

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

3 OCTOBER 2017

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF FINANCE

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2017-18 TO 2026-27

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek agreement from Cabinet to present a report to Council for approval for a revised capital programme for 2017-18 to 2026-27.

2. Connection to Corporate Plan / Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 Capital investment in our assets is a key factor in meeting the Council's Priorities as set out in the Council's Corporate Plan.

3. Background

- 3.1 On 31st May 2017 Council approved a revised capital programme covering the period 2016-17 to 2026-27. This included slippage into 2017-18, new externally funded schemes and additional council funded schemes relating to the 21st Century Schools Programme. Since then, on 28th June 2017, Council approved that the Capital Programme be further amended to include funding for to the purchase of a Civil Parking mobile enforcement vehicle, at an estimated cost of circa £68,000. This brought the total value of the programme to £191.562 million (£191.494 million approved in May 2017 plus £68,000 in June 2017), of which £125.404 million was met from BCBC resources, including General Capital Funding from Welsh Government, and £66.158 million met from external resources.

4. Current situation / proposal.

- 4.1 Since the programme was last approved, a number of new schemes have been progressed which require that Council approve changes to the capital programme. These are outlined below.

4.2 Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

- 4.2.1 The establishment of a Bridgend Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) is a key part of corporate priority 2 – helping people to remain independent. This project is fundamental to driving the transformation of children's social care and the whole system approach by creating a single point of contact for frontline staff who receive thousands of referrals from professionals with safeguarding concerns. Our main partner will be South Wales Police (SWP) with Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board (ABMU), the National Probation Service (NPS), Wales Community Rehabilitation Company and the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales also being key partners in the MASH arrangements.

4.2.2 The reasons for undertaking this project are to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families, by making sure that our systems and processes enable needs to be identified as early as possible and responded to proportionately and by the right person/service. Phase 1 will be the establishment of MASH arrangements for Children's Social Care. Phase 2 of the project will then see Adult Social Care joining the MASH arrangements, prioritising the safeguarding and welfare of all our vulnerable groups and demonstrating our corporate commitment to the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015.

4.2.3 In order to establish the MASH the following capital investment will be required in the preferred premises:

- £155,000 for the procurement of furniture.
- £50,000 to install the required ICT infrastructure to support collaborative working whilst ensuring data security. It is anticipated that this figure will be a "worst case scenario" position and the actual cost could be considerably less, but further work is required to firm up these figures.

4.2.4 BCBC will be liable for 40% of the total cost but as lead organisation will undertake the procurement exercise and recharge MASH partners accordingly for the remaining 60%. Therefore the total capital investment required will be £205,000 of which BCBC will be liable for £82,000. BCBC's share will be met from a contribution from the Change Fund.

4.3 Storage for the Data Centre

4.3.1 In 2011 BCBC ICT Service Unit purchased a central Storage Area Network (SAN). A SAN is the key component in the Datacentre, alongside the Servers and networking equipment. The SAN protects and stores Council Data. The current SAN provides 140 Terabytes of usable storage and is at the end of its usable life. It is not possible to extend the warranty any further.

4.3.2 All BCBC data is replicated to Rhondda Cynon Taff (RCT) Council, and vice versa, to provide a Disaster Recovery solution.

4.3.3 The new SAN will be located in BCBC core offices, but would also include locating equipment at RCT to enable the replication of data to continue as usual. Indicative pricing for the new SAN equipment, including seven years warranty and support, is approximately £400,000. The investment profile for the new SAN would again be seven years. The costs will be met through a revenue contribution to capital from the directorate's revenue budget.

4.4 Desktop Computer/Monitor Replacement Programme

4.4.1 BCBC ICT Service Unit purchased 200 desktop computers in each of the years 2012, 2013, and 2014 to replace old computers that had become end of life. The desktop computers were purchased with a five year extended warranty. The first batch of 200 computers are now coming to the end of their warranty. The second batch approach their end of warranty in March 2018.

