

EXECUTIVE 13th October 2022

Report Title	Capital Programme Update 2022/23
Report Authors	Janice Gotts, Executive Director of Finance Janice.gotts@northnorthants.gov.uk
Lead Member	Councillor Lloyd Bunday, Executive Member for Finance and Transformation

Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there public sector equality duty implications?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information (whether in appendices or not)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Applicable paragraph number for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1974	

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to request approval for a capital scheme that has come forward for inclusion in the Council's Capital Programme. Approval of the scheme and associated funding will allow the schemes to move forward to procurement and delivery.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report contains details of projects which have been submitted by officers to the Council's Strategic Capital Board as part of the Council's Capital Approval Process. Each scheme must complete a business case setting out the changes requested to the Capital Programme, including the purpose of the spend, the expected outcomes and the financial implications together with funding routes.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that Executive approve the following changes to the capital programme:
- a. Earls Barton Library Improvements, increase of £0.051m to the capital programme for 2022/23, to be funded from Section 106 Developer Contributions.
 - b. Safer Streets, increase of £0.546m to the capital programme; £0.312m in 2022/23 and £0.234m in 2023/24, which is to be funded from Home Office Safer Streets Fund and in partnership with the Office of the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.
- 3.2 Reasons for the recommendation are set out in greater detail within section 5 of the report, but can be summarised as:
- To improve facilities at the Earls Barton library.
 - To promote safer streets in targeted areas with higher-than-average crime and anti-social behaviour.
- 3.3 Alternative Options Considered:
- Use of the funding is in line with the agreement, there is no alternative option proposed.
 - By not approving these recommendations there would be an adverse impact on service provision and the completion of projects in North Northamptonshire.

4. Report Background

- 4.1 The Capital Programme is the Council's plan for investing in assets to efficiently deliver its statutory services, and to improve the local infrastructure of North Northamptonshire, with the benefits lasting over a number of years. The Council is required to set a balanced revenue budget and therefore must ensure that where borrowing is proposed to fund the cost of capital that the cost of servicing the debt is affordable within the Council's revenue budget.
- 4.2 Resources come from a number of sources including Government grants, capital receipts from surplus land and buildings, revenue contributions, other external contributions and borrowing. The Council captures its projected capital expenditure within the Capital Programme to monitor the same, help to control costs and ensure transparency. Given that the Capital Programme is approved by Executive, changes to it are also approved by Executive unless authority has been delegated in accordance with the Council's constitution.
- 4.3 This report provides an update to the Capital Programme 2022/23 as adopted by the Council in February 2022 and requests that the proposed changes are approved and reflected within the programme.

5. Issues and Choices – Further Detail on the Recommendations and Updates to the Capital Programme

- 5.1 **Earls Barton Library Improvement – budget approval for £0.051m.** An amount of £51,157 of Section 106 funding is allocated to Earls Barton Library and the proposal is to provide a small extension to the side of the library building. This new space will provide a vital storage area for chairs and other equipment necessary for the ambitious programme of literary and other library activities which is already well established at this library.
- 5.2 An expansion of this programme is planned, with potential to grow the external hire of the premises, to increase the potential community hub and community engagement, as well as income generation. The new space will be designed to be easily accessible from within the library.
- 5.3 **Safer Streets – budget approval for £0.546m.** The Council submitted a successful bid to the Home Office Safer Streets Fund Round 4 and is a delivery partner in another successful bid to the same fund by the Office of the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner; £0.312 in 22/23 and £0.234m in 23/24.
- 5.4 The funding will support community safety improvements for the residents and businesses located in the two project areas: William Knibb and All Saints, Kettering and Queensway, Wellingborough. Such things include providing controlled access to alleyways where residents are experiencing persistent ASB and high levels of crime; extending our CCTV networks to provide 24/7 monitoring and recording; providing vulnerable residents with home security packs and target hardening; and providing facilities and amenities to divert young people away from crime.
- 5.5 Both project areas suffer from disproportionate levels of crime and ASB. William Knibb and All Saints have suffered with stubborn neighbourhood crime due to the structure and physical nature of its buildings that provide opportunity for offenders to move around undetected. Restricting access to alleyways and increasing CCTV will help combat this. Furthermore, William Knibb and All Saints are within the Kettering town area, which has identified issues with heroin and crack cocaine supply. The SS4 project in this area will be complementary to the previous Safer Streets round 2 project in a neighbouring part of All Saints, which is now seeing the early signs of deflection from the physical improvements achieved with that earlier funding.
- 5.6 The Queensway area has also seen higher levels of violent and knife crime including the murder of a then 16-year-old male in August 2021. There are a high number of young people involved in gang culture and this is seen as intergenerational within the Queensway area. Motorcycle nuisance has become a prevalent factor across the estate and that has grown since the tragic murder last year, of which the victim was enthusiastic about motorbikes. The estate has a bike track owned by NNC that needs developing, and in doing so will provide a worthwhile facility offering positive activities for young people. The project has a funding provision for undertaking that work.

