

**EXTRACT****POLICY & RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, 3 February 2021

**5. FIVE YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME - 2021/22 TO 2025/26**

The Executive Board Member for Resources presented the 5-year capital programme which provided an initial view of the 5-year Capital Programme from 2021/22 to 2025/26. The report formed the basis of the budget consultation process with Scrutiny Committee and other relevant parties and any feedback, along with the final settlement, would inform the final budget report which would be presented to members in March 2021. The proposed capital programme was a capital spend of some £242m over the next 5 years and current funding proposals included external funding of £119m. The report highlighted the provisional settlement received from the Welsh Government which indicated capital funding of £11.866m for the Authority in 2021-22. The funding was made up of Unhypothecated Supported Borrowing of £5.925m and General Capital Grant of £5.941m. In summary, the overall position of the capital programme was funded for the 5 years from 2021/22 to 2025/26.

Amongst the issues raised during consideration of the report were the following:

- In response to a query relating to the availability of expenditure to address road repairs the Committee was advised that £600k was available in the capital programme for highways and Welsh Government had allocated a further £1.5m from its road refurbishment fund set up last year. In addition the Council could also bid for road resilience funding from the Welsh Government;
- In response to a concern over the delay in respect of the proposed new Ammanford School as part of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools programme it was understood that the delay related to issues relating to the proposed site but an assurance was given that it remained in the capital programme;
- In response to a question it was stated that works in connection with County Hall, Carmarthen, and Ty Elwyn, Llanelli, could not be delayed due to health and safety and property maintenance issues. This included updating the fire alarm systems;
- In respect of the Tywi Valley Path it was considered that Welsh Government support would be required to secure its completion due to the likely substantial cost of the land acquisition necessary. However, at present the Welsh Government was focussing on its active travel initiative and therefore any further progress on the path was likely to be delayed;
- With regard to spending allocated in 2021/22 for the new Llanelli Leisure Centre it was pointed out that this was dependent on the commencement of work on the new Wellness Village, Pentre Awel;
- It was noted that borrowing limits were set out in the Treasury Management Policy. The Authority worked on the basis of managing internal borrowing to keep the limit down [Minute 7 below]. The Director of Corporate Services advised that there was a duty on him to report that any borrowing was

affordable, sustainable and prudent before the Council made a decision on its budget.

**RESOLVED that the Five-Year Capital Programme 2021/22 – 2025/26 be endorsed.**