

**APPENDIX A(i)**

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES**

**EXECUTIVE BOARD 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

**Capital Budget Consultations**

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**SCRUTINY COMMITTEES – BUDGET CONSULTATIONS COMMENTS**

**1. COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 5th DECEMBER 2016**

The Committee considered the Five Year Capital Programme 2017/18 to 2021/22 (Appendix A) which had been endorsed by the Executive Board for consultation purposes at its meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2016. It was noted that feedback from the consultation process, along with the outcome of the final settlement, would inform the final budget report which would be presented to members for consideration in February, 2017.

The proposed capital programme was £208m over the 5 years, which aimed to deliver a number of key projects including, to create jobs and improve the quality of life for the people of Carmarthenshire.

The report highlighted the provisional settlement received from the Welsh Government on the 19th October 2016, which indicated capital funding of £9.400m for the Authority in 2017-18. The funding was made up of Supported Borrowing of £5.844m and General Capital Grant of £3.556m. It was noted that in the absence of any forward indications by Welsh Government this level of funding had been assumed for each year of the five year programme.

In summary, the overall position of the capital programme was funded for the first 4 years from 2017/18 to 2020/21 with a current shortfall of £3.123m in the final year of the programme 2021/22.

The following issues were discussed during consideration of the report:

In response to a query regarding the future of external funding the Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration & Policy) stated that European Funding would cease as a result of Brexit and that it was hoped that the Welsh Government would assist in

providing some of the shortfall. However, the Authority would continue to seek alternative funding opportunities.

It was asked about the current position of the improvement works to Carmarthenshire County Museum Abergwili. The Head of Leisure informed the Committee that improvement work had commenced and that some funding had been allocated from the current financial year. Furthermore, an additional application would seek further funds in 2018/19.

Reference was made to Safe Routes in the Communities where it was asked why there was no Carmarthenshire Council funding in 2018/19. The Head of Transportation & Highways stated that the figures were indicative at this stage. Furthermore, throughout the year communities would be invited to apply for a scheme. The Authority is permitted to bid for 3 schemes per annum, each application is assessed against the criteria for the grant as determined by the Wales Government. The authority is allowed to submit bids for 3 schemes per annum. The figures included within the programme were indicative amounts but are dependent of the outcome of the bidding process. It was noted that there were limited funds in relation to County Farms. The Head of Property advised that the funding in 2017/18 was in addition to funds allocated in the current and previous years. In addition that portfolio would continue to receive appropriate maintenance from the general capital maintenance budget each year. Furthermore, members were informed that the fund would be primarily utilised to ensure that Council Farm Houses were brought up to a reasonable standard.

Concerns were raised regarding the A4138 Hendy Link Road and the lack of plans in place to fund any improvements. The Head of Transportation & Highways stated that discussions were currently taking place with Welsh Government and the Trunk Road Agency. In response to an additional concern regarding the closure of the junction the Head of Transportation & Highways stated that there were no plans to close the junction, The investment priorities are set out in the approved Local Transport Plan and schemes are developed accordingly.

It was asked, who would be maintaining the Towy Valley Cycle Way? The Head of Transportation & Highways stated that whilst Carmarthen County Council would have some responsibility there were ongoing discussions with relevant partners.

A concern was raised in relation to road repair at Dafen that was not completed to a satisfactory standard. The Head of Transportation & Highways requested the Member for more information to be forwarded to him.

**Resolved to note the Five Year Capital Programme 2017/18 to 2021/22.**

## **2. SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 12<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2016**

The Committee received the Five Year Capital Programme 2017/18 – 21/22 as part of the budget consultation and considered the projects relating to its service

areas. It was noted that feedback from the consultation process would inform the final budget report to be presented to Members in February, 2017.

The Director of Corporate Services highlighted that one of the main projects was the Llanelli Area Review and that £7m was still earmarked for this project. The Committee requested more information of progress on this project and in particular when the new care home would be built. The Head of Integrated Services explained that no definite proposals had been agreed and further information had been requested at the next meeting of the Committee as part of the ARCH project update.

Concern was expressed about existing residential homes in the Llanelli area that were declining and required investment to modernise them and it was asked if this was going to be addressed. The Director of Corporate Services explained that there was £3m allocated to a priority fund and maintenance was captured within this fund. However, the Council did not want to duplicate work that would be part of the ARCH project and priorities would be determined by the forthcoming proposals. The Executive Board Member for Social Care and Health also informed the Committee that there was a review underway of residential homes to identify what investment was required and a report on the review would be brought to a future meeting.

