

# Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Scrutiny Commission 1 February 2024 Council 22 February 2024

Wards affected: All

# Capital Programme 2023-24 to 2026-27 and Capital Strategy

#### Report of Head of Finance

# 1. Purpose of report

1.1 To seek approval of the Capital Strategy & Capital Programme for the years 2023/2024–2026/2027.

#### 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Capital Strategy is approved.
- 2.2 That Council approves the proposed Capital Programme for the years 2023/2024 2026/2027.
- 2.3 That Council approves the growth bids detailed in section 3.29- 3.30 of this report.

# 3. Background to the report

## **Capital Strategy**

- 3.1 CIPFA's updated prudential code & Treasury Management Code of Practice require local authorities to produce capital strategies from 1st April 2019. This requirement has also been confirmed by DLUHC.
- 3.2 The key drivers for the requirement are summarised below: -

- Understanding risks associated in investing in non-financial products with the primary aim of making a return (e.g., Local authorities investing in shopping malls and not understanding associated risks)
- Understanding risks and funding involved with third sector entities, wholly owned companies as part of regeneration etc.
- Underlying issues of how such investments are financed and setting aside a borrowing provision & due diligence.

Details of this Council's process regarding creation, approval and monitoring of schemes are included within section 7 of the financial procedure rules.

- 3.3 There is a requirement that the strategy is approved by Council.
- 3.4 This report should be read in conjunction with the Treasury Management report.

# **Capital Programme**

- 3.5 Capital expenditure is expenditure that results in the creation of an asset that has a life expectancy of more than one year and where use of the asset will result in benefits in future years. Capital expenditure may be used to generate assets for the Council's own use or to provide support for third party capital enhancements. The Capital Strategy looks at the longer-term risks associated with capital expenditure and governance arrangements.
- 3.6 Any plans for capital expenditure must be financed through an approved method of funding. The main streams of such financing are summarised in paragraph 3.21:
- 3.7 The Capital Programme (the Programme) is produced on an annual basis to cover the current year and forecasts for the next three financial years. The Programme supports the Council's Corporate Plan and Medium-Term Financial Strategy and ensures that resources are allocated and are used effectively to achieve corporate targets. At the same time, the Programme is an integral element of the financial planning procedures of the Council and forecasts how the Council will deliver key projects affordably and within relevant Prudential Limits. The Programme should therefore be read in conjunction with these documents, alongside the Council's Corporate Asset Management Strategy and Housing Revenue Account Investment Plan.
- 3.8 The Capital Programme is prepared in conjunction with budget holders and Directors. Project officers are invited as part of the budget setting process to submit requests for capital growths which are considered by Directors and the Strategic Leadership Team. Growths are assessed in terms of their contribution to corporate objectives and funding availability.
- 3.9 The overall Capital Programme for 2023/2024 2026/2027 is contained within Appendix 1 along with supporting schedules showing spend by scheme.

#### **CAPITAL STRATEGY**

## **Capital Expenditure**

- 3.10 Primary legislation regarding capital finance is included in The Local Government Act 2003. The act refers to the following types of expenditure that fall under the capital financing regime.
  - "expenditure of the authority which falls to be capitalised in accordance with proper practices" (i.e., the creation of an asset that has a useful life of more than one year).
  - Expenditure under regulation prescribed by the Secretary of State which can or can't be treated as capital expenditure.
  - The Council's definitions of the capital programme are included within Section 7 of the financial procedure rules. An extract is provided below: -

"Capital expenditure means the acquisition, construction, or enhancement of tangible/intangible fixed assets (land, buildings, vehicles, plant, equipment, hardware, and software). Capital assets shape the way services are delivered in the long-term and create financial commitments for the future in the form of financing and revenue running costs.

#### An enhancement is defined as:

- Works that lengthen substantially the useful market value life of an asset.
- Works that increase substantially the market value of an asset.
- Works that increase the extent to which the property can be used for purposes of functions of the council."
- 3.11 The Capital programme and its funding are summarised below. Details of individual schemes are presented within Appendix 1 of the Capital Programme Report. The future year's capital programme will continue to be reliant on external funding and rental income for HRA schemes.

