
Capital Strategy and Programme 2017/18 to 2021/22

Supporting Information

1. Introduction

1.1 The Capital Strategy sets out the financial and policy context within which the Council can plan for long term investment in its assets and in the future of West Berkshire. It defines the amount of planned investment over the next five years and shows how this is to be funded.

1.2 The aim of the Capital Strategy is to:

- Enable the Council's assets and systems to be maintained and improved, to enable the effective and efficient delivery of the Council's key priorities as set out in the Council Strategy 2015 to 2019;
- To ensure that capital investment is affordable within the terms of the MTF5;
- To target funding at Council priorities, within available resources, in particular to maintain and improve the highway network and schools and to improve the efficiency of Council services through investment in ICT.

Key Issues addressed in the Capital Programme 2017-2022

1.3 The capital programme takes into account the following issues:

- i. The latest estimates of future school pupil numbers and the cost of providing additional school places to accommodate them;
- ii. The need to maintain and improve the condition and suitability of school buildings;
- iii. The outcome of the recent review of Pupil Referral Unit provision across West Berkshire;
- iv. Priorities for maintenance of and improvements to highways and the availability of grants from the Department for Transport, the Local Enterprise Partnership and the Environment Agency;
- v. The need for ongoing savings in the highways capital maintenance programme to fund post winter repairs to highways in 2013/14 (to be funded over the 4 years to 2017/18) and investment in surface treatment of the A4 in 2014/15 (to be funded over the 10 years to 2024/25);
- vi. The need to provide ICT solutions to support the transformation of other Council services in order to achieve further service improvements and efficiency savings;

- vii. The need for major redevelopment of the strategically important Gypsy and Travellers' site at Four Houses Corner to ensure that the site remains fit for purpose and to enable the lease for the site to be extended.
- viii. The implementation of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), which has now replaced much of the Section 106 framework and is expected to provide a lower level of funding.
- 1.4 The Capital Programme for 2017 to 2022 will help to deliver many of the Council's strategic priorities including:
- More than £120,000 million capital investment over the next four years;
 - Highways schemes to improve road surfaces and reduce congestion;
 - Continued investment in flood prevention
 - Ongoing maintenance of public rights of way;
 - Additional primary school places in Newbury and Theale;
 - Additional secondary school places in Newbury and Burghfield;
 - A new unit for children with autism in the primary phase.
- 1.5 The Council's strategic priorities also include the provision of more affordable housing, extra care housing and temporary accommodation. Plans to provide additional temporary accommodation, to replace units which are being lost through redevelopment have also been incorporated into the programme. The cost of borrowing to fund the acquisition and maintenance of new temporary accommodation will be met from rents received from tenants.
- 1.6 A strategy is also being developed for investment in commercial property with a view to generating additional revenue income for the Council. The spending and borrowing implications of this strategy are not reflected in the current version of the capital programme, but the programme will need to be amended to reflect these additional spending and borrowing requirements when the Property Investment Strategy is finalised.
- 1.7 It should be noted that the future development of the Education programme in particular is dependent on the timing of delivery of new housing, forecast pupil numbers and expected future CIL receipts. These issues will need to be kept under close review and it may be necessary to amend the programme in future years to take account of changes to demand for school places and/or funding levels.
- 1.8 The remainder of this report is structured as follows:
- Section 2:** The Draft Capital Strategy for 2017/18 to 2021/22 which explains how the programme helps to deliver the Council Strategy
- Section 3:** An analysis of how the programme is funded

- Section 4:** An overview of the proposed Capital Programme 2017/18 to 2021/22
- Appendix C:** A Summary of the of the Capital Programme 2017/18 to 2021/22
- Appendix D:** A detailed breakdown of the Capital Programme for 2017/18 to 2021/22
- Appendix E:** An overview of the Council's property asset management strategy
- Appendix F:** The Highways Asset Management Strategy

