

## **COUNCIL**

### **10 NOVEMBER 2022**

## **REPORT OF CABINET – MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE A DECISION BY COUNCIL**

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### **Resources Report – Revenue Budget Monitoring – Month 4 (31 July) 2022/23**

#### **Recommendations**

1. **Cabinet recommends that Council approves the variations to the Capital Programme as detailed relating to:**
  - a) **the receipt of external funding for infrastructure schemes including Local Transport Capital and Major Road Network Fund for the A38 Improvement Scheme in Bromsgrove;**
  - b) **an increase in the Basic Needs Grant and other education and schools' grants; and**
  - c) **potential costs associated with a legal adjudication.**
2. Since the Draft Capital Programme was approved in February 2022, the Council has received various increases in external funding and Cabinet is recommending to Council an increase in the Capital Programme as detailed in the following paragraphs.
3. Following notification from the Department of Transport, the Council is expected to receive an additional £21.161 million for 2022/23 relating to Local Transport Capital. A similar amount has also been indicated for 2023/24 and 2024/25, meaning an increase to the capital programme of c£63.5 million over the three-year period.
4. On 8 August 2022 the Department for Transport announced £43 million will be invested into the Council's A38 improvement scheme in Bromsgrove as part of the Major Road Network Fund, subject to successful submission of the final business case. The money will help to tackle congestion, improve journeys and support thousands of new jobs and homes. Planned works will install new lanes at key junctions and widen the existing road, helping to improve traffic flow and reduce the threat of any unnecessary bottlenecks. These upgrades will take place on a 7.5-mile stretch of the route, between the M5 Junction 4 to the north and the A38/B4094 to the south.
5. Following notification from the Department for Education, the 2022/23 Basic Need Grant has increased by £0.525 million from the £7.57 million included in the Draft Capital Programme to £8.095 million. Funding for 2023/24 and 2024/25 has also been allocated at £7.128 million and £5.303 million respectively.

6. Other education and schools' grants have also been awarded, which are:

- £4.081 million for the Schools Condition Allocation
- £5.285 million relating to Higher Needs Provision Capital with an allocation of £5.422 million for 2023/24
- £0.703 million for the Devolved Formula Grant,
- £0.2 million for the Schools Nurseries Grant.
- £0.193 million for the "One Bedroom Project".

7. The Council is currently involved in a legal adjudication with one of its suppliers, with an anticipated payment of up to £3.9m being required should the ruling go against the Council. The Council is continuing to take legal advice, and should the Council be compelled to pay the stated sums, we expect to be able to recover some or all of this payment within this financial year. In the interim, a variation to the capital programme is required, funded from additional borrowing.

## **Kepax Bridge – Award of Construction Contract**

### **Recommendation**

**8. Cabinet requests that Council approves amendments to the Capital Programme necessary to progress the Kepax Bridge scheme, including the virement of funds previously allocated as part of the approved Capital Programme along with additional sources of funding from Worcester City Council and the Towns Fund.**

9. At its meeting on 18 March 2021 Cabinet welcomed the completion of the Business Case for construction of a footbridge across the River Severn in North Worcester and noted the allocation of a further £2.5 million towards the scheme from the Walking and Cycling Bridges fund and the award of £1 million from the Getting Building Fund. This brought the total approved funding to £5 million.

10. Since that Cabinet meeting, further work has been undertaken on the design of the scheme and a Target Price has been received from the Contractor, meaning that the full estimated cost of the scheme is now available. The cost of the scheme has increased due to a number of factors including the delay in receiving planning consent, changes in scope to include improvements to Horsford Road and a ramp to the Severn Way, changes in fuel costs and inflation in the construction sector which have been exacerbated by the War in Ukraine leading to increased steel and fuel costs.

11. Extensive work has been carried out to scrutinise the Contractor's Target Price and to ensure the most efficient construction programme.

12. Kepax Bridge received Planning Consent on 28 September 2021 and a number of enabling works have been carried out since that time including the removal of invasive species, and other vegetation on the bridge alignment.

13. Progress has been made on securing the necessary land agreements with the relevant landowners on either side of the River Severn, together with the other statutory consents necessary to progress the scheme.

14. Funding, sufficient to cover the remaining costs of the scheme, has now been identified from within the existing capital programme and from external funding from Worcester City and the Towns Fund.

15. The total estimated cost of the scheme is £15.9 million including expenditure already incurred but excluding any Quantitative Risk Assessment (QRA) allowance. Should there be a requirement for additional QRA expenditure, this will be funded from existing resources with the E&I Capital Programme and reported back via a subsequent Cabinet Resources report.

16. £5 million of this has already been allocated as part of the current approved Capital Programme of which £4 million was previously allocated from the Walking and Cycling Bridges fund and a contribution of £1 million from the Getting Building Fund. This now leaves a balance of £10.9 million to be funded. This can be funded from the existing approved E&I capital programme and external sources but will require reallocation of funding to cover the proposed increase.

17. This is proposed to be funded as follows, and Council is asked to approve the following additions, allocations and subsequent virements within the Capital Programme:

- £0.813m – external contribution from Worcester City Council
- £2.325m – external contribution from Worcester City Council via the Towns Fund
- £5m virement from the existing allocation in the Capital Programme to address inflationary pressures on Major Projects
- £0.410 million from the unallocated Public Realm existing capital programme
- £1.781 million from the Strategic Infrastructure existing capital programme
- a £0.571 million allocation from the Highways Capital Maintenance Budget

18. Cabinet has authorised the Strategic Director of Economy and Infrastructure in consultation with the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Economy, Infrastructure and Skills to award construction contracts and enter into any other such agreements as are necessary to progress delivery of the Kepax Bridge scheme, within the approved funding envelope.

## **Worcestershire Children and Young People's Plan**

### **Recommendation**

**19. Cabinet recommends that the Children and Young People's Plan be adopted by the Council.**

20. The Children & Young People's (CYP) Plan (attached as an Appendix) is a strategic document that underpins the all-age Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (HWS) and provides a framework for operational delivery of the Health & Wellbeing Board's (HWB) priorities for children and young people.

21. The CYP Plan is overseen by the Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) Board which is a sub-group of the Health & Wellbeing Board (HWB). The CYPSP brings together senior/strategic leaders to take a whole-system response to improving outcomes for children and young people. It reports twice annually to the HWB on activity and progress towards the CYP Plan outcomes.

22. As part of developing the Policy framework, the 2022/24 CYP Plan was endorsed by the HWB at its meeting on [24 May 2022](#) . The findings of the Health & Wellbeing Strategy consultation, which influences the CYP Plan, were further discussed and endorsed at a HWB private development session in June 2022. The CYP plan was considered by the Overview & Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB) on 20 July 2022 and Cabinet has noted the comments from OSPB as part of its consideration of the Plan.

23. The Plan is a dynamic document and includes baseline data against which progress with the measures and key performance indicators can be tracked.

**Councillor S E Geraghty**  
**Chairman**

### **Supporting Information**

Appendix – Children & Young People's Plan

### **Contact Points**

#### Specific Contact Points for this report

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### **Background Papers**

Agenda and reports for meetings of the Cabinet on 22 September and 27 October 2022:

[Agenda for Cabinet on Thursday, 22nd September, 2022, 10.00 am - Worcestershire County Council \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#) (minute 2118)

[Agenda for Cabinet on Thursday, 27th October, 2022, 10.00 am - Worcestershire County Council \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#)