#### **General Fund Schemes**

	TOTAL COST £'000	ESTIMATE 2023-2024 £'000	ESTIMATE 2024-2025 £'000	ESTIMATE 2025-2026 £'000	ESTIMATE 2026-2027 £'000
Capital Expenditure					
Corporate & Support Services	27,822	6,138	20,203	855	626
Community Services	7,959	3,827	1,768	1,189	1,175
Total Capital Expenditure	35,781	9,965	21,971	2,044	1,801

	TOTAL COST £'000	ESTIMATE 2023-2024 £'000	ESTIMATE 2024-2025 £'000	ESTIMATE 2025-2026 £'000	ESTIMATE 2026-2027 £'000
Financing					
Capital Receipts	722	245	313	57	107
External Contributions	10,056	3,753	3,996	1,259	1,048
Borrowing GF	23,667	4,986	17,437	648	596
Contribution from reserves GF	1,336	981	225	80	50
Total Financing	35,781	9,965	21,971	2,044	1,801

#### **HRA Schemes**

	TOTAL	ESTIMATE	ESTIMATE	ESTIMATE	ESTIMATE
	COST	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Capital Expenditure					
HRA					
Service Investment	32,621	6,865	8,405	8,553	8,798
Affordable Housing	17,644	6,029	6,115	4,250	1,250
Vehicles	40	40	0	0	0
Total Capital	50,305	12,934	14,520	12,803	10,048
Expenditure					
Financing					
Major Repairs Reserve	13,456	3,869	3,084	3,009	3,494
Regeneration Reserve	9,611	5,644	2,521	1,446	0
Earmarked Reserves	165	90	25	25	25
Borrowing	20,606	1,164	6,790	6,623	6,029
Grants	1,327	627	700	0	0
Capital Receipts	5,140	1,540	1,400	1,700	500
Total Financing	50,305	12,934	14,520	12,803	10,048

# **Capital Project Planning & Approval Framework.**

- 3.12 Prior to consideration a capital bid form is submitted which details the following:
  - Brief description of scheme and how the scheme meets the Councils priorities.
  - Profiled spending proposals over 4 years.
  - Sets out external contributions and grant funding for the scheme.
  - Ongoing revenue implications (e.g., IT, Staffing costs).
- 3.13 Any additional bids that are agreed by SLT during the financial year are approved in accordance with financial procedure rules.
- 3.14 SLT will monitor progress and review the capital programme to ensure that the council's corporate objectives are being met and that there is consistency between the capital programme and the corporate plan.

## **Governance Arrangements**

- 3.15 Scheme budgets are monitored monthly. Project Officers receive monthly reports and are discussed as part of the monthly meetings with their respective Accountant. A monthly outturn report is presented to SLT with appropriate corrective action. Finance and Performance Committee receive quarterly updates. Additionally, budget variations are reported and approved in accordance with financial procedure rules.
- 3.16 For larger schemes a Project Board and Project Team oversee the scope and delivery of key strategic projects The Project Board will usually include a member lead and senior manager within the Council. The Project Manager will head the Project Team, supported where necessary with specialist consultants. The Project Team will also draw on in-house expertise of officers and includes financial, legal, and planning representatives. The Project Team will report to the Project Board at agreed intervals and is responsible for delivering targets that the Project Board set against an agreed programme for delivery.

Prior to project approval and sign off the Project Initiation Document a scoping and feasibility exercise will be carried out to identify the project objectives, project cost and project risks. If the feasibility study findings are supported by the Directors and Chief Executive of the Council the project will be forwarded to Executive or Full Council for sign off dependant on the capital investment required.

Throughout the project both the Project Team and Project Board will monitor progress and the Project Board will receive Highlight Reports and an updated Project Risk Register. Within the Highlight report key issues and budget figures will be reported. Updates may also be reported to Executive and Full Council for major capital projects.

# **Longer Term Financial Planning**

3.17 The availability of financing options is becoming restricted over the medium term as asset sales become less frequent and the availability of funding from central government becomes restricted. An innovation and enterprise board has been set up which look at various potential opportunities that may arise. Within the existing capital programme, the Crematorium scheme once completed will help to underpin the general fund resources by generating cost reductions and or a net income.

In the longer term the Council's Heavy vehicle fleet will need to be replaced. A decision will need to be made whether funds are set aside in preparation to fund the replacement. The Council will also have to set aside funds to ensure that parks, play areas, commercial units and corporate assets are maintained at a decent standard. A building maintenance reserve has been set aside to fund such developments.

3.18 Currently, the Councils capital activity for the general fund can be split into 2 areas. New one-off schemes and recurring schemes are required to maintain the current level of service provision. i.e., this is the minimum value of the ongoing capital programme. The indicative cost for this is presented below.

