



Report to the Deputy Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Resources, Cabinet Member for Sport and Leisure and Cabinet Member for Transport

Date: 11 August 2020

Reference number: R02.20

Title: Budget Adjustments to the Approved Capital Programme

Relevant councillor(s): None specifically

Author and/or contact officer: Sue.Palmer@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: All

Recommendations:

To increase the Strategic Highways Maintenance Budget by a total of £9,366k to reflect the additional resources provided by the Department of Transport which were not previously budgeted for.

To add to the approved capital programme a grant of £488k received from the Department of Transport's COVID-19 Emergency Active Travel Fund.

To allocate £440k of the Corporate Capital Contingency Budget to emergency work to repair a leak in the pool at Chalfont Leisure Centre.

Reason for decision:

Improving the condition of our roads is a high priority for the Council and by making the decision at this time, work can be undertaken during the warmer months when conditions are more suitable and at a time when traffic levels are lower than normal resulting in less disruption to road users.

To allow the Council to deliver a range of projects which support active travel and social distancing in line with the Council's bid to the Department of Transport's COVID-19 Emergency Active Travel Fund.

Background

Strategic Highways Maintenance Budget

- 1.1 On 14 May 2020 the Department of Transport announced that Ministers have decided that due to the ongoing coronavirus issues and pressures on authorities the 2020/21 Challenge Fund would be allocated by formula rather than competition. As a result Buckinghamshire Council's share of the Pothole Action and Challenge Funds for 2020/21 would be £7,573k.
- 1.2 In February 2020 the Buckinghamshire County Council was advised that its Challenge Fund bid for a project to improve the condition of the Council's main roads had been successful. The Council was awarded £1,200k for 2020/21 towards a project costing £1,500k with the match-funding coming from Strategic Highways Maintenance.
- 1.3 In 2019/20 the former County Council also received an allocation of £593k from the Pothole Action Fund for 2020/21.
- 1.4 In total these three grants provide additional funding of £9,366k and it is proposed to add them to the current approved capital programme to allow the work to progress during the warmer months.

COVID-19 Emergency Active Travel Fund

- 1.5 Work will be divided into three streams Aylesbury Garden Town, High Wycombe and Core Market Towns and the grant used to finance a range of measures to promote walking and cycling.

Allocation of Corporate Capital Contingency to Chalfont Leisure Centre Pool

- 1.6 As a result of the closure of Chalfont Leisure Centre in March 2020 due to COVID-19 it has become apparent that the swimming pool is losing some water. This was not been previously identified and the necessary repair work needs to be complete to enable the facility to reopen. The cost of identifying the exact location of the leak, repairing it and replacing the filtration system at the same time is estimated to be £440k.

Legal and financial implications

- 1.7 According to paragraph B5.2 of the Financial Regulations full Council shall approve amendments to the Capital Programme. However under paragraph B5.3 “In the event that new un-ring-fenced capital funding becomes available after the Annual Capital Programme has been set by Council, approval for the use of that funding within the capital programme and the incorporation into the Medium Term Financial Plan can be made by the Cabinet Member for Resources as a key decision, following advice from the Section 151 Officer, having regard to any statutory or non-statutory obligations imposed or implied by any conditions of award and after discussion with other relevant Cabinet Members and Corporate Directors. Any ringfenced funding and related expenditure will be added by the Section 151 Officer.”
- 1.8 According to the Financial Regulations Capital Virements require the approval of the Cabinet Member for Resources and Section 151 Officer if the virement involves a change to the approved use of resources in the Capital Programme or if they result in an addition of the Capital Programme in current and future years.

Corporate implications

- 1.9 The improvements in the condition of roads network achieved through this investment will contribute to the Council’s Key Priority of Increasing Prosperity.
- 1.10 The investment in walking and cycling will support the priorities of Improving our Environment by providing alternatives to car use. It will also support the priority of Increasing Prosperity by helping the local economy recover from the impact of COVID-19.

Consultation and communication

- 1.11 Ward Councillors will be advised of works being undertaken within their areas.

Next steps and review

NA

Background papers

None

Your questions and views (for key decisions)

If you have any questions about the matters contained in this report please get in touch with the author of this report. If you have any views that you would like the

Cabinet Member to consider please inform the Democratic Services team. This can be done by telephone 01296 382343 or email democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