2. Capital Strategy

2.1 The Council's Capital Strategy is guided by the following principles:

- Resources are aligned with the priorities and principles identified in the Council Strategy for 2015-2019;
- Making best use of government capital grants (in particular for Education and Highways) to minimise the need for borrowing to fund capital investment;
- When borrowing is necessary to fund capital expenditure, ensuring that it is affordable, sustainable and prudent in keeping with the principles of the Prudential Code and that the revenue costs are affordable within the context of the MTFS;
- Seeking additional funding and capacity e.g. through partnership working and effective use of developers' contributions;
- Making best use of matched funding wherever available to enable schemes which otherwise might not be undertaken;
- Enabling "Invest to Save" bids through the provision of up front capital funding which will deliver long-term efficiency savings as well as financing the initial capital investment;
- A corporate framework involving both officers and members to ensure value for money through the evaluation and prioritisation of capital bids and the management and monitoring of projects;
- Ensuring full integration with the planning frameworks of both this Council and our key partners;
- Ensuring that the Council's property assets are fit for purpose and disposing of those assets which are no longer needed
- Taking account of key asset issues highlighted in the Council's Highways Asset Management Plan.

2.2 The links between the Capital Strategy and Programme and the key priorities in the Council Strategy are set out below.

2.3 Improving Educational Attainment and Closing the Educational Attainment Gap

2.3.1 The aim of the Council is to enable all children and young people to maximise their potential while intervening positively to ensure that the most vulnerable have an equal opportunity to succeed. The Council has a number of strategic service specific plans to support this aim through capital investment. These are the Education Asset Management Plan, the Primary Strategy for Change, the Secondary Strategy and the School Places Plan. These plans drive capital investment in schools and Early Years settings, with the following key strategic outcomes:

- i. the provision of suitable and sufficient school places across the district;
- ii. the provision of buildings and grounds that meet all legislative requirements, are in good condition, and are safe and secure;
- iii. the creation of flexible, adaptable and stimulating learning environments designed and equipped for 21st century learning;
- iv. the provision of high quality sustainable ICT infrastructure to support learning, teaching and management, to improve engagement and raise pupil attainment, and promote community learning outside school hours;
- v. schools to act as facilities and learning hubs for the communities they serve, including the provision of extended services;
- vi. the provision of learning environments that are examples of the practical application of sustainable construction, improving value for money and driving further down the carbon footprint of schools;
- vii. the continuing improvement in the accessibility of schools; and
- viii. inclusion of pupils with SEN into mainstream education where appropriate.

2.4 Key Infrastructure Improvements in Relation to Roads

2.4.1 The transport network keeps the local economy moving, supports future economic development and helps deliver a better quality of life for local people. The Highways and Transport Capital programme is driven by a number of key plans and strategies including the Council's Local Transport Plan 2011 to 2026 (LTP3). LTP3 is informed by a number of service specific plans and strategies as detailed below:

- Freight strategy
- Smarter choices strategy
- Passenger transport strategy
- Road safety strategy
- Sustainable modes of travel strategy
- Parking strategy
- Network Management Plan

2.4.2 The programme is also driven by the Highway Asset Management Plan which provides guidance on the delivery of value for money highway maintenance services with the aim of providing a safer highway network, improved travelling conditions for all highway users, and ensuring greater care of the local environment. The full Highways Asset Management Plan is included as Appendix F of this report. Previous years of developing and implementing asset management principles has been recognised nationally, with the Council receiving a favourable maintenance grant settlement from the Department for Transport.

2.5 Enabling the Completion of More Affordable Housing

2.5.1 Housing impacts on many areas of life – health, education, community safety, social care and care for the environment. High quality social housing is key to building communities which are inclusive and where people have a sense of belonging. The Council's capital programme provides for refurbishment of temporary accommodation in support of the Council's statutory housing duties and the regeneration and improvement of private sector stock occupied by vulnerable people. Opportunities are also being sought for partnership working with social housing providers to facilitate the delivery of new affordable housing.

