

INFORMATION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
MANAGEMENT TEAM	ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE	24 JANUARY 2023	18
CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING REPORT 2022/23 – POSITION AS AT 30 NOVEMBER 2022			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the approved Capital Programme of the Council as at 30th November 2022 and specifically for those schemes under the remit of the Committee.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

The report is based upon information extracted from the financial ledger system of the Council for the period to 30 November 2022 and updates provided by budget holders.

LINK TO INFORMATION

Capital Programme Monitoring Report to 30th November 2022:

<http://www.fylde.gov.uk/council/finance/budget-monitoring/>

WHY IS THIS INFORMATION BEING GIVEN TO THE COMMITTEE?

This information is provided to enable the Committee to consider and scrutinise the Capital Programme monitoring reports for those schemes under the remit of the Committee.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide an in-year progress update in respect of those schemes within the Capital Programme that have been approved for delivery in 2022/23, together with an update on the overall Five-Year Capital Programme of the Council. This report includes a narrative description of some of the more significant schemes within the Capital Programme and details any risks and the actions required to address these. Appendix A to this report provides an update by Committee on schemes scheduled for commencement or delivery in 2022/23. Appendix B provides a summary of the latest position for the 5-year Capital Programme and Appendix C provides details of the financing of the programme.

1. Background

The Council approved the Capital Programme on 3rd March 2022. That update showed a balanced capital programme position from 2021/22 onwards. This report includes year to date expenditure and sets out the latest phasing of the programme and any additions or changes since the capital programme was presented to Council in March 2022. The Programme has also been rolled forward to include the year 2026/27.

2. Notes on Specific Schemes

There are a number of schemes for which further information is provided below:

(i) Town Centre Regeneration Kirkham

Following the Government's Future High Street funding initiative (FHSF), the Planning Committee resolved, in the autumn of 2019, to choose Kirkham Town Centre as its choice to pursue any bids for funding under the scheme. The first opportunity, being part of the broader FHSF, named the High Street Heritage Action Zone initiative (HS HAZ) was launched. This was a competitive process and seeks to enhance the historic environment of high streets that have conservation area status. Following the expansion of the funding for the scheme, due to unprecedented bids from a national perspective, the Kirkham bid proved to be successful, following a recommendation to Government from Historic England (HE). HE is the body responsible for administering the scheme. The grant award is £1.8m and will be match funded from a number of sources including Fylde Council, Kirkham Town Council and Section 106 payments for public realm improvements attributed to residential planning permissions. The scheme will run over 4 years, commencing in April 2020, and includes a wide range of projects.

In line with many other authorities, due to COVID 19, the implementation of the scheme has been delayed and a revised project plan, which sets out the projects to be delivered and the associated funding, has been agreed with Historic England.

A further bid for £9.1m was also submitted under the main body of the Future High Street Fund during 2020 and proposed to deliver a number of schemes across the whole of the town centre including the re-purposing of buildings, traffic management measures, building reuse and enhancement and public realm projects. This was once again a competitive process. The bid was well founded, and the economic case was very strong. In April 2021 an award of £6.29m for the Kirkham scheme was announced from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) which was approved at Council on the 5th July 2021. A report was approved by Planning Committee and Council in December 2021 to authorise various property acquisitions as part of the project.

The Kirkham Futures Regeneration Programme, which encompasses the funding streams identified above is a complex multi-stranded programme with strict delivery timeframes. As such the Programme has been added to the Council's Strategic Risk Register in order that the identified risks can be managed.

(ii) St Annes Sea Wall

St Annes Seawall is 660m long and was constructed in 1935. It reduces the risk of coastal erosion and flooding to over 400 properties. The seawall surrounds The Island, which is one of three strategic headlands which are critical to maintaining healthy beaches, dunes and reducing the risk of coastal erosion along Fylde Council's frontage. St

Annes Seawall is at the end of its design life and is in poor condition; it is cracking and crumbling and is subject to ongoing repairs and maintenance. Voids have previously been identified resulting in settlement of the promenade. The crest level is low and overtopping during storms results in damage to the promenade and flooding of the car park, swimming pool and fitness centre plant room, and flooding up to the thresholds of the cinema, casino, amusement, and restaurant complex.

