



Report to: Council

Date of Meeting: 1 March 2007

Report from: Director of Resources

Title of Report: 2007/2008 General Fund Capital Programme

Agenda Item Number: **17**

1. PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 The report summarises the 2007/08 General Fund Capital Programme proposals for consideration by Council.

2. CONSULTATION

2.1 Corporate Management Team has been consulted on the contents of the report. The Capital Working Group has considered the new bids to the programme.

3. CORPORATE PLAN AND PRIORITIES

3.1 Several of the Capital Programme bids address the Council's priorities. The schemes are detailed in section 7 of the report.

4. IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial and Value for Money

The financial implications are detailed throughout the report.

4.2 Legal

There are no legal requirements.

4.3 Personnel

There are no personnel implications.

4.4 Other Services

The capital programme proposals clearly have an impact on other service areas.

4.5 Diversity

The capital programme includes provision for Disabled Facilities Grants impact upon people with disabilities who need adaptations to their homes. Account also needs to be taken of proposals that may be developed as a result of ongoing work to identify, cost and prioritise reasonable adjustment that need to be made to ensure that council buildings open to the public are accessible.

4.6 Risk

It is essential that only available resources are committed; schemes can only go ahead once the capital resources are in place to support them.

4.7 Crime and Disorder

The Crime and Disorder Act of 1998 requires the Council to consider all of its budgets, policies and plans in the light of their contribution to the reduction of crime and disorder.

4.8 Other Implications

There are no other implications arising from the contents of the report.

5. ESTIMATED RESOURCES

5.1 All existing resources have been fully allocated to 2006/07 schemes. There are, therefore, no uncommitted resources.

5.2 For 2007/08, it is estimated that capital receipts will amount to £3.758 million; however, only £1.258 million of this is contractually committed.

5.3 Approximately £2.458 million of the receipts is from housing land. This includes the contractually committed £1.258 million. This will be available to fund regeneration and for affordable housing schemes. £805,000 is required to fund existing commitments as detailed in section 6 of the report.

5.4 The other £1.3 million of the estimated capital receipts is from non-housing land, but none of this is contractually committed. As and when these receipts are agreed, then they can be used to fund the general fund capital programme.

6. CURRENT CAPITAL PROGRAMME COMMITMENTS

6.1 Regeneration commitments for 2007/08 amount to £805,000:-

	£000
A693 roundabout	100
Riverside Sports Pitches	25
Poets' Estate Environmental Improvements	600
Pelton Fell - Relocation Grants	50
Pelton Fell - security, disturbance and home loss	30
	805

6.2 As stated in section 5.3 above, these commitments will be first call on the receipts from the sale of housing land.

6.3 In addition, salary costs amounting to £213,000 have been allocated to the 2007/08 capital programme. These are the costs of Officers' time engaged on capital programme schemes. Of this, £155,000 is for regeneration schemes and £58,000 for other capital programme schemes. Salary costs allocated to the SHIP programme are in addition to this, and are grant funded so do not require any funding from the Council's capital receipts.

7. 2007/08 CAPITAL PROGRAMME BIDS

7.1 The 2007/08 bids have been categorised as follows:-

Statutory Requirements
Health and Safety Requirements
Business Critical
Other

7.2 Statutory Requirements

Bids amounting to £608,000 are essential to meet statutory requirements:-

	£000
Aids and Adaptations – Affordable housing	310
Disabled Facilities Grants (net of grant income)	132
COSY	160
Secure e-payments system	6
	608

In addition, there will be a requirement to address the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act in respect of access to Council buildings. Some work has already been carried out, having been funded by previous years' capital programme provision but further improvements are required. However, surveys need to be carried out before this work can be quantified and this work is underway. Outcomes will be prioritised to enable formal bids to be made. It is proposed that this is reported to the Capital Working Group as soon as possible.