6. Implications (including financial implications)

6.1 Resources, Finance and Transformation

6.1.1 The additional budget requirements are funded from the use of external grants and contributions.

6.1.2 The investments in safer streets will help to improve community safety in North Northamptonshire. For Earls Barton library it will support an improved customer experience at the library facilities and encourage greater participation.

6.2 Legal

6.2.1 The council must utilise funding and deliver schemes in line with the restrictions and requirements as set out in the agreements linked to that funding and the requirements as set out in the Council's Constitution, in particular the budget setting and policy framework and the financial regulations. In this regard any new borrowing must be approved by Council.

6.3 Risk

6.3.1 The deliverability of the 2022/23 Capital Programme is monitored by each accountable project manager and senior officer. There is further review throughout the financial year reported through the Executive.

6.3.2 If any overspends or emerging pressures are identified during the year, then mitigating actions will be sought and management interventions undertaken.

6.3.3 With most capital projects there is a risk that delays, and cost increases may arise as a result of the impact of inflation. Generally, this relates to the supply and price of materials with projects requiring increased lead in times. Whilst every attempt is made to cost these implications into the project, the risks remain. However, it must be recognised that at present the level of inflation is much higher than in previous periods and indeed when funding bids were originally submitted, and therefore this may pose a risk to the deliverability of the projects as originally envisaged within budget.

6.3.4 There is a risk in relation to funding, particularly where it is from third parties including grants, and appropriate agreements must be entered into to ensure that the funding is secured and spend is in accordance with any criteria stipulated by the funder, both the nature of the spend and the timing (where a deadline applies).

6.4 Relevant Policies and Plans

6.4.1 The schemes provide a strategic fit with the Councils priorities as set out within the corporate plan

6.5 Consultation

6.5.1 The 2022/23 Capital Strategy and Capital Programme were subject to consultation prior to approval by the North Northamptonshire Authority in February 2022. The programme was approved by Council at its meeting on 24th February 2022 and was subject to consultation from 23rd December 2021 to 28th January 2022. These changes are in addition to the approved programme.

6.6 Consideration by the Executive Advisory Panel

6.6.1 Not applicable

6.7 Consideration by Scrutiny

6.7.1 The schemes recommended in this report have not been considered by Scrutiny. However, monitoring against the programme is subject to Scrutiny.

6.8 Equality Implications

6.8.1 Nothing specific within this report

6.9 Climate and Environmental Impact

6.9.1 The climate and environmental impact of each capital project will be considered and managed within the relevant scheme.

6.10 Community Impact

6.10.1 These proposals can be considered to have a positive impact on the community as the Capital Programme delivers the infrastructure to support and connect communities.

6.11 Crime and Disorder Impact

6.11.1 Nothing specific within this report.

7. Background Documents

7.1 The following background papers can be considered in relation to this report.

[Capital Programme Budget 2022/23, North Northamptonshire Council, 24th February 2022.](#)