	2024-25 Budget £000's
Enhancement &	1,460
Improvement Works	
Grants	2,737
Parks	167
Property, Plant and	2,506
Equipment	
Total	6,870

- 3.19 Resources are needed to ensure that this level of support can be maintained, and new commitments can be funded. In essence if no reserves or external funding is available, the cost of the capital programme is met by borrowing, the costs of which are charged to the revenue account through Minimum Revenue Provision (principal repayment of debt funding) and any interest cost if actual borrowing has taken place.
- 3.20 The HRA Capital Programme is based on the 30-maintenance plan which will be included in the HRA Business Plan which is currently being finalised and reflect the Council Housing Asset Management strategy (Approved by Council in April 2022)

## **Capital Funding**

- 3.21 The following areas of funding are available to fund the programme.
  - Government Grants Typically these are received to enable Councils to focus resources on central government priorities. e.g., disabled facilities grant. The grants have conditions attached so spending must focus on the area concerned and will normally only be given if a Council can also commit its own resources.
  - Contributions and other grants Government Grants Typically these are like government grants. Expenditure will be limited to those set out in the conditions of the grant or legal contracts and may require a level of match funding by the local authority.
  - Earmarked Reserves Capital Expenditure can also be funded through the Council's earmarked reserves. Typically, these reserves are used to fund specific schemes or used for match funding to support partly funded projects. These reserves are reported as part of the MTFS and the revenue budget reports.

- Capital Receipts These balances are the net sales proceeds that the Council can use to fund future capital projects. Part of the proceeds from the sale of Council Dwellings must be earmarked for the increase in affordable housing supply.
- Direct Revenue Financing This is where the General Fund or HRA
  Balance is used to fund projects. Due to pressures on the revenue budget
  this is only used occasionally. Typically, this will arise when additional
  funding is received which can be used to fund either revenue or capital
  expenditure, or where specific underspends are used to part finance a
  capital project.
- Borrowing the Council is permitted to set within its "Prudential Indicators"
  a level of borrowing that can be obtained to fund capital expenditure. The
  Council must be satisfied that this borrowing is used to fund projects that
  are prudent, sustainable, and affordable.

# **Borrowing**

- 3.22 The Council is allowed to borrow funds to finance capital expenditure as long as it is affordable (i.e., future MRP and interest Payments affordable).
- 3.23 The Council has long term surplus cash balances, and these funds can also be used for fund expenditure. Although this will not attract an interest cost MRP still has to be provided.
- 3.24 The Council's borrowing requirement, risks and affordability are considered as part of the Treasury Management and prudential Indicator report approved by Council in February.

#### **Asset Management Overview**

- 3.25 The Council's asset management plan was reviewed and agreed by Council in April 2022. The key strategic objectives of the plan are:
  - Provide opportunities for increasing the commercial estate and accommodation for "business start ups."
  - Promoting new affordable Housing for rent and delivering Council House new build & affordable housing schemes.
  - To complete the Crematorium Project.
  - Disposal of surplus land & buildings that have no operational uses.
  - Maximise efficiency through co-location and improved conference facilities.

## **Asset Management Overview**

- Council proposes to actively pursue the acquisition of assets and the development of land in accordance with a new Acquisition and Development Strategy.". The strategy was agreed at Council in November 2022
- Council proposes to concentrate acquisitions and development undertaken through the strategy within the borough boundary to ensure maximum localised impact, but the Council acknowledges that its functional economic geography (FEG).

# **Commercial Activity & non-Treasury investments**

3.26 On the Council's Balance sheet the Council does not hold any investment properties. Investment properties are assets that are solely held for an investment return or capital appreciation and no other reason. For all our assets although a future return is one of the aims, there are other aims as well e.g., economic regeneration, employment etc.

Major income generation activity using council assets is listed below: -

Activity	Value £000's	Due Diligence
Leisure Centre Management Fee	1,185	This is a fixed Fee based on a design build operate and maintain contract. The fee is payable regardless of the value of fees collected by the Leisure Provider. Due diligence was undertaken at pre contract stage with detailed financial checks, references and off site meets at centres where the provider has successfully implemented such schemes.
Hinckley Hub	803	The partners occupy the premises on a Licence agreement. Each agreement has contractual provisions for uplift of rent.
Commercial Estates Income	882	Before award of the lease, a financial check is undertaken, and trading references are also taken. This may either result in refusal of a lease, granting of a lease, or granting of the lease with additional guarantees
Car Parking	573	Income is monitored monthly and changes to the fee base are subject to Council Approval.
Block C	374	Before award of the lease, a financial check is undertaken, and trading references are also taken. This may either result in refusal of a lease, granting of a

	lease, or granting of the lease with additional guarantees
New projects	At feasibility stage key risks are identified and any potential on going costs and or income are approved in accordance with financial procedure rules.