7.3 Health and Safety Requirements

Bids amounting to £711,000 are essential to meet health and safety requirements:-

	£000
Industrial Sites	325
Civic Centre Roof	200
Cemeteries, footpaths, headstones, memorials	120
Car Parking repairs	22
Fire Detection Equipment - depot	10
Electrical Works - Leisure Centre	18
Signage and PA system - Leisure Centre	16
	711

7.4 Business Critical

Bids amounting to £243,000 are needed to support the continued delivery of services:-

	£000
Town Centre Regeneration Officer	40
Revenues and Benefits 'Open Query' system	19
Wheelie Bin Replacements	17
Website Developments	10
CAPS Upgrade	5
CRM Integration	14
PC Replacement	60
Server Replacement	20
Boiler System at Riverside	5
Electoral Roll Upgrade	5
Synthetic Pitch Works	7
Floodlighting	9
Gym Equipment	7
Grass Cutting Equipment	25
	243

7.5 Other Bids

2007/08 bids not included in the sections above are listed as follows:-

	£000
Audit Computer System	26
Bus Shelters	85
*1 Housing Renewal Grants	500
Brake Tester	26
Tree Fences	2
Landscaping	5
Platform equipment	32
Graffiti equipment	4
Surveillance cameras	6
I.T./Modernisation - Low and medium priority	297
Leisure changing rooms	150
Riverside – W.C.	12
Community Centre works	12
Play Areas	80
Cemeteries and Headstones	70
Vehicle replacement	215
Car Park Ticket Machines	8
Grass Cutting Equipment - Leisure	52
Grass Cutting Equipment - Environmental Services	18
Leisure - plant/machinery	10
Golf - drainage	45
Golf - irrigation	20
Industrial Units	28
Total	1,703

*1 Pending review of policy

8. **SUMMARY**

8.1 Total funding required to meet existing capital programme commitments and the bids prioritised in sections 7.2, 7.3 and 7.4 amounts to £2.580 million:-

	£000
Regeneration Commitments (section 6.1)	805
Salaries (section 6.3)	213
Statutory Requirements	608
Health and Safety Requirements	711
Business Critical Schemes	243
	2,580

- 8.2 Regeneration and affordable housing requirements amount to £1.310 million and these will be funded from receipts from the sale of housing land. Other requirements amount to £1.270 million which will be funded from the receipts from other (non-housing) land sales.
- 8.3 As stated in paragraph 5.2, total receipts expected in 2007/08 amount to £3.758 million, but only £1.258 million from the sales of housing land is contractually committed. This receipt can only be used for regeneration and affordable housing schemes.
- 8.4 It is proposed that the £1.258 million is used to fund the following:-

	£000
Regeneration Commitments	805
Salaries allocated to regeneration schemes	155
Town Centre Regeneration Officer	40
Affordable Housing - Aids and Adaptations	258
	1,258

This still leaves a requirement of £52,000 for aids and adaptations in affordable housing which will have to be funded by other housing receipts.

- 8.5 All other schemes are dependent on the asset sales. The Capital Working Group will monitor progress on asset sales and release funding for prioritised schemes once the receipts are contractually committed.

9. THE EXECUTIVE

- 9.1 The Executive considered the General Fund Capital Programme for 2007/08 at its Special meeting on 19 February 2007.

9.2 The Executive:

- (i) recommended that the schemes identified in sections 7.2, 7.3 and 7.4 are included in the 2007/08 capital programme;
- (ii) recommended the use of the housing capital receipts as detailed in section 8.4;
- (iii) agreed that the Capital Working Group continues to monitor progress on asset sales and releases funding for prioritised schemes once funding is in place;
- (iv) noted that the schemes identified in section 7.5 are dependent on further asset sales and agreed that these schemes should be prioritised using the outcome of the Residents' Opinion Survey, the Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Plan priorities and reported back to the Executive.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 It is recommended that the Council approves the recommendations of the Executive as detailed in section 9.2.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 The following background papers have been used in the preparation of this report:-

- (1) Report to the Executive on 8 January 2007:-
“General Fund Capital Programme”
- (2) 2007/08 Capital Programme Bids

AUTHOR NAME: Linda Chambers
DESIGNATION: Director of Resources
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AUTHOR CONTACT: E-mail - lindachambers@chester-le-street.gov.uk
Telephone - 0191 3872300