

Appendix 3

Summary of Capital Scrutiny Group Recommendations (Capital Plan 2024/25)

1.1 Report Details

1.1 The available funding for 2024/25 is shown below:

Source	Amount £000
General Capital Grant	3,128
Un-hypothecated Supported Borrowing	3,045
Sub-total: WG Funding – Provisional Settlement December 2023	6,173
Prudential Borrowing ICT - existing provision	250
Prudential Borrowing – Highways	2,000
Capital receipts	111
Estimated unused contingency b/f	328
Total Funds Available 2024/25	8,862

1.2 The Capital Plan spends money on two types of project. Firstly there are one-off projects such as a new school; the second type is a 'block allocation'. These are on-going programmes of work that stretch over several years (and may never be complete) e.g. schools maintenance. Elements of this work may be paid for from repair and maintenance budgets but a significant part is funded through the Capital Plan.

Recommendations of Capital Scrutiny Group

1.3 Bids submitted to Capital Scrutiny Group were broadly in line with previously agreed block allocations for services, with the exception of the Property block allocation and Highways prudential borrowing. Services were asked to provide a business case to support their bids. However, as was the case for the 2023/24 bids, the requirement for Heads of Service to present business cases to Capital Scrutiny Group was waived.

1.4 Each bid was submitted with approval of the relevant Head of Service. The proposed allocations are detailed in Appendix 6 and in summary are as follows:

- An allocation of £240k is recommended for Minor Adaptations, Community Equipment and Telecare. This funding is targeted at enabling the elderly and disabled to remain in their own homes.
- It is proposed to allocate £1.5m in support of Private Sector Housing Assistance. The funding will be used in the main on the provision of Disabled Facilities Grants.
- Both the school and non-school capital maintenance bids include provision for essential maintenance such as asbestos removal, fire risk assessment work, equalities etc. It is recommended that £1.5m be allocated to schools capital maintenance works. It is also proposed to allocate £1.368m to non-schools capital maintenance work. It is further recommended that the appropriate Heads of Service determine the precise allocations to works required, in order of priority.
- Council on 30 January 2024 was asked to approve £150k revenue funding to fund capital spend on Highways as part of the 2024/25 Investment in Priorities. This will allow £2.000m of capital expenditure.
- In addition to this, it is proposed to allocate £710k block allocation for structural and other repairs including highway maintenance, street lighting and bridges. Also included within this recommendation is a further £470k for repairs to bridge structures. This is the eighth year of a proposed ten-year Highways Structure Backlog Project.
- An allocation of £324k is recommended to carry out road safety improvements.
- It is proposed to allocate £250k of the £1m four-year rolling programme to fund the annual desktop refresh and a number of other projects in order to maintain the Council's ICT infrastructure. Years 2 to 4 to be reviewed in 2024/25.
- Capital Scrutiny Group recommends maintaining the allocation set aside for any contingencies at £0.5m, in line with 2023/24.