## **Knowledge & Skills - Capital Projects**

- 3.27 The Council has the following resources to ensure projects are delivered successfully.
  - 1 X Estates & Asset Manager
  - 1 X Housing Repairs Manager (Housing Schemes)
  - 3 X Estates & Building Surveyors

These officers have experience of: -

- Developing capital projects
- Acquiring and selling properties
- Commissioning partners to deliver the capital programme.
- Managing properties as a landlord

To support the Council own resources external support is also used for advice, due diligence, property assessments and valuations and project support. Architectural, Quantity Surveying and Engineering support is also used as and when required.

## **CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

#### **Proposed Capital Programme - General Fund**

- 3.28 The General Fund Capital Programme is concentrated around achievement of the priority capital projects namely:
  - Green Spaces Delivery Plan
  - Private Sector Housing Assistance
  - Crematorium Scheme funding has been updated to reflect the change in funding.
  - Heritage Action Zone.

#### 3.29 New schemes 2023/24-2026/28

The following requests have been received in respect of new schemes for inclusion in the revised capital programme and require approval for inclusion. They have been reflected in the Capital Programme shown at Appendix 1.

# **Community Equipment Grant Scheme**

The scheme relates to a grant scheme to help fund smaller capital items for parish and Hinckley town community groups and Parish councils.

	Total	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
	£	£	£	£
Total Cost (all HBBC)	75,000	25,000	25,000	25,000

## **CCTV Back Office Upgrade**

This scheme relates to the replacement of CCTV monitoring equipment in the CCTV Control Room based at the Atkins Buildings which has reached the end of its economic life and is unable to meet the operational needs of this function arising from increased camera capacity.

	Total	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
	£	£	£	£
Total Cost (all HBBC)	50,000	50,000	0	0

# **Christmas Lights Replacement**

The scheme is for the phased replacement of Christmas lights which have reached the end of their economic life.

	Total	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
	£	£	£	£
Total Cost (all HBBC)	34,000	20,000	14,000	0

# **Cloud Archiving**

The scheme is moving data storage from servers to the Cloud.

	Total	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
	£	£	£	£
Total Cost	135,000	45,000	45,000	45,000
External Contributions	(78,900)	(26,300)	(26,300)	(26,300)
HBBC Element	56,100	18,700	18,700	18,700

# **WAN Replacement**

The Scheme is for the replacement of the existing Wide Area Network.

	Total	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
	£	£	£	£
Total Cost	50,000	50,000	0	0
External Contributions	(29,220)	(29,220)	0	0
HBBC Element	20,780	20,780	0	0

#### **Food Waste Service**

The Scheme is for the transitional costs of moving towards a weekly food waste collection service. This is currently an estimate based on work done with WRAP.

	Total	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
	£	£	£	£
Total Cost	1,071,000	1,071,000	0	0
External Contributions	(1,071,000)	(1,071,000)	0	0
HBBC Element	0	0	0	0

# **ICT Strategic Improvements**

This scheme is to create a more stable ICT infrastructure.

	Total	2024-25	2025- 26	2026-27
	£	£	£	£
Total Cost	684,000	684,000	0	0
External Contributions	(266,413)	(266,413)	0	0
HBBC Element	417,587	417,587	0	0

# **Jubilee Depot with additional capital works**

This scheme creates more depot capacity to deal with existing and new pressures, primarily around waste management and recycling. The scheme will upgrade the existing depot and crate more capacity via a long-term lease on a new site.

	Total	2024-25	2025- 26	2026-27
	£	£	£	£
Total Cost	1,179,800	1,179,800	0	0

## 3.30 Schemes Re-phased

The following schemes have been rephrased as set out below:

	23/24	24/25	25/26	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Making Tax Digital	(12)	12	0	Project re-phased due to software changes.
Network and Server Resilience	(89)	89	0	Re-phasing of budget
Network Upgrades – Phase 2	(68)	68	0	Re-phasing of budget
ICT Security Upgrades	(99)	99	0	Re-phasing of budget
Wi-Fi Upgrades	(65)	65	0	Re-phasing of budget
Emergency Generator	(12)	12	0	Re-phasing of budget
UPS Replacement	(33)	33	0	Re-phasing of budget
MFA Non-Corp Mobiles	(8)	8	0	Re-phasing of budget
New Crematorium	(1,933)	(3,799)	(95)	Re-phasing of approved budget and adjusted for latest build cost
Acquisition & Development Scheme	(15,000)	15,000	0	Re-phasing of budget
Total	(17,319)	(11,587)	(95)	