The Committee noted that the report proposed funding for Llanelli Leisure Centre and officers explained that this was also dependent on the progression of the Llanelli Area Review. Clarification was also provided regarding the new site development for Ysgol Dewi Sant and the Committee was informed that consultation was ongoing regarding the preferred site.

Members queried whether recipients of the Disabled Facility Grants, particularly those in rural areas, could use their own builders to undertake the required work rather than having a builder allocated by the Council. It was agreed that the question would be referred to the Housing Department.

**RESOLVED that the report be unanimously received.**

### **3. ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 16<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2016**

The Committee considered the Five Year Capital Programme 2017/18 to 2021/22 (Appendix A) which had been endorsed by the Executive Board for consultation purposes at its meeting on 21st November 2016. It was noted that feedback from the consultation process, along with the outcome of the final settlement, would inform the final budget report which would be presented to members for consideration in February, 2017.

The report highlighted the provisional settlement received from the Welsh Government on the 19th October 2016, which indicated capital funding of £9.400m

for the Authority in 2017-18. The funding was made up of Supported Borrowing of £5.844m and General Capital Grant of £3.556m. It was noted that in the absence of any forward indications by the Welsh Government this level of funding had been assumed for each year of the five year programme.

The proposed capital programme was £208m over the 5 years, which aimed to deliver a number of key projects including, to create jobs and improve the quality of life for the people of Carmarthenshire. In summary, the overall position proposed funds of £120.035m by the County Council with external funding equating to £85.337m, thus leaving a shortfall of £3.123m.

The following issues were discussed during consideration of the report:

Reference was made to the lack of funds dedicated to Coastal Defence from 2018/19 onwards and it was suggested that the Council should be pro-active in this area by allocating funds as a preventative measure, which in turn, would avoid unplanned reactive spend. In response, the Director of Environment informed the Committee that it was planned that funds would be allocated to specific schemes on a rolling programme.

**RESOLVED to note the Five Year Capital Programme 2017/18 to 2021/22.**

#### **4. EDUCATION AND CHILDREN COMMITTEE – 22nd DECEMBER 2016**

The Committee considered the Five Year Capital Programme for 2017/18 to 2021/22 (Appendix A) which had been endorsed by the Executive Board for consultation purposes at its meeting on 21st November 2016. It was noted that feedback from the consultation process, along with the outcome of the final settlement, would inform the final budget report which would be presented to members for consideration in February 2017. The Committee noted that proposed capital programme worth £208m over the 5 years, was aimed at delivering a number of key projects including, to create jobs and improve the quality of life for the people of Carmarthenshire.

The following issues were discussed during consideration of the report:

Clarification was sought as to why Laugharne had been included in the MEP Programme when no decision had been taken in respect of the future of the schools in this area. The Interim Director of Education & Children informed the Committee that it had been included so that re-profiling work could be undertaken, should the proposals for the area's schools go ahead and a new extension be required to accommodate more pupils.

It was noted that Gorslas was now included in the programme with a new school to be built in the near future, even though it was the Committee's view that there were many other schools in dire need of new facilities. Members recalled their visit to Hendy earlier in the year and voiced concern that this school was not included in

the programme even though they were of the view that it required a new build. The Interim Director for Education & Children acknowledged the Committee's concerns.

**The Committee UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the 5-Year Capital Programme 2017/18 to 2021/22 be endorsed**

#### **5. POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 11<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2017**

The Committee considered the 5 year capital programme which had been approved by the Executive Board for consultation on the 21<sup>st</sup> November 21. It was noted that feedback from the consultation process, along with the outcome of the final settlement, would inform the final budget report which would be presented to members for consideration in February, 2017. The proposed capital programme was £208m over the 5 years, and was aimed at delivering a number of key projects that would create jobs and improve the quality of life for the people of Carmarthenshire, with the key investment headings being Schools - £79m; Housing - £10m; Lesiure - £23m, Regeneration - £28m; Environment - £60m.

The report highlighted the provisional settlement received from the Welsh Government on the 19th October 2016, which indicated capital funding of £9.400m for the Authority in 2017-18. The funding was made up of Supported Borrowing of £5.844m and General Capital Grant of £3.556m. It was noted that in the absence of any forward indications by Welsh Government this level of funding had been assumed for each year of the five year programme. In summary, the overall position of the capital programme was funded for the first 4 years from 2017/18 to 2020/21 with a current shortfall of £3.123m in the final year of the programme 2021/22.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Five Year Capital Programme 2017/18 – 2021/22 be endorsed.**