2.5.2 The Council's approach to affordable housing requires consideration of new and innovative ways of working in order to maximise the funding that is available and ensure delivery of new affordable housing. These include:

- Seeking grant from the Homes & Communities Agency through their development programme via our Registered Provider (RP) partners.
- Seeking on-site affordable housing provision through S106 Agreements with no public subsidy on above-threshold development sites.
- Seeking commuted sums in lieu of on-site affordable housing provision on above-threshold development sites and utilising the monies to provide affordable housing on alternative sites.
- Encouraging registered social housing providers to fund development from their own reserves
- Using the Council's own land for development where appropriate (an option that may have an impact on the level of capital receipts available to fund the Capital Programme).

2.5.3 However, government announcements on rental income and welfare reform are impacting on the affordable housing market place and as a result the delivery of affordable housing, particularly in terms of forms of tenure, may look different in the future. The Council will therefore need to keep a watching brief on emerging trends and keep our approach to delivering new affordable housing under review

2.5.4 Over recent years the Council has also successfully focussed on the prevention of homelessness which reduces the need for temporary housing. However welfare reforms and the freezing of local housing allowance levels are likely to increase demand for temporary accommodation. The redevelopment of Council and housing association owned sites will mean the loss of nearly half of the temporary accommodation currently available. We will therefore need to consider how we replace or sustain our supply of temporary accommodation.

2.5.5 In addition, the Council provides assistance to support the improvement of private sector housing. The Council's view is that it is primarily the responsibility of private sector owners to maintain their own property, but it recognises that some owners, particularly the elderly and most vulnerable, do not have the necessary resources to repair or improve their homes.

2.6 Regeneration and The Digital Economy

2.6.1 The capital programme provides funds to help pump prime town centre redevelopment schemes. These schemes have the potential to boost the local economy, improve the town centre environment and generate income

2.6.2 The Council is also working in partnership with other Local Authorities and parish councils, central government and the telecoms industry to enable the delivery of superfast broadband to all areas of West Berkshire by 2017. This major project involves total investment of more than £20 million of which West Berkshire Council is contributing approximately £2 million.

2.7 Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

2.7.1 The Children's Services programme provides funding for home adaptations to enable foster carers better to care for vulnerable children. The Education capital programme also includes improvements to educational facilities for children with special educational needs.

2.7.2 The Adult Social Care capital and the Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) programmes also support this priority by providing occupational health equipment and home adaptations for older people and individuals with a learning disability, or a physical or sensory disability. In this way vulnerable people are helped to maintain their independence, with the minimum of support from the Council.

2.7.3 Opportunities are also being sought to incorporate additional provision for extra care housing into the capital programme, as an alternative to residential care. This priority is being addressed by exploring the potential for further partnership working with social housing providers and the possible use of government grants, section 106 contributions, CIL and/or capital receipts to help fund future extra care housing schemes.

2.8 Support Communities to do More to Help Themselves

2.8.1 Quality of life is considerably enhanced by access to good quality parks, open spaces, countryside and heritage, and by opportunities to participate in sport, physical activity, performing and visual arts, continuing learning and other leisure interests. In particular it is important to provide play and social opportunities for

children and young people. Where children and young people can be encouraged to make positive use of their leisure time it adds to their personal development but can also help to reduce levels of anti-social behaviour within communities.

2.8.2 Capital investment will be targeted at ensuring that the existing network of leisure centres, parks, recreation grounds and rights of way are accessible, safe to use and meet the reasonable expectations of users, in order to enhance the health and wellbeing of West Berkshire residents. In particular, a programme of investment in the structural maintenance and refurbishment of Leisure Centres will continue over the next five years in order to ensure that these facilities continue to provide a safe and enjoyable environment for service users and to enable the leisure provision contract to be retendered on favourable terms for the Council.

