

CABINET – 18 JUNE 2024

CAPITAL PROGRAMME APPROVALS – JUNE 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 A4130 Rowstock Roundabout to Steventon Lights scheme into the Capital Programme with an indicative budget of £1.041m to be fully funded from S106 developer contributions.
 - b. approve the inclusion of the Abingdon National Cycle Network Route 5 (NCN5) Missing Link scheme into the Capital Programme with an indicative budget of £1.474m funded from the Active Travel Fund Tranche 4 Extension.
 - c. approve a budget increase of £4.657m from £4.763m to £9.420m, to progress the expansion of Grove Church of England Primary School, funded by S106 contributions (£5.620m), Basic Need (£1.000m) and Basic Need Contingency (£2.800m).
 - d. approve the inclusion of Union Street Phase 1.5 & 2 into the Capital Programme, with an indicative budget of £1.450m, to be partly funded by the Asset Rationalisation Programme agreed by Full Council in February 2022, with an initial budget of £4.700m (increased in February 2024 by £2.300m) and the Decarbonisation Programme where £8.200m funding was agreed in March 2024.

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.

Major Infrastructure

A4130 Rowstock Roundabout to Steventon Lights

5. The Local Plan housing and commercial growth, including Evaluation of Transport Impacts (ETI) studies, demonstrated a need for capacity improvements within the Rowstock area, which is situated within the Science Vale area close to Harwell Campus, one of the County's largest employment area.
6. Approval is required to include this scheme into the Capital Programme with an indicative budget of £1.041m to be fully funded from S106 developer contributions to fund the feasibility, design and procurement stages.

Abingdon National Cycle Network Route 5 (NCN5) Missing Link

7. The Abingdon National Cycle Network Route 5 (NCN5) Missing Link scheme is in the heart of Abingdon Town Centre, on the Sustrans NCN5 route, and partially in an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). The route currently requires cyclists to dismount and push for approximately 90 metres which potentially adversely affects people with reduced mobility such as elderly or people with disabilities, potentially using adapted cycles. Additionally, the current crossing provisions along this route are extremely poor or non-existent. The proposed design will address the issues for walking and wheeling in this area, giving more priority to the most vulnerable users.
8. In February 2024 Oxfordshire County Council was allocated £2.384m by Active Travel England from the Active Travel Fund (ATF) under ATF4 Extension funding. This funding is allocated to support specific projects intended to improve walking and cycling infrastructure in the county. Approval is required to enter this scheme into the Capital Programme with an indicative budget of £1.474m.

Property

Grove Church of England Primary School Expansion

9. Grove Church of England Primary School is managed by the Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust (ODST). The Council requires the school to expand from 1 form entry to 1.5 form entry to accommodate additional pupils from the adjacent Monks Farm Strategic Housing Development.
10. The initial business case for this scheme was drafted in 2015 and has not progressed due to the project being placed on hold until requirements of the S106 agreement had been met by the Developer, resulting in inflationary cost pressures. These factors, as well as a renewed design has resulted in a total increase of £4.657m. The scheme is now expected to cost £9.420m, to be funded from S106 developer contributions

(£5.620m), Basic Need (£1m already committed) and Basic Need Contingency (£2.800m).

Union Street Phase 1.5 & 2

11. Union Street is owned by the County Council and accommodates the Children & Family Centre, supported by a satellite centre in Blackbird Leys as well as workspace provision. Phase 1 alteration works at Union Street facilitated the staff move from Nash Court and was completed in October 2022. This next phase of work will relocate Children's services staff into Union Street with internal works proposed so that all areas are enhanced to create a holistic and well-integrated family hub. Decarbonisation measures will also be implemented as part of this phase of work.
12. Approval is required to enter this scheme of works into the Capital Programme with an indicative budget of £1.450m. £0.919m will be funded by the Asset Rationalisation Programme (£4.7m agreed by Full Council in February 2022 and a further £2.300m agreed in February 2024.) Decarbonisation measures costing £0.531m will be funded through the £8.200m Decarbonisation funding agreed in March 2024.

Financial Implications

13. 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

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

Equality & Inclusion Implications

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

Legal Implications

16. 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:

Anita Bradley, Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer

LORNA BAXTER

Executive Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer

Background papers: none

Contact Officers:

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June 2024