

INFORMATION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
MANAGEMENT TEAM	FINANCE AND DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE	7 OCTOBER 2021	10
CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING REPORT 2021/22 – POSITION AS AT 31st JULY 2021			

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 31st July 2021 and specifically for those schemes under the remit of the Committee.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

Chief Financial Officer – the report is based upon information extracted from the financial ledger system of the Council for the period to 31st July 2021.

LINK TO INFORMATION

Capital Programme Monitoring Report to 31st July 2021:

<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 2021/22, 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 2021/22. 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 4th March 2021. That update showed a balanced capital programme position from 2020/21 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 2021. The Programme has also been rolled forward to include the year 2025/26.

2. Notes on Specific Schemes

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

(i) 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 were 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.

(ii) 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. Works have progressed throughout 2020/21 albeit at a reduced pace as a result of the pandemic and the Adventure Golf is now complete and open to the public and the restoration works are due to be completed during the summer of 2021.

Until the scheme is fully delivered there remains the possibility of additional contract costs beyond those in the approved budget.

(iii) 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. The appointment of consultants to complete this work is currently in the tender process.

(iv) Lytham Regeneration Schemes

In respect of the large capital scheme for Lytham town centre, a number of suggestions have been made by the Lytham Business Group and other parties, some of which require careful consideration along with agencies such as

Lancashire County Council. Options are being considered involving local members and a draft plan is being drawn together. This will have a phased programme of works to be considered in due course by the Planning Committee. It is envisaged that the first phase of work, the improvements to lighting on East, Central and West Beaches will be completed during the current financial year in line with the scheme agreed by Planning Committee in March 2021. The proposed improvements to Clifton Street are now timetabled for Q2 2022/23 in line with the Corporate Plan. Plans have been prepared and will be presented to the Town Centre Working Group at the earliest opportunity. This will enable detailed schemes to be prepared and consulted upon.

(v) 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 2021/22 of £1.236m provides for the delivery of disabled adaptations to similar levels as 2020/21. It is anticipated that for 2021/22 all identified need for disabled adaptations can be met from the existing resource.

(vi) 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.

(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.

3 Conclusions

- 3.1 Actual expenditure to 31st July 2021 is £1.190m against a full year budget of £14.620m. This equates to 8% of the latest budget. Progress on the delivery of a number of schemes has been delayed due to covid restrictions. This is noted as appropriate in the analysis at Appendix A. Consequently, the phasing of some schemes may require to be adjusted or re-phased into 2022/23 as part of future Financial Forecast updates during the year.
- 3.2 Capital Receipts total £161,575 against a total in year budgeted figure of £185,000 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.
- 3.3 The current Capital Programme as updated is showing a balanced position for 2021/22 onward. 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 2022/23.
- 3.4 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 2021 was £5.223m including the budgeted transfer into the reserve of £1.813m in respect of 2020/21. Of this £2.461m is already committed to deliver existing approved capital schemes in the year 2021/22 and a further budgeted transfer of £1.706m is estimated, leaving a forecast unallocated balance on the reserve at 31st March 2022 of £4.468m. The estimated transfers in are of course subject to change as costs and income undoubtedly fluctuate over the next 2 financial years.

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 2022/23. 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.