# **Existing schemes**

- 3.31 The remainder of the Programme contains ongoing schemes which have been in place for several financial years. The following points should be noted when reviewing these schemes:
  - Hinckley Area Community Initiatives grant (funded from the Special Expenses Reserves).
  - Green Space strategy schemes have been re-profiled based on anticipated developer receipts and grant funding. HAC has reviewed and endorsed these schemes. These schemes are funded by SEA reserves or be external contributions. There is no General Fund capital funding earmarked for these schemes.

#### 3.32 Future General Fund Schemes

The programme does not currently include the following schemes.

 New HGV purchases due in 2025. If an assumption is made that a vehicle cost £0.170m, the cost for say 25 vehicles will be £4.25m. This will potentially cost another £0.178m per year in capital financing charges to the general fund.

# **Proposed Capital Programme - Housing Revenue Account**

- 3.33 The proposed Capital Programme for the Housing Revenue Account (the HRA Programme) is included in Section 4 of Appendix 1. The HRA Programme reflects the main investment priorities taken from the latest 30-year investment data. The overall capital programme is based on the following criteria: -
  - Ongoing investment to existing stock
  - Service improvements
  - Affordable Housing

#### Stock Enhancement/Investment

3.34 £32.6 million of investment has been proposed over the life of the HRA Programme into existing stock. The sequence of these works is based on the outputs from the Asset Management System which is informed by the most recent stock condition survey. This includes measures to decarbonise the housing stock estimated cost £6.0m across the term of this capital programme.

#### Affordable Housing/Housing Delivery.

- 3.35 At the date of drafting this report, the Affordable Housing arm of the Programme includes.
  - Potential new 18 unit development at Peggs Close and 6 at Brookfield Road Burbage
  - 13 properties being purchased at Greenfinch Road, Hinckley
  - Additional £12.2 million for New Housing Delivery between 2023/24 and 2026/27. This will ensure that Council is committed to using up its allocation of right to buy capital receipts.

#### **Financing**

- 3.36 Expenditure in the Capital Programme will be funded by the following key streams:
  - Contributions from the Major Repairs Reserve for the cyclical stock programmes
  - Use of the HRA "Regeneration Reserve" which has been set up following the introduction of self-financing.
  - Use of earmarked reserves
  - Grant Funding & External Contributions.

 Use of Right to Buy "Capital Receipts" obtained from the sale of HRA properties.

# **Funding Implications**

3.37 The main methods of financing the Capital Programme are detailed in section 3.21 of this report. The availability of financing options is becoming restricted over the medium term as asset sales become less frequent and the availability of funding from central government becomes restricted.

## **Capital Receipts Reserve**

3.38 The estimated impact of the proposed programme on the Capital Receipts reserve is summarised below. It is estimated that £3.235m will be used in 2023/24 to reduce the Council's overall borrowing position. Failure to pay of this debt will result in an additional MRP cost chargeable to the general fund from 2024/25 onwards. These costs have been allowed for within the MTFS. At the end of 2026/27 there will be an estimated £6,265m in the reserve.

	2023/24 £000's	2024/25 £000's	2025/26 £000's	2026/27 £000's
Opening Balance	(10,959)	(6,964)	(6,276)	(5,642)
In Year Receipts	(1,025)	(1,025)	(1,123)	(1,230)
Repayment of Debt Leisure Centre	3,235	0	0	0
In Year Application	1,785	1,713	1,757	607
In Year Application Crem	0	0	0	0
Closing Balance	(6,964)	(6,276)	(5,642)	(6,265)

The closing balance of £6.265m includes £3.637m which has to be spent on increasing affordable housing supply within a 5 year period.

3.39 Receipts assumptions are based on the following:

	2023/24 £000's	2024/25 £000's	2025/26 £000's	2026/27 £000's
Right to Buys	(975)	(975)	(1,073)	(1,180)
Misc. Sales	(50)	(50)	(50)	(50)
Total Receipts	(1,025)	(1,025)	(1,123)	(1,230)

# **Borrowing**

3.40 As outlined in section 3.2, the Council is permitted to borrow within approved limits to finance capital expenditure. This "authorised limit" is recommended as part of the Treasury Management Policy and Prudential Indicators each year and is based on the level of borrowing that is recommended by the S151 officer as being sustainable, affordable, and prudent.