In 2020 the council was awarded £300k Pipeline acceleration funding to develop the St Annes Seawall Outline Business Case. Following this a bid has now been submitted to the Environment Agency formally for their appraisal and consideration and if EA funding is approved the planning phase will commence consisting of technical surveys including topographical, geotechnical, detailed design, ecological and bird surveys and an environmental impact assessment. It will include securing all the necessary licenses, consents and approvals including: Marine License, Planning Permission and Environment Agency Flood Risk Activity Permit (FRAP) licence. The scheme will be in the sum of £11.8m funded by Environment Agency grant of £9.5m and the Council's contribution of £2.3m towards the total project cost which was approved at Council on the 5th July 2021. EA have now approved the scheme and the final award is a total scheme cost of £12.1m funded by EA Grant of £9.7m and the Council's contribution of £2.4m. This has now been reflected within the capital programme. Following the planning phase, it is proposed to start the construction in 2 phases. Phase 1 is anticipated to commence in Autumn 2023 and complete in late Spring 2024. Phase 2 will commence in Autumn 2024 and complete late Spring 2025 to minimise business disruption.

(iii) Fairhaven Lake and Gardens Heritage Lottery Scheme

In December 2018, the Council was notified that it had been successful in securing the second round capital grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund in the sum of £1.4m for the restoration of Fairhaven Lake & Gardens, with further match funding provided by Fylde Council and other external financial contributions. All capital works apart from the lake package were completed in September 2021, with the defect period and all snags due to be completed by the end of November 2022. The refurbished buildings are all now in use, with the new interpretation and activity scheme in place. The final evaluation report for the project is available on request.

The final package of works to be completed is the lake infrastructure and dredge. Design work is ongoing with the package ready for tender in January 2023, all work is due to be completed by April 2023. Until the scheme is fully delivered there remains the possibility of additional contract costs beyond those in the approved budget.

(iv) St Annes Regeneration Schemes

The next section of works has been agreed along St. Annes Road West between The Pier and The Square (known as the Square-Pier Link). A scheme designed to the available budget was presented and approved by Planning Committee, but the Regeneration Manager was asked to look at extending the scheme, potentially widening pavements to provide an enhanced pedestrian ambience and increased paving space capacity to absorb high levels of footfall that is encountered at peak times. As matters stand, the potential for achieving these enhancements to the scheme is being discussed with Lancashire County Council as any further amendments would have to be agreed, since there would be changes to the highway configuration. It is now proposed to pursue the scheme as part of a wider programme of works in the town centre following the preparation of a masterplan which has been commissioned.

(v) Lytham Regeneration Schemes

Work has commenced on the redesign and re-planning of the public realm of Lytham Centre. The Corporate Plan currently programmes the commencement of the Clifton Street Works (£750k) during 2022/23. Additional funding has been applied for as part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) submission, the outcome of which is expected in October/November. The UK SPF funding award will be phased and so delivery of the project will need to be reviewed accordingly. The Lytham Beach Lighting Scheme (£50k) is programmed for delivery during the current financial year.

(vi) Better Care Fund (Formerly Disabled Facilities Grants)

As the local housing authority, the Council has a statutory duty to provide disabled adaptations within the Borough. In order to fund these works the Council receives grant support which previously was provided by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). From 2015/16 the Government established the 'Better Care Fund', and under these new arrangements the funding for Disabled Facilities Grants transferred to the Department of Health, with funding being distributed to all Councils via the upper-tier authority for that area. As such, in Lancashire the fund is administered by Lancashire County Council. Each upper-tier authority then allocates the funding to their respective housing authorities (i.e. district councils within their area) to enable them to continue to meet this statutory responsibility.

The level of government funding has increased significantly under the 'Better Care Fund' arrangements and the budget for 2022/23 (including slippage) totals £1.503m which provides for the delivery of disabled adaptations. It is anticipated that for 2022/23 all identified need for disabled adaptations can be met from the existing resource.

(vii) M55 Link Road (Inc. S106 monies for design work)

The accelerated delivery of the £27m M55 Heyhouses Link Road is subject to a funding package made up from a number of sources. This funding is now in place and work has started on site with the earthworks being the first phase. The road will then be constructed by Lancashire County Council's in-house team and is due for completion in early 2024. It is expected that LCC will require the funding to be transferred to them during the latter stages of the project and so is likely to be spent during 2022/23.

