

CABINET – 23 APRIL 2024

CAPITAL PROGRAMME APPROVALS – APRIL 2024

Report by the Executive Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer

Recommendations

1. The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:
 - a. approve the inclusion of the £2.384m Active Travel Fund 4 Extension (ATF4e) Grant into the capital programme to deliver active travel schemes across Oxfordshire.
 - b. approve the inclusion of £1.260m grant funding from the Department for Transport Safer Roads Funds to carry out a specific package of road safety works.
 - c. approve the drawdown of £2.000m of funds from the Parking Account to reinvest into three Park and Ride sites requiring maintenance work.
 - d. approve the inclusion of Faringdon Community College, a scheme to replace temporary buildings with permanent accommodation, into the Capital Programme with an indicative budget of £6.006m to be fully funded from held & secure s106 contributions.

Executive Summary

2. The Capital Programme was approved by Council in February 2024 and updated during the year through the capital programme and monitoring reports. This report sets out change requests requiring Cabinet approval that will be incorporated into the agreed programme and included in the next update to the Capital Programme in June 2024.

Introduction

3. The Capital Programme sets out how the Council will use Capital expenditure to deliver the Council's priorities as set out in the Strategic Plan 2022-25. The Capital Programme is updated quarterly and fully refreshed annually as part of the Budget and Business Planning Process to ensure that it remains aligned to the latest priorities, reflects the latest cost projections and profile for delivery, and incorporates the current funding position.
4. On occasion, variations to the Capital programme are recommended to Cabinet. There are no variations included in this report.

Major Infrastructure

Active Travel Fund Grant 4 Extension

5. Following an unsuccessful bid submitted in February 2023, Active Travel England (ATE) extended the opportunity to those councils unsuccessful in the original bid to resubmit, resulting in Oxfordshire County Council being awarded grant funding of £2.384m.
6. The grant will fund the following schemes:
 - a. Witney – Madley Park Path Improvements
 - b. Oxford County Council School Streets Programme 4
 - c. Provision of secure cycle parking to support staff travel to Oxfordshire Hospitals
 - d. Abingdon National Cycle Network 5 (NCN5) Missing Link

Highways

United States Visiting Forces (USVF) Road Safety Project

7. Following a fatal crash near RAF Croughton (Northamptonshire), a package of road safety works was recommended by the Department for Transport at RAF bases frequently serving United States Visiting Forces. Oxfordshire County Council was subsequently awarded funding of £1.260m for these works to take place near to RAF Barford St John (Oxfordshire). This funding is in addition to the grant of £2.700m already received.

Park and Ride sites (Thornhill, Oxford Parkway and Bicester)

8. Oxfordshire County Council operates three Park and Ride sites: Thornhill (leased), Oxford Parkway (leased) and Bicester (owned). Park and Ride usage is now returning to pre-covid levels, and all three sites require maintenance to bring them back to standard. The work will be taking place over a 3-year period and will also investigate options for underused sections of each Park and Ride which may include features such as enhanced Active Travel opportunities and Supported Transport Hubs.

Property

Faringdon Community College

9. Faringdon Community College is a secondary school academy managed by Faringdon Learning Trust. This programme of work will replace 8 classrooms, currently housed in temporary buildings, with permanent accommodation to support the continued operation of the school. The project will be fully funded by held and secured s106 contributions. The scheme will be delivered in alignment with the receipt of those s106 contributions.

Financial Implications

10. The financial implications are contained within the report. Funding for the schemes mentioned in this report is to be met from secured and held s106 developer contributions and grant funding.

Comments checked by:
Lorna Baxter, Executive Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer

Staff Implications

11. There are no staffing implications arising directly from the report.

Equality & Inclusion Implications

12. There are no equality and inclusion implications arising directly from this report.

Legal Implications

13. In year changes to the capital programme must be approved by Cabinet in accordance with Financial Regulation and in particular paragraph 5.1.1(iv) permitting Cabinet to agree resource inclusion into the capital programme via a periodic Capital Report to Cabinet, based on the recommendation of the Strategic Capital Board (chaired by the Chief Executive). Comments checked by:

Paul Grant, Head of Legal and Deputy Monitoring Officer



LORNA BAXTER

Executive Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer

Background papers: none

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