

Meeting of the Cabinet – 6th December 2012

Joint Report of the Chief Executive and Treasurer

Capital Programme Monitoring and External Funding

Purpose of Report

1. To report progress with the implementation of the Capital Programme, and seek approval for bids for external funding.

Background

2. The table below summarises the *current* 3 year Capital Programme updated where appropriate to reflect latest scheme spending profiles.

Service	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Public Sector Housing	35,741	29,839	30,861
Other Adult, Community & Housing	9,513	2,758	0
Urban Environment	23,432	16,798	13,230
Children's Services	17,126	10,888	67
Corporate Resources	2,923	1,699	920
Chief Executive's	0	0	0
TOTAL	88,735	61,982	45,078

Note that the capital programme for future years is in particular subject to government grant allocations, some of which have not yet been announced.

3. In accordance with the requirements of the Council's Financial Regulations, details of progress with the 2012/13 Programme are given in Appendix A. It is proposed that the current position be noted.

Urban Environment

Mary Stevens Park – Restoration of Heritage Features and Improvements

4. Decision Sheet DUE/20/2009 (dated 8th April 2009) approved the submission of a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Round 1 application for a project at Mary Stevens Park which was subsequently approved by HLF on 20th December 2010. In line with Council Plan Objective RE2b and using this HLF grant of £116,000 the Council is now developing detailed designs and documentation for the submission of a second round application.

The estimated value of this second round bid is £2,671,000 and at this stage the anticipated HLF contribution would be £2,156,000. As previously identified in the Decision Sheet referred to above the other funding required to implement this project is a mixture of, Area Committee and Stevens Park and Recreation Ground Foundation Trust grant aid (£116,000), Section 106 funding (£140,000), and existing grounds maintenance funding (£259,000). Other external funding will be sought from local environmental trusts but has been excluded from our calculations at this stage as it cannot be guaranteed as secured.

It is proposed that the second round application to the HLF is supported and approved for submission by the end of February 2013.

Chief Executive's

Community Magazine

5. Dudley Together, the community partnership magazine was first published in 2006 and is distributed to 133,500 households across the borough plus a number of high footfall venues. Until April 2012 the publication was funded by Dudley Community Partnership. This has now ceased and alternative funding streams need to be found in order for the magazine to continue.

Following consideration of various options, the preferred way forward is to use a mixture of advertising and grant funding to offset costs. The Big Lottery Fund – Reaching Communities Grant seems the most appropriate funding stream available. The intention is that partner funding and advertising will ensure the magazine is self sustaining within five years. Previous editions of Dudley Together incorporated advertising successfully. The launch of a new publication will include advertising and secure funding from public sector partners.

The estimated cost of 4 editions per year for 5 years will be £395,000. It is proposed that a bid for Big Lottery Fund – Reaching Communities Grant for a total of £295,000 over five years be supported and approved for submission. It is envisaged that the balance of funding, £100,000, will be met from partner funding and advertising revenue.

Finance

6. This report is financial in nature and information about the individual proposals is contained within the body of the report.

Law

7. The Council's budgeting process is governed by the Local Government Act 1972, the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980, the Local Government Finance Act 1988, the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, and the Local Government Act 2003.

Equality Impact

8. These proposals comply with the Council's policy on Equality and Diversity.
9. With regard to Children and Young People:
 - The Capital Programme for Children's Services will be spent wholly on improving services for children and young people. Other elements of the Capital Programme will also have a significant impact on this group.
 - Consultation is undertaken with children and young people, if appropriate, when developing individual capital projects within the Programme.
 - There has been no direct involvement of children and young people in developing the proposals in this report.

Recommendations

10. That current progress with the 2012/13 Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix A be noted.
11. That the second round application to the HLF in respect of the Mary Stevens Park project is supported and approved for submission, as set out in paragraph 4.
12. That the bid for Big Lottery funding for a Community Magazine is supported and approved for submission, as set out in paragraph 5.



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Chief Executive



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List of Background Papers

Relevant resource allocation notifications.

2012/13 Capital Programme Progress to Date

Service	Budget £'000	Spend to 31st October £'000	Forecast £'000	Variance £'000
Public Sector Housing	35,741	13,031	35,741	-
Other Adult, Community & Housing	9,513	2,876	9,513	-
Urban Environment	23,432	4,902	23,432	-
Children's Services	17,126	6,219	17,126	-
Corporate Resources	2,923	1,070	2,923	-
Chief Executive's	0	0	0	-
TOTAL	88,735	28,098	88,735	-