- 3.41 The Council has loans of £58,828,000 within the Housing Revenue Account relating to the self-financing settlement. These started being repaid from March 2020.
- 3.42 In line with relevant accounting standards, the Council is required to budget for the cost of borrowing, to include any interest payable and a provision for the repayment of debt (the Minimum Revenue Position). Based on the current borrowing need the additional cost of capital financing costs for the General Fund is summarised below:

	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	2026/27 £
Interest	22,863	58,322	23,517
MRP	220,800	131,788	17,793
Total	243,663	190,110	41,310

3.43 Further details of the Council's borrowing limits and indicators will be outlined in the 2024/2025 Treasury Management Policy.

#### **Use of Reserves**

3.44 The following reserves (excluding special expenses) have been used to finance specific capital schemes outlined in the Programme:

	2023/2	2024/2	2025/2	2026/2
	4	5	6	7
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
ICT reserve	15	30	15	0
Developing Communities Fund	280	0	0	0
Waste Management Reserve	15	15	15	0
Asset Management Reserve	200	100	50	50
Building Maintenance Reserve	0	80	0	0
Enterprise Zone – Covid	296	0	0	0
Crematorium	175	0	0	0
Total General Fund	981	225	80	50

- 3.45 All transfers to/from reserves (i.e., including revenue expenditure and transfers from balances) are detailed in the General Fund budget report contained on this agenda.
- 4. Exemptions in accordance with the Access to Information procedure rules
- 4.1 Report taken in open session.
- 5. Financial implications [IB]
- 5.1 Contained in the body of the report.

# 6. Legal implications [MR]

- 6.1 The Local Government Act 2003 set out a framework for the financing of capital investments in Local Authorities
- 6.2 The Council is legally required to set a balanced 3-year capital programme.
- 6.3 Whilst there are no implications arising directly from the recommendation of this report there are some legal considerations which should be noted:
- 6.4 In relation to the property transactions identified within the report, relevant officers will need to ensure that authority is obtained from Council for any acquisition or disposal of land. This applies in relation to the Affordable Housing purchases detailed within the body of the report.
- 6.5 Any contracts will need to be dealt with in accordance with the constitution and all relevant authorities for spending secured, as necessary.

# 7. Corporate Plan implications

7.1 The report provides a refresh of the Council's rolling Capital Programme. Any item included in the programme has been evaluated to ensure it contributes towards achievement of a Corporate Plan objective.

#### 8. Consultation

8.1 Major schemes have been subject to individual consultations as part of the viability and design process.

## 9. Risk implications

- 9.1 It is the Council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.
- 9.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

9.3 The following significant risks associated with these report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

Risk Description	Mitigating actions	Owner
[S.11 - Failure to successfully deliver the Medium Term Financial Strategy.	A budget strategy is produced to ensure that the objectives of the budget exercise are known throughout the organisation.  The budget is scrutinised on an ongoing basis to ensure that assumptions are robust and reflective of financial performance.	A Wilson
	Sufficient levels of reserves and balances have been maintained to ensure financial resilience	

# 10. Knowing your community - equality and rural implications

10.1 The programme contains schemes which will assist in equality and rural development. Equality and rural issues are considered separately for each project.

# 11. Climate implications

- 11.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report. However financial planning is a key tool for delivering the corporate priorities of the Council. Included in those priorities are the Climate change considerations for services. The budget decisions made by members in relation to issues such as Council tax, fees and charges, and in the longer-term asset investment directly affect the council's abilities to invest in climate change priorities. The financial pressure on the council will mean it become increasing difficult to meet it carbon emergency targets by 2030.
- 11.2 The council currently wish to reduce the carbon emissions by a range of key initiatives as set out in the adopted Climate Change Strategy, including the program of installing electric charging points to car parks and increase biodiversity through management of our green spaces. The Council also has funds ring fenced to support voluntary and community sector organisations and consider environmental impact as key criteria of where these funds are used.

#### 12. Corporate implications

- 12.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:
  - Community Safety implications
  - Environmental implications

- ICT implications
- Asset Management implications
- Procurement implications
- Human Resources implications
- Planning implications
- Data Protection implications
- Voluntary Sector

Capital Submissions, Civica Reports

Background papers: Contact officer: Ilyas Bham, Accountancy Manager x5924

Cllr K Lynch Executive member: