

15 May 2014

10. REPORTS OF CABINET

(a) MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE A DECISION BY COUNCIL

New Specific Grant Confirmations

Recommendation

- 1. The Cabinet recommends that Council approves the changes to the revenue cash limits contained in paragraphs 2 to 5 arising from the receipt of adoption reform and Special Educational Needs revenue grants.**
2. Central Government has recently communicated the value of the extension of the Adoption Reform Grant (£0.4 million) and the new Special Educational Needs (SEN) Reform Grant (£0.6 million) for 2014/15. Both areas are key reform priorities for the Government and although formal grant returns will not be required, the Department for Education (DfE) will expect the Council to report on its plans to implement the change agenda in both of these areas.
3. The DfE has met with senior officers of the Council to discuss the adoption scorecard and the use of the existing adoption reform grant and plans for the future service developments. Meetings are also taking place over the coming months to discuss how the Council is implementing the changes required within SEN reform. As such, the Council needs to ensure that both these areas of funding are targeted to meet the required outcomes on a cross-Children's Services Directorate basis.
4. It is expected that detailed plans for the use of this additional money will be endorsed by the Children's Services Leadership Team to ensure that the best use of these grants is made.
5. Council is therefore requested to ring-fence both these grants for the purposes intended by Government and the Director of Children's Services will then use this funding in line with normal officer delegations.

Capital Programme 2013/14 to 2016/17

Recommendation

6. **The Cabinet recommends that the Capital Programme attached as an Appendix be approved.**

7. In February 2014, Council approved a Capital Programme which included an allowance for £20 million to cover unallocated capital expenditure. Work has now been concluded to determine those schemes that are sufficiently developed to transfer into the Capital Programme including review by the Corporate Landlord Board and members. Set out below are a series of schemes that are recommended for inclusion within the Council's Capital Programme. An equivalent reduction in unallocated capital expenditure will be made to ensure there is no additional requirement for prudential borrowing.

- £0.4 million Children's Services EBD Units in 2014/15 funded in full by an equivalent transfer from Children's Services revenue budgets on a spend to save basis.
- £4.75 million Worcester Technology Park on site works as per the December 2013 Cabinet report to be funded by 3rd party income streams developed through phase 1 of the project.
- £6.4 million Digital Strategy and Customer Access programme that includes business as usual and life cycle expenditure over the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) as well as investments to deliver the Council's vision of Digital by Default. The programme also uses £2.3m of existing ICT capital budgets and earmarked reserves.
- £5.5 million Minor works and lifecycle replacement expenditure that will be undertaken over the life of the MTFP within Directorates.
- £1.2 million Planned Street column replacement programme over the life of the MTFP,

supplemented by £0.2m funded by revenue budgets over the MTFP period.

- £2.0 million

Repairs and Maintenance of a long-term nature over the life of the MTFP.

8. These new capital expenditure proposals are included in a revised Capital Programme detailed in the attached Appendix.

9. It has also been confirmed that the Devolved Formula Capital Grant for Schools is £1.1m as was indicated as being estimated at the time of writing the February Council report.

Supporting Information

- Appendix - Capital Programme

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

Worcester (01905) 763763 or Minicom: Worcester (01905) 766399

Specific Contact Points for this report

Nichola Garner, Committee and Appellate Officer
Tel: 01905 766626
Email: ngarner2@worcestershire.gov.uk

Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Director of Resources) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this item:

Agenda papers and background documents relating to the meetings of the Cabinet held on 6 March 2014 and 10 April 2014.