

CABINET – 21 NOVEMBER 2023

CAPITAL PROGRAMME APPROVALS – NOVEMBER 2023

Report by the Executive Director of Resources & Section 151 Officer

Recommendations

1. The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:
 - a) approve £2.1m as a development budget to progress the design phase for the ‘Didcot Northern Perimeter Road Scheme 3’, a scheme already in the capital programme.
 - b) approve the submission of a bid to Active Travel England for an indicative funding amount of £2.38m for several defined active travel schemes.

Executive Summary

2. The 2023/24 – 3033/34 Capital Programme was approved by Council in February 2023 and updated in October 2023. This report sets out change requests requiring Cabinet approval that will be incorporated into the agreed programme and included in the next quarterly update to the Capital Programme in December 2023.

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. This report is recommending an increase of £1m to progress the Didcot Northern Perimeter Road Scheme 3 and approval to submit a bid for an Active Travel Scheme Fund (ATF4).

Major Infrastructure

5. Didcot Northern Perimeter Road Scheme 3 (Didcot NPR3)

The Didcot NPR3 Scheme will provide a route around Didcot, thereby providing an alternative route (and relief) to the town centre. The projected overall cost for the scheme is £13.5m, funded by S106, CIL and DLUHC grant. Additional funding is

also expected from the NE Didcot residential development in lieu of signalling the A4130 / Ladygrove Junction.

6. The scheme is currently in the feasibility phase. To progress to phase 2, the design phase, it is proposed that the development budget is increased by £1m to £2.1m. This will be funded from held and secured S106 contributions and Community Infrastructure Levy.
7. Active Travel Funding 4 Extended Opportunity
Oxfordshire County Council has the opportunity to submit a bid for the Active Travel Funding 4 (ATF4) scheme. The funding will support schemes that promote cycling and walking as natural choices for shorter journeys or as part of longer journeys. This extended opportunity is for priority bids that were not successful in securing funding in ATF4.
8. The indicative funding would be for £2.38m and would include the following schemes:
 - Abingdon National Cycle Network 5 (NCN5)
 - Provision of secure cycle parking to support staff travels to Oxfordshire Hospitals
 - School Streets Programme
 - Witney – Madley Park Path improvements
 - Oxford Parks Road Quietway
9. Approval is required to submit the bid.

Financial Implications

10. The financial implications are included within the report.
14. The capital programme approvals set out in this report have no adverse financial implications to the overall Capital Programme, which remains fully funded.

Comments checked by:

Ian Dyson, Assistant Director of Finance

Staff Implications

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

Equality & Inclusion Implications

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

Legal Implications

17. 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 section 151 officer).

Comments checked by:

Paul Grant, Head of Legal and Deputy Monitoring Officer

LORNA BAXTER

Executive Director of Resources & Section 151 Officer

Background papers: none

Contact Officer:

Natalie Crawford, Capital Programme Manager

November 2023