

Decision Maker: EDUCATION BUDGET SUB-COMMITTEE

Date: 8th April 2014

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Non-Key

Title: CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING Q3 2013/14 & ANNUAL CAPITAL REVIEW 2014 TO 2018

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Chief Officer: Director of Finance

Ward: (All Wards);

1. Reason for report

On 12th February 2014, the Executive received a report summarising the current position on capital expenditure and receipts following the 3rd quarter of 2013/14 and presenting for approval the new capital schemes supported by Council Directors in the annual capital review process. The Executive agreed a revised Capital Programme for the five year period 2013/14 to 2017/18. This report highlights changes agreed by the Executive in respect of the Capital Programme for the Education Portfolio. The revised programme for this portfolio is set out in Appendix A, detailed comments on individual schemes are included at Appendix B and the new schemes approved for this Portfolio are set out in paragraph 3.7.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

The Portfolio Holder is asked to confirm the changes agreed by the Executive on 12th February 2014.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy: Capital Programme monitoring is part of the planning and review process for all services. Capital schemes help to maintain and improve the quality of life in the borough. Affective asset management planning (AMP) is a crucial corporate activity if a local authority is to achieve its corporate and service aims and objectives and deliver its services. The Council continuously reviews its property assets and service users are regularly asked to justify their continued use of the property. For each of our portfolios and service priorities, we review our main aims and outcomes through the AMP process and identify those that require the use of capital assets. Our primary concern is to ensure that capital investment provides value for money and matches the Council's overall priorities as set out in the Community Plan and in "Building a Better Bromley". The capital review process requires Council Directors to ensure that bids for capital investment provide value for money and match Council plans and priorities.
 2. BBB Priority: Excellent Council; Supporting Independence
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: £550k for new schemes (see para 3.7)
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Capital Programme
 4. Total current budget for this head: £72.4m for the Education Portfolio over five years 2013/14 to 2017/18
 5. Source of funding: Capital grants, capital receipts and earmarked revenue contributions
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 0.25 fte
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: 9 hours per week
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Non-Statutory - Government Guidance
 2. Call-in: Applicable
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): N/A
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? No
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: N/A

3. COMMENTARY

Capital Expenditure

3.1 A revised Capital Programme was approved by the Executive on 12th February, following a detailed monitoring exercise carried out after the 3rd quarter of 2013/14. The Executive also considered and approved new capital schemes supported by Council Directors in the annual capital review process. This report identifies changes relating to the Education Portfolio and the table in paragraph 3.2 summarises the overall position following the Executive meeting.

Capital Monitoring – variations agreed by the Executive on 12th February 2014

3.2 The base position prior to the 3rd quarter's monitoring exercise was the revised programme approved by the Executive on 20th November 2013, as amended by variations approved at subsequent Executive meetings. Changes to the Education Portfolio Programme approved by the Executive in February are shown in the table below and further details are included in paragraphs 3.3 to 3.6. The revised Programme for the Education Portfolio (including new schemes) is attached as Appendix A and detailed comments on individual schemes are included at Appendix B.

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	TOTAL 2013/14 to 2017/18
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Programme approved by Executive 20/11/13	12,767	15,256	553	553	0	29,129
<u>Variations agreed by Executive 12/02/14</u>						
Basic Need - additional grant support (para 3.3)	0	0	20,635	21,667	0	42,302
Universal Free School Meals - new grant (para 3.4)	0	387	0	0	0	387
Rephasings from 2013/14 to later years (para 3.6)	-5,899	5,899	0	0	0	0
Total Q3 Monitoring variations	-5,899	6,286	20,635	21,667	0	42,689
New schemes (para 3.7)	0	0	0	0	550	550
Revised Education Capital Programme	6,868	21,542	21,188	22,220	550	72,368

3.3 Basic Need – government grant allocations for 2015/16 and 2016/17 (£42,302k increase)

The Executive was informed that additional grant allocations for Basic Need (school expansions) had been notified by the Department for Education. We will receive £20,635k in 2015/16 and £21,667k in 2016/17 and the Executive approved the inclusion of these sums in the Capital Programme.

3.4 Universal Free School Meals – new grant allocation for 2014/15 (£387k increase)

The Executive was informed of a new government grant recently announced by the Department for Education to upgrade school kitchens to facilitate the provision of free school meals. Bromley will receive £387k in 2014/15 and the Executive approved the inclusion of this sum in the Capital Programme.

