

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

This report contains exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (applies to Appendix A and B)

Report to: **Hub Committee**
Date: **28th January 2020**
Title: **Capital Budget Monitoring 2019/2020**
Portfolio Area: **Performance & Resources – Cllr C Edmonds**
Wards Affected: **All**

Urgent Decision: **N** Approval and clearance obtained: **Y**

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Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Hub Committee resolves:-

- i. To endorse the contents of the Report.

1. Executive summary

The report advises Members of the financial position as at 30th September 2019 for the purposes of budget monitoring. **All capital projects are within the individual capital budgets approved by Members.**

The total capital budget for 2019/20 is £7,532,193 of which £861,955 has been spent to date (Appendix A).

The capital programme is currently underspent in comparison to the budgets. This is mainly due to the capital schemes for the Tavistock Temporary Accommodation Development and the Community Housing Schemes at Brentor and Lamerton being in the early stages. Expenditure on Improvement Grants (Disabled Facilities Grants) is £626,918 at Month 9, compared to the budget for 19/20 of £985,418.

2. Background

The capital programme for 2019/20 was approved by Council on 12 February 2019 (CM53 and HC74 refer). This report provides an update on the Capital Programme.

3. Outcomes/outputs

Members are requested to note the following updates on Capital Projects:

Community Project Grants (previously Village Hall & Community Project Grants)

There is no additional budget allocation for Community Project Grants in 2019/20 however there is a budget of £41,195 from underspends in previous years.

Expenditure to date in 2019/20 is £16,460, any unspent funds in this financial year will be retained for projects in 2020/21.

Affordable Housing

The budget for Affordable Housing in 2019/20 is £50,000. The budget brought forward from previous years is £89,000 giving a total of £139,000 available in 2019/20.

In recent times the capital programme has facilitated affordable housing developments in rural areas by providing a sum of money, normally between £10,000 and £15,000 per plot, to enable the development to proceed. These schemes are typically on exception sites and therefore do not rely on cross subsidy from open market properties, evidence from a Registered Provider (RP) is provided to ensure additional money is required to make the scheme viable. Money is normally required where there are abnormalities on the site or there is a shortage of public subsidy.

Private Sector Renewals including Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG's)

As at the end of December (Month 9), £626,918 has been spent compared to the budget for 19/20 of £985,418.

A further £119,722 has already been approved (committed) and there are further Statements of Need being progressed which total another £154,400.

Waste Fleet

The Council is in discussions with the Waste Contractor, FCC, with regard to the timing of purchases over the coming months. It is envisaged that the budget will be utilised in 2019/20. There is no expenditure to the end of December (month 9) however there are commitments of just under £140,000.

Community Housing Schemes

The Community Housing Strategy was put in place to support the development of homes accessible to those with local connections for whom the cost of market housing (to purchase and rent) is beyond their reach.

A budget of £4.3m was approved within the 2019/20 capital programme. This budget will be used to build out two community housing schemes at Brentor and Lamerton.

A planning application is to be submitted for 12 residential units in Brentor. This is currently being progressed with the DNPA and it is anticipated that this should be determined by the spring of 2020 with construction commencing in the summer/autumn of 2020 with completion in the spring of 2021.

The proposal to build 17 residential units in Lamerton is dependent on support by Lamerton Parish Council. They will meet on Monday 13th Jan to determine if the scheme is taken forward on the proposed site. If not the funding allocated will be deployed elsewhere (the funding is through PWLB borrowing).

Tavistock Viaduct

WDBC officers have been seeking further advice from DCC's Bridges Team as to the level of maintenance work required on the viaduct.

The early indications are that this can be limited to further vegetation clearance and some drainage improvements.

4. Options available and consideration of risk

This is considered on a project by project basis as part of the project appraisal document and initial business case for each capital project.

5. Proposed Way Forward

This is considered on a project by project basis.

6. Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address
Legal/Governance		<p>Statutory powers are provided by the S1 Localism Act 2011 general power of competence.</p> <p>The capital programme is implemented in line with the Council's legal requirements, which are examined on a project-by-project basis. To date there are no undue legal concerns.</p> <p>The public interest has been assessed and it is considered that the public interest will be better served by not disclosing the information in the Appendices. Accordingly this report contains exempt Information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.</p>

<p>Financial Implications to include reference to Value for Money</p>		<p>The total capital budget for 2019/20 is £7,532,193 of which £861,955 has been spent as at 31st December 2019 (Appendix A).</p> <p>All the capital projects are within the individual capital budgets approved by Members.</p> <p>The regular monitoring of the Capital Programme ensures the Council has arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.</p>
<p>Risk</p>		<p>There is a risk that the Capital Programme does not meet the Council's corporate priorities in line with the Council's Asset Strategy and the opportunity to assess emerging projects, which could contribute to the Council's priorities. The mitigation is that there is a project appraisal for each proposal. This is taken into account when assessing possible implementation timescales. Complex capital programmes have a relatively long lead-in period.</p> <p>The Council demonstrates that capital investment contributes to corporate priorities, provides value for money and takes account of the revenue implications of the investment. Regular monitoring of the capital programme and consideration of new pressures enables Members to control the programme and secure appropriate mitigation where problems arise.</p> <p>There is regular quarterly monitoring of the Capital Programme to Members where any cost overruns are identified at an early stage.</p>

Supporting Corporate Strategy		The Capital Programme supports all six of the Corporate Themes of the Council, Homes, Enterprise, Communities, Environment and Wellbeing.
Climate Change - Carbon / Biodiversity Impact		<p>A climate change action plan was presented to Members at the Council meeting on 17th December, 2019.</p> <p>Further future reports containing business cases will be presented to Members setting out a strategy as to how the Council could finance items within the action plan, whether that is from external grant sources or some funding from the Council's own resources.</p>
Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications		
Equality and Diversity		This matter is assessed as part of each specific project.
Safeguarding		This matter is assessed as part of each specific project.
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder		This matter is assessed as part of each specific project.
Health, Safety and Wellbeing		This matter is assessed as part of each specific project.
Other implications		None

Supporting Information

Appendices:

Appendix A – Details of capital expenditure to 31st December 2019
Appendix B – Details of Exempt schemes approved as part of the 2019/20 Capital Budget and Purchase of Land at Okehampton

Background Papers:

Capital Budget proposals for 2019/20 - Council 12 February 2019 (CM53 refers)

Capital Budget proposals for 2019/20 – Hub 29 January 2019 (HC74 refers)

Process checklist	Completed
Portfolio Holder briefed	Yes
SLT Rep briefed	Yes
Relevant Heads of Practice sign off (draft)	Yes
Data protection issues considered	Yes
Accessibility checked	Yes