

CABINET – 16 SEPTEMBER 2025

CAPITAL PROGRAMME APPROVALS – SEPTEMBER 2025

Report by the Executive Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer

Recommendations

1. The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:
 - a. approve the inclusion of Grove Airfield Primary School (Phase 2 of Grove Airfield Development) into the capital programme with an indicative budget of £1.600m
 - b. approve £2.400m to enable the purchase of two new buildings to facilitate staff relocation

Executive Summary

2. The Capital Programme was approved by Council in February 2025 and updated during the year through the capital programme and monitoring reports. This report sets out changes to the capital programme requiring Cabinet approval to be incorporated into the agreed programme and included in the next update to the Capital Programme in October 2025.

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 within this report.

Property

Grove Airfield Primary School (Phase 2 of Grove Airfield Development)

5. The County Council has a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places to meet the needs of the local population. A second primary school, to be delivered by the developer, is required to meet the demand generated by the second phase of the new housing development of up to 2,500 new dwellings at Grove Airfield.

6. Approval is required to enter this scheme into the capital programme with an indicative budget of £1.600m to be fully funded by S106 developer contributions.

New Staff Accommodation

7. The Property Strategy was approved by Cabinet in November 2022 with the objective being to release leased buildings to realise revenue savings and to optimise the use of County-owned buildings.
8. As part of the strategy, a new programme of work, 'The Asset Rationalisation Programme', was established to deliver the Property Strategy objectives. A total of £7.00m of funding was allocated to the Asset Rationalisation Programme (£4.700m agreed by Council in February 2022 and a further £2.300m agreed in February 2024.)
9. Approval is required to release £2.400m from the Asset Rationalisation Programme fund to purchase two new properties. This will enable a leased property to be vacated generating on-going cost savings.

Financial Implications

10. The financial implications are contained within the report. Funding for Grove Airfield School will be met from secured and held s106 developer contributions. Funding for the purchase of properties as part of the Asset Rationalisation Programme will be met from existing funding built into the capital programme.

Comments checked by:
Kathy Wilcox, Head of Corporate Finance

Staff Implications

11. As a consequence of the Asset Rationalisation Programme, employees will be relocating from one site to another. Staff will be fully consulted throughout the progression of the project.

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:

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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September 2025