

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet **Date:** 15 December 2015

Subject: Capital Programme Review 2015/16 to 2019/20

Portfolio Holder: Councillor S Stavrou (Finance)

Recommending:

- (1) That a Capital supplementary estimate in the sum of £88,000 in 2015/16 for the Museum Development Project be approved;**
 - (2) That a Capital supplementary estimate in the sum of £49,000 in 2015/16 for planned maintenance works at the Civic offices be approved;**
 - (3) That a Capital supplementary estimate in the sum of £12,000 in 2015/16 for two remaining Private Sector Housing Grants be approved; and**
 - (4) That a Capital supplementary estimate in the sum of £7,000 in 2015/16 for CCTV equipment at Town Mead Depot be approved.**
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1. At its meeting on 3 December 2015, the Cabinet considered the Council's Capital Programme for the five-year period 2015/16 to 2019/20. This included: the forecast capital investment in Council owned assets; estimates of capital loans to be made for private housing initiatives; and projected levels of revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute.

2. As part of the Review, the Council's projected capital expenditure was reviewed and a number of amendments agreed, including carry forwards, reductions, virements and re-phasing of projects. There were also four areas where additional funding was considered necessary and the Cabinet agreed to seek the Council's approval for four supplementary estimates in 2015/16.

Museum Redevelopment Project

3. The Capital Programme included a major project to extend and redevelop the Council's Museum. This would provide step free access across the site and allow a large percentage of the reserve collections to be brought into the heart of the Museum. Work began on site in April 2015 with an expected completion date of October 2015. However, there had been a number of delays with the project, which had resulted in increased costs for the Council. It was estimated that a further £88,000 would be required and the Council is requested to approve a Capital supplementary estimate in this sum.

Planned Maintenance Works – Civic Offices

4. The Five-Year Planned Maintenance Programme was reviewed periodically

to ensure that the Council's operational and commercial property assets were properly maintained and improved to meet Health & Safety requirements, statutory regulations, contractual obligations, customer demands, as well as the long term protection and value of the Council's assets.

5. As part of this review, the Cabinet agreed to revise a number of spending profiles into 2016/17. However, it was also agreed to request that the Council approved a Capital supplementary estimate in the sum of £88,000 for planned maintenance works at the Civic Offices; this sum having originally been set aside within the planned maintenance revenue account for the replacement windows at the Civic Offices.

Private Sector Housing Grants

6. The Capital budget for private sector housing assistance covered private sector housing grants approved under the previous system of non-repayable grants for decent homes, small works and thermal comfort assistance. A new Housing Assistance policy came into effect from 1 July 2012, which involved the offer of loans to private householders rather than grants. However, two remaining grants, sanctioned before the change came into effect, had become payable this year, and the Cabinet had agreed to request Council approval for a £12,000 supplementary estimate to cover this commitment.

CCTV Equipment at Town Mead Depot

7. The CCTV Capital Programme had progressed well but the essential installation of a CCTV system at Town Mead Depot in Waltham Abbey, due to security problems, had led to unexpected expenditure from this budget. Consequently, the Cabinet had agreed to request Council approval for a £7,000 capital supplementary estimate to cover the cost of the new system, which would be financed by a contribution from revenue budgets where savings had already been identified.

Conclusion

8. We recommend as set out at the commencement of this report.