

General Services Capital Plan 2013/14 to 2017/18**Report by Gary Fairley, Head of Finance and Human Resources****1 Purpose of Report**

This report presents:

- An updated capital plan for 2013/14 to 2017/18;
- The new essential and unavoidable projects identified for 2013/14 that require to be considered for incorporation into the plan.

2 Capital Plan 2013/14 to 2017/18**2.1 Expenditure**

The expenditure profiles included in appendix 1 have been updated to reflect the current position. The main changes are since last reported to Council on 25th June 2013 are:

- The inclusion of the construction of Newbattle High School with a projected expenditure of £27.003 million;
- It is now estimated that the new Bilston Primary will not be required until August 2016 and Gorebridge primary schools will not be required until August 2017, the budgets have therefore been re-profiled to reflect this;
- Project budgets totalling £0.543 million have been removed from the plan due to projects either being completed under budget or carry forward budgets no longer being required;
- The budget of £0.424 million for the Gorebridge Community Hub has also been removed from the plan due to a change in the proposed funding arrangements. These works are planned to be carried out by the Gorebridge Community Trust;
- The vehicle replacement programme has also been updated to reflect current requirements;
- Project expenditure totalling £0.736 million has been re-profiled between 2013/14 and 2014/15 due to the re-prioritisation of work.

This includes:

- £0.348 million for Members Environmental Improvements
- £0.306 million for Education ITC
- £0.235 million for various Corporate IT projects
- £0.043 million for the Property Services review
- £0.150 million has been brought forward for the Penicuik Care Home hub
- £0.046 million has been brought forward for Lasswade High School
- An increase of £0.027 million for cycling, walking and safer streets as a result of additional grants awarded from Bikeability, Sustrans and Sustrans;
- An additional project to carry out an essential upgrade to the playground at Newtongrange Primary School at a cost of £0.018 million was approved by delegated authority.

The General Services Capital Plan now includes provision beyond the previous plan for the years 2016/17 and 2017/18. This has allowed the following to be incorporated:

- A total of £1.308 million for the later years of the Waste Service Review and the introduction of food waste;
- The ongoing annual budgets:
 - £0.180 million for the Members Environmental Improvements;
 - £0.150 million for Assistive Technology;
 - £0.095 million for Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets, this is a ring fenced capital grant.

Overall the revised approved expenditure budget is £66.099 million over the life of the plan.

2.2 Emerging Projects

The plan detailed in appendices 1 and 2 does not include all the required provision for priority upgrading to existing property assets.

The essential projects that have been identified for 2013/14 for consideration and approval are:

- Upgrade of MOSAIC servers – £0.024 million is required in the current year to complete the upgrade of the servers for the social work case management system;
- The steps to Ironmills park from Cemetery Road have been closed since March 2013 due to a land slip. It is proposed that geo-technical consultants are appointed at a cost of £0.010 million to carry out site investigations, examine options and make costed recommendations on the most cost effective solution to allow the steps and path to be re-opened. It is anticipated that the total cost of the reinstatement works will not exceed £0.050 million, however this can only be clarified and considered once the consultants have completed their investigative works and reported back.

2.3 Funding

Capital receipts and developer contributions have been updated to reflect the most up to date position.

Grant funding for projects mentioned in paragraph 2.1 above are also now included.

3 Report Implications

3.1 Resource

The borrowing for the approved projects in 2013/14 is £14.913 million, if the projects included in appendix 3 are approved this will increase the required borrowing to £14.947 million.

3.2 Risk

The inherent risk in the Capital Plan is that projects will cost more than estimated thus resulting in additional borrowing. The monitoring

procedures ensure that significant variations are reported at an early stage so that remedial action can be taken to mitigate this risk.

3.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:

- ☐ Community safety
- ☐ Adult health, care and housing
- ☐ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☐ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☒ Sustainable growth
- ☐ Business transformation and Best Value
- ☐ None of the above

3.4 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

There are no issues arising directly from this report.

3.5 Adopting a Preventative Approach

There are no issues arising directly from this report

3.6 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

No external consultation has taken place on this report.

3.7 Ensuring Equalities

There are no equalities issues arising directly from this report.

3.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

There are no sustainability issues arising directly from this report.

3.9 IT Issues

There are no IT implications arising from this report

4 Recommendations

Council is asked to:

- Approve the proposed General Services Capital Plan 2013/14 to 2017/18 as shown in Appendices 1 and 2;
- Consider the projects identified as essential and approve as appropriate.

Date 8th October 2013

Report Contact:

Name Valerie Struthers Tel No 0131 271 3129
valerie.struthers@midlothian.gov.uk

Background Papers:

Appendix 1 – General Services Capital Plan Approved Projects
 Appendix 2 – General Services Capital Plan 2013/14 to 2017/18
 Appendix 3 – Essential projects not approved