4.4.2 Market testing has shown indicative pricing to be approximately £600 per unit to replace the computer and monitor. This would again include a five year extended warranty to safeguard the investment, particularly in respect of replacement of certain parts which aren't included in the standard warranty. Purchase of replacement desktop computers would be £120,000 for each batch, a total of £240,000. Funding will be met through a revenue contribution to capital from the directorate's revenue budget.

4.5 Additional PC's for Civic Offices

4.5.1 The bench desk facilities currently in Civic Offices have no consistent approach to ICT delivery. A desk position could have a standard desktop PC, various laptop docking stations, or just a monitor with loose cables. This approach has evolved alongside the Rationalisation of the Estate programme. The recommendation is to install a desktop PC at every desk position. This provides an environment that is safe for officers to work, from a Health and Safety (H&S) perspective, specifically with regards to the display screen equipment (DSE) environment. It will allow laptop users to only have to use their laptops when away from a desk position. ICT have invested in software that allows a person's files and personalisation settings to follow them across any BCBC ICT desktop or laptop. This would also support the new Agile Working protocol. The cost will be £120,000 and will be met from an established earmarked reserve.

4.6 Digital Meeting Spaces

4.6.1 BCBC currently have very limited Collaborative Video Conferencing facilities to enable staff and Councillors to attend virtual meetings and collaborate more efficiently. Virtual attendance at meetings is becoming a pre-requisite and can enable significant time and cost savings.

4.6.2 A number of suppliers have presented their solutions to ICT officers and discussions have taken place with peers from other unitary authorities and Welsh Government.

4.6.3 Digitisation of meeting spaces will be focused around Civic Offices Committee Rooms and key conference room facilities. The cost will be £150,000 and will be met from a revenue contribution to the capital budget from the directorate revenue budget.

4.7 Brynmenyn Homelessness Unit

- 4.7.1 Brynmenyn Homelessness Unit provides 16 units of temporary accommodation on a fixed site, which is staffed for 24 hours a day and is located in Tondu. The primary use of the accommodation is for families who present as homeless.
- 4.7.2 The building is owned by BCBC. There is a structural issue that need to be rectified. Surveys have been carried out by officers to develop a schedule of works. As part of the remedial works the kitchen facility will be upgraded as that area will be significantly impacted during the remedial works. In July 2017, Cabinet received a report on the Budget Monitoring position as at quarter 1 which identified that a review of revenue budgets for the Operational and Partnership Services Directorate was underway and that an element of the under spend would be used to update facilities for the homeless. The estimated cost of the work is £120,000 and this will be met from these revenue budgets.

4.8 Mayoral Vehicle

- 4.8.1 The previous mayoral vehicle was 7 years old with a mileage in excess of 90,000 miles. An opportunity arose to replace the vehicle during the summer period using revenue under spends from within the Operational and Partnership Services Directorate and a decision was made to take advantage of that opportunity due to budget availability and lead in time for purchase. Consequently a decision was taken under delegated powers (Scheme B1, paragraph 2.2) to authorise an increase in the Council's capital budget for the purchase of the vehicle by £23,000, with the cost met from the directorate revenue budget. This revised budget is included within the current capital programme.
- 4.9 There are also a number of other adjustments required to the capital programme to reflect new external funding approvals and changes to expenditure profiles across financial years.
- 4.10 A revised capital programme is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. This shows a total revised programme of £175.031 million, of which £117.536 million is met from BCBC resources, including General Capital Funding from Welsh Government, and £57.495 million met from external resources.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules

- 5.1 There is no effect upon the policy framework or procedure rules.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 Projects within the capital programme will be subject to the preparation of Equality Impact Assessments before proceeding.

7 Financial Implications

- 7.1 The financial implications are outlined in the body of the report.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 It is recommended that Cabinet agrees that the revised Capital Programme be submitted to Council for approval.

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Background documents

Council Report – 31 May 2017: Capital Programme 2016-17 to 2026-27

Council Report - 28 June 2017: Civil Parking Enforcement Vehicle