2.8.3 The Council also works in partnership with other organisations including schools, links with Parish and Town Councils and voluntary organisations to enhance the provision of cultural facilities across the district. In particular the programme provides grants to Parish Councils and other community based groups to support community based capital projects, including projects sponsored by members of the Council

2.9 **Strategy for Management of the Council's Property Assets**

2.9.1 As well as aiming to deliver the policy and service priorities outlined above, officers and members also monitor and review the use of the Council's assets, in particular land and buildings, to consider whether they continue to offer good value for money for operational purposes, or whether they should be considered for redevelopment or for disposal. The key principals for reviewing the suitability and future use of property assets are set out in appendix E of this report.

2.9.2 Where appropriate, assets which are no longer needed for operational purposes will be let out on a commercial basis to generate revenue income or sold to generate capital receipts, which can be used to fund future capital spending, so reducing the revenue cost of borrowing to fund the capital expenditure.

2.9.3 A strategy is also being developed for investment in commercial property with a view to generating additional revenue income for the Council. The spending and borrowing implications of this strategy are not reflected in the current version of the capital programme, but the programme will need be amended to reflect these additional spending and borrowing requirements when the Property Investment Strategy is finalised.

3 Funding of the Capital Programme 2017-2022

- 3.1 The size of the Capital Programme is determined by the amount which the Council can afford to borrow together with other sources of capital funding, including capital receipts, government grants and developers' contributions.
- 3.2 The proposed Capital Programme for the five year period 2017/18 to 2021/22 is summarised in Appendix C. This shows the amounts proposed to be funded from Council funds (including prudential borrowing and capital receipts), Section 106, CIL contributions and other external funds (mainly government grants).

Proposed Use of Capital Receipts

- 3.3 Because of the commitment to use capital receipts to fund the revenue cost of transforming Council services, the proposed capital programme has been built on the assumption that no capital receipts funding will be available to fund capital spend between 2017/18 and 2021/22.

Minimum Revenue Provision Statement

- 3.4 Statutory guidance on Local Authority capital spending requires the Council to set a policy for its Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) for the repayment of debt to fund capital expenditure. The policy must be approved by Full Council each year. The guidance offers four options for calculation of MRP, of which West Berkshire applies Option 3, the Asset Life Method. This method is the equivalent of charging to revenue each year the full cost of interest and principle repayments on annuity loans which are taken out over the life of the asset to be funded.
- 3.5 This is achieved by undertaking any new prudential borrowing on an annuity basis with the length of loan linked to the life of the asset. We also make an annual provision for the future payment of the Council's outstanding maturity loans, which were all inherited from the former Berkshire County Council. This provision is equivalent on average to the annual repayments which would be made if these loans were refinanced on an annuity basis.

The Cost of Borrowing to Fund the Capital Programme

- 3.6 The currently Council plans to increase its provision for revenue funding of capital by approximately £500k each year to meet the increase in the cost of borrowing to fund capital spend and to make provision for the future repayment of maturity loans. (The next group of these loans, totalling approximately £16 million, will become due for repayment in around 2031).
- 3.7 The planned increase in the overall revenue budget to allow for the cost of capital financing does not include funding for invest to save capital schemes. Such schemes will require a larger increase in the revenue budget for financing of the capital programme. However this increase will be offset by savings in existing revenue budgets. These schemes are, therefore, revenue cost neutral for the Council as a whole. However these arrangements will commit the Council to repaying loans over the life of the asset to be provided, and so may, to some extent, limit its ability to make revenue savings in service budgets. Funds to be transferred from service revenue budgets to help fund capital expenditure are expected to include capital investment in leisure centres; occupational health equipment previously funded from the Adult Social Care revenue budget; efficiencies from

investment in ICT and energy management; rental income from temporary accommodation and investment properties to fund the purchase of these properties.

