appendix 3: Draft Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2023/24 – Externally Funded Schemes

Capital Scheme	Detail of Capital investment	2021/22 £	2022/23 £	2023/24 £
Growth Deal <i>(Economy, Env and communities)</i>	The Black Country Growth Deal, 'Made in the Black Country, Sold around the World', was agreed with Government in July 2014. The Growth Deal will create the skills, connections and locations for further high value manufacturing success and support growth in the Black Country's automotive, aerospace and construction sectors. To date the programme has committed c£148m and received claims c£77m. It has contracted 3,532 jobs excluding apprenticeships and over 6,000 including them (Dep't of Communities & Local Gov). In January 2019 the Black Country Joint Committee appointed Walsall Council as its Single Accountable Body, as a result the balance of the Growing Places Fund (£5.4m) was transferred from Sandwell Council, with the funds to be used to over-programme Growth Deal.	0	5,439,498	0
LTP Highway Maintenance Programme <i>(Economy, Env and communities)</i>	This capital funding, known as the maintenance block, is distributed by the Integrated Transport Authority (ITA).As the Highway Authority we have an extremely high profile duty to maintain our highway network. This money is provided, by DfT as a capital grant via the ITA with the condition that it should be spent on the classified road network. (Department for Transport via ITA).	1,943,000	1,943,000	1,943,000
Pothole Fund <i>(Economy, Env and communities)</i>	This capital funding, known as Pothole Action fund, is distributed by the Integrated Transport Authority (ITA), specifically to repair pothole or to prevent them forming in the first place. Funding is based upon a formula using road length data.	154,600	154,600	154,600
West Midlands Strategic Transport Plan (STP) 'Movement for Growth' <i>(Economy, Env and communities)</i>	The Government provides each locality with grant funding to help implement the Local Transport Plan in their area. The grant is used for the implementation of small scale capital schemes; development of major capital schemes and to part fund major schemes implementation costs. The programme is designed to address road safety issues, progress the Council's major scheme aspirations; and resource the required 'local contributions' to approved major schemes. (Department for Transport / West Midlands ITA).	1,276,300	1,276,300	1,276,300
Land and Property Investment Fund <i>(Economy, Env and communities)</i>	In January 2019 the Black Country Joint Committee appointed Walsall Council as its Single Accountable Body, as a result the Land and Property Investment Fund transferred from Wolverhampton Council. This is a grant which is part of the Investment Programme of the West Midlands Combined Authority for Black Country brownfield sites, and is drawn down in arrears. The Black Country LEP has agreed to deliver 1,860 new jobs, 1,600 new houses and 126,000 sqm of commercial floorspace through deployment of the first tranche (£53m) of the total fund allocated to the Black Country LEP (£150m in total).	8,548,000	0	0
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.	2,894,013	2,894,013	2,894,013
Integrated Community Equipment Store (ICES) <i>(Resources)</i>	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

Capital Scheme	Detail of Capital investment	2021/22 £	2022/23 £	2023/24 £
Basic Need <i>(Children's)</i>	Paid to LAs to support the capital requirement for providing new pupil places by expanding existing maintained schools, free schools or academies, and establishing new schools.	1,319,871	1,319,871	1,319,871
Devolved Formula Capital <i>(Children's)</i>	Received by the LA then allocated out to individual schools as per allocations defined by the DfE. It is intended to provide schools with capital funding for improvement to buildings and other facilities, including ICT, or capital repairs / refurbishments and minor works. (Department for Education).	514,854	514,854	514,854
Capital Maintenance <i>(Children's)</i>	Allocated to the LA on an annual basis to improve and maintain the condition of the school estate (buildings and grounds). Investment is prioritised on keeping school buildings safe and in good working order by tackling poor building condition, building compliance, energy efficiency, and health and safety issues. (Dept for Education).	1,917,799	1,917,799	1,917,799
School Nursery Capital Fund – Goldsmith <i>(Children's)</i>	The Project: A new build, Option 2 creating 16 additional full time nursery places and holiday provision on the Goldsmith Primary Academy site, Goldsmith Road, Walsall WS3 1DI. Approved by Cabinet 20/03/2019 and 18/03/2020.	991,550	0	0
Get Britain Building Fund <i>(Resources)</i>	Funding of £66m was awarded to the WMCA by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, from what is now known as the 'Get Britain Building Fund'. This fund is seen as one of many platforms to enable the Covid-19 recovery plan across the country and boost local economies. Projects submitted must be deemed Value for Money (VfM) with a strong Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR), 'Shovel Ready' with planning permission approved and able to deliver within an 18-month timescale. Two of these projects were Black Country projects, and the WMCA are passporting the funds for these two projects (NBI and VLR) to Walsall Council as the Single Accountable Body for the BCLEP. £13m in 2020/21.	17,447,800	0	0
Total Draft Capital Programme - Externally Funded Schemes		37,817,787	16,269,935	10,830,437

Appendix 4: 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.	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.	75,000	75,000	75,000
Cemetery & Crematorium - replacement roads and pathways, along with selected pothole works (<i>Economy, Env and communities</i>)	The bid is to fund the pro-active repairs of roads and pathways. The council manages in excess of 125 acres of cemetery land in eight cemeteries. The repairs would be scheduled on a priority basis dependent on footfall and condition.	100,000	100,000	100,000
Registry Office Phase 2 - redesign to reception and ceremony areas (<i>Economy, Env and communities</i>)	Access by the public to the facilities is divided without internal public access. The small reception area for all appointments, births and death registration as well as marriage notices, is located on one side of the ceremony rooms. Access to offices for taking notices of marriage is on the other side. Customers are required to leave the reception and go around the outside of the building to these offices. The relocation has the potential for the main ceremony room to be upgraded and extended to provide room for larger marriage ceremonies. This will generate increased income and offer an appealing choice of marriage venue.	350,000	0	0
Oak Park meeting room remodel - Spend to Save (<i>Economy, Env and communities</i>)	Opportunity to remodel the vacant office area to income generating facilities (meeting room).	50,000	0	0
Cloud 2 - goods and services (<i>Resources</i>)	Further work expected following the outcome of the Walsall Proud Programme in relation to ICT transformation and cloud migration programme.	500,000	0	0
Darlaston Boilers (<i>Economy, Env and communities</i>)	Boiler replacement (all hot water and heating).	250,000	0	0
Total Draft Capital Programme – Council Funded Schemes Reserve List		1,575,000	425,000	425,000