3.5 Scheme rephasing

In reports last year to both the June and July meetings, the Executive was informed of the final outturn for capital expenditure in 2012/13 and noted that the overall level of unanticipated slippage into later years (some £4.1m) was significantly lower than in previous years and had continued the improvement seen at the end of 2011/12. Slippage of capital spending estimates has been a recurring theme over the years and Members were pleased to note that, following a review of the system for capital monitoring and for estimating the phasing of expenditure, carried

out after the 2010/11 final outturn, a more realistic approach towards anticipating slippage was apparently taken in setting the revised (final) estimates for 2011/12 and 2012/13 in February 2012 and 2013 respectively.

- 3.6 Some £2,741k of the overall slippage from 2012/13 into 2013/14 related to Education Portfolio schemes and this was analysed in the 1st quarter's monitoring report to the Budget Sub-Committee meeting in October 2013. In that report, the Sub-Committee was also informed that, following the 1st quarter's monitoring exercise, a total of £7.7m was rephased on Education schemes (Basic Need) from 2013/14 into later years. In the 2nd quarterly report to this Sub-Committee in January, Members were advised that a further £2.0m had been rephased by the Executive in November and, as is shown in the table in paragraph 3.2, a total of £5.9m was rephased by the Executive in February. This is itemised in the table below and comments on scheme progress are provided in Appendix B.

Capital Expenditure – Rephasing in Q3 monitoring	2013/14	2014/15
	£000	£000
Langley Park Boys School	-934	934
The Highway Primary School	-100	100
Reconfiguration of special schools	-117	117
Seed Challenge Fund	-342	342
Security works	-45	45
Children and Family Centres	-618	618
Capital maintenance in schools	-775	775
Basic Need	-2,400	2,400
Extended services	-44	44
Hawes Down Co-location	-249	249
Short Breaks capital	-67	67
Phoenix Pre-School SEN service	-208	208
Total Education Programme rephasing	-5,899	5,899

Annual Capital Review – new scheme proposals

- 3.7 In recent years, we have steadily scaled down new capital expenditure plans and have transferred all of the rolling maintenance programmes to the revenue budget. Our general (un-earmarked) reserves, established from the disposal of our housing stock and the Glades Site, have been gradually spent and have fallen from £131m in 1997 to £31.8m (including unapplied capital receipts) as at 31st March 2013. Whilst opportunities to dispose of property assets are being rigorously pursued, the level of receipts is not as high as in the past and new capital spending will effectively have to be met from our remaining revenue reserves.
- 3.8 As part of the normal annual review of the Capital Programme, Chief Officers were invited to come forward with bids for new capital investment. Invest to Save bids were particularly encouraged, but none were received, and it is assumed that any such bids will be submitted in due course through the earmarked reserve that was created in 2011. Apart from the normal annual capital bids relating to school and highway schemes, four bids were recommended for approval, with a total value of £2.2m, all of which would require funding from the Council's resources. None of these related to this Portfolio, but the normal annual provisions for Schools Access Initiative works (£150k), Formula Devolved Capital £390k) and feasibility studies (£10k) were approved and have now been included in the Capital Programme.

Post-Completion Reports

- 3.9 Under approved Capital Programme procedures, capital schemes should be subject to a post-completion review within one year of completion. Following the major slippage of expenditure at the end of 2010/11, Members confirmed the importance of these as part of the overall capital monitoring framework. These reviews should compare actual expenditure against budget and

evaluate the achievement of the scheme's non-financial objectives. A post-completion report on the Priory School – Local Learning Centre scheme will be submitted to this Sub-Committee in the near future.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Capital Programme monitoring and review is part of the planning and review process for all services. The capital review process requires Chief Officers to ensure that bids for capital investment provide value for money and match Council plans and priorities.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 These were reported in full to the Executive on 12th February 2014. Changes agreed by the Executive for the Education Portfolio Capital Programme are set out in paragraph 3.2.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Legal and Personnel Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Departmental monitoring returns January 2014. Approved Capital Programme (Executive 20/11/13). Capital appraisal forms submitted by Chief Officers in November 2013. Report to Council Directors' meeting 15/01/14.