(viii) St Annes Masterplan – Levelling Up Fund Capital Bid Submission Round 2 - £14.6m

A Levelling Up Fund capital bid was submitted on the 27th July 2022 for £14.6m and the outcome is expected in Autumn 2022. Consultants were appointed to prepare a comprehensive masterplan to shape the future development of St Annes Town centre and the Island site on the Promenade and to help the Council to access external funding. The views of the public and key stakeholders have been sought during a consultation exercise and these views had helped to shape the development of the masterplan. A bid was prepared and submitted to the second round of the governments Levelling Up fund. The round had three investment themes being transport; regeneration and town centre investment, and cultural investment. There was an opportunity to secure funding to help deliver different phases of the masterplan, in particular the public realm improvement to the area around the train station, dedicated pedestrian and cycle links, an events space in the Square and improving the connection to the town centre and the sea front. If successful it is expected that the bid will deliver a transformation of the town centre with 4 hectares of new public realm and 460 metres of active travel links, encouraging increased walking and cycling and an enhanced events programme to increase both day and overnight visitors to Fylde.

3 Conclusions

- 3.1 Actual expenditure to 30th November 2022 is £2.609m against a full year budget of £18.637m. This equates to 14.0% of the latest budget. Progress on the delivery of a number of schemes has been delayed due to the continuing economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic, together with supply chain challenges and higher inflation leading to a review on the original costings of capital schemes. This is noted as appropriate in the analysis at Appendix A. Consequently, the phasing of some schemes may have to be adjusted or re-phased into 2023/24 as part of the information that is provided from budget holders on a scheme-by-scheme basis and this will be reflected in future Financial Forecast updates during the year.
- 3.2 UK CPI was 0.7% in March 2021 but thereafter began to steadily increase. Initially driven by energy price effects and by inflation in sectors such as retail and hospitality which were re-opening after the pandemic lockdowns, inflation then was believed to be temporary. Thereafter price rises slowly became more widespread, as a combination of rising global costs and strong demand was exacerbated by supply shortages and transport dislocations. The surge in wholesale gas and electricity prices led to elevated inflation expectations. CPI for November 2022 registered 10.7% year on year, down from 11.1% in October 2022.

Increasing inflation is exerting significant upward pressure on prices for utilities and on supplies and services across all sectors of the economy, which in turn increases the base costs for both revenue and capital budget items. The situation is particularly acute in the construction sector where supply chain issues and price increases are combining to put increased risks on the delivery of capital programme schemes. This is likely to be a continuing issue for the Council during 2022/23 and this has resulted in current scheme delays and reviews on scheme costings.

- 3.3 Capital Receipts to date total £99,321 against a total in year budgeted figure of £100,000 made up of Right to Buy Receipts and General Asset Sales. Any changes to this will be reflected in future Financial Forecast updates during the year.
- 3.4 The current Capital Programme as updated is showing a balanced position for 2022/23 onwards. The Capital Programme and the associated financing will be subject to discussion with Members during the months in the lead up to the annual budget setting process for 2023/24.
- 3.5 Any additional expenditure which is not fully funded by external finance would normally require the generation of capital receipts or further borrowing (the latter placing further pressure on the Revenue Budget from the consequent repayment costs). However, Budget Council on 4th March 2013 approved the creation of a Capital Investment Reserve to finance future capital expenditure. The balance of this reserve at 31st March 2022 was £6.094m. Of this £2.835m is already committed to deliver existing approved capital schemes leaving an uncommitted balance of £3.259m. A further budgeted contribution into the reserve of £0.568m in 2022/23 and £0.176m in 2023/24 was reported in the latest Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) forecast presented in November 2022, which would result in an unallocated balance on the reserve at 31st March 2024 of £4.003m. The estimated transfer in is subject to change as costs and income will undoubtedly fluctuate over the next 2 financial years.

To Note: Council in July 2022 approved the underwriting to the sum of £942,589 for 2022/2023 financial year from the Capital Investment Reserve in the event that approval is not ultimately confirmed from the Future High Street Fund team at DLUHC for the Kirkham Futures programme for Public Realm phase 1 works (this underwriting being required in order for the contract to be awarded for delivery of the public realm works) so the potential Capital Investment Reserve balance would be £3.060m if approval from DLUHC was not ultimately received.

An updated position in respect of the Capital Investment Reserve will be included within future updates of the Financial Forecast presented to the Finance and Democracy Committee and to Council. Additional future projects will be subject to further consideration as part of the budget setting process for 2023/24. Whilst it remains the case that this reserve is the preferred source of finance for any further additions to the Capital Programme, continuing contributions to the reserve are required in order to maintain a sustainable funding source for future years.

Attached:

Appendix A

Appendix B

Appendix C

Appendix D