- 3.8 The overall increases in the capital financing budget, including the element to be financed from savings in existing revenue budgets are as follows:

Table 1 –Annual Cost of Borrowing to Fund Approved Level of Programme 2017-2022						
	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000	2019/20 £000	2020/21 £000	2022/23 £000	5 year Total £000
Annual Increase overall revenue budget to accommodate the cost of borrowing	500	500	500	500	500	2,500
Funds transferred from/(to)* existing revenue budgets to fund invest to save schemes	51	49	25	28	(90)	63
Increase in revenue cost of borrowing to fund temporary housing to be met from additional rental income	49	87				136
Total Annual increase in capital financing budget	600	636	525	528	410	2,699

**Reductions in borrowing costs will occur when loans to fund specific projects have been repaid in full*

- 3.9 The estimated cost of borrowing shown is based on the assumption that the Bank of England base rate each will remain at 0.25% for the remainder of the financial year but that interest rates will then increase by around 0.5% each year from 2017/18 to 2020/21, to a peak of 2.5% in 2020/21). The cost of borrowing will be higher if interest rates increase more quickly and/or to a higher level. However, this would be offset in part by additional interest earned on the Council's short term investments.

External Funding – Government Grants

- 3.10 The externally funded element of the proposed programme set out in Appendix C mainly consists of government grants. The main elements of capital grant funding are for Highways, Education, and Disabled Facilities Grants.

3.11 The current estimated levels of capital grants for 2017/18 to 2019/20 are shown in Table 2, in comparison with actual grant allocations in 2015/16 and 2016/17.

Table 2: Actual and Estimated Capital Grant Allocations 2015/16 to 2019/20 [still to be updated]					
	2015/16 £000	2016/17 £000	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000	2019/20 £000
Highways:				<i>Indicative</i>	
Integrated Transport Grant	910	910	910	910	910
Highways Capital Maintenance	4,314	3,955	3,836	3,472	3473
DfT Challenge fund grant for A339	2,486	1,753	1,361		
DfT Challenge fund grant for LED Streetlights	3,000	2,028			
DfT Pothole Action Fund			336		
DfT National Productivity Investment Fund			833		
LEP Funding for: London Rd Junction Kings Road Link Sandleford Access A4 Cycle Route	500	1,400 1,335	1395 1,000 425	1,400 425	500
DEFRA funding for flood defence	1,054	1,625	2,169	1,643	
Total for Highways	12,314	12,711	12,265	7,850	4,883
Care Commissioning Housing and Safeguarding:			<i>Est.</i>	<i>Est.</i>	<i>Est.</i>
Disabled Facilities Grant (including allocation for Adult Social Care)	1,005	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400
Education:			<i>Indicative</i>	<i>Indicative</i>	<i>Est.</i>
Basic need	7,122	7,478	0	4,159	4159
Universal Infant free school meals	232				
Targeted Basic Need					
			<i>Est.</i>		
Capital Maintenance	1,854	1,854	1,800	1,600	1600
Total non devolved Education Grants	9,208	9,332	1,800	5,759	5,759

Key:

Firm
allocationIndicative
AllocationEstimated
future
AllocationGrant not
applicable

Section 106 Developers Contributions/Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

- 3.12 From April 2015, the current Section 106 framework has to a large extent been replaced by the Community Infrastructure Levy or CIL . The likely level of income from the CIL is not yet known and it is now expected that the new framework will result in lower levels of capital contributions than the S106 regime. This is expected to result in lower overall levels of capital funding, particularly for Highways, Education, countryside and open spaces from 2017/18 onwards.
- 3.13 Section 106 agreements are still applicable however, where infrastructure is required entirely because of a particular development, for example the need for a new Primary School associated with the Sandford housing development in Newbury. This is why the level of developers' contributions increases in 2020/21, although the underlying trend is downwards.

4 Overview of the Proposed Capital Programme 2017-2022

- 4.1 The proposed capital programme for 2017/18 to 2021/22 is summarised in Appendix C. Appendix D gives a more detailed breakdown of the programme. In both appendices the capital expenditure for each year is broken down into the elements which are funded from Council funding (mainly from borrowing), external funding sources (mainly government grants), Section 106 contributions and CIL.
- 4.2 The main elements of the proposed programme for each service grouping are also summarised below.

4.3 Communities

Adult Social Care (ASC)

- 4.3.1 The programme includes a number of schemes funded from grants from the Department of Health (DoH) to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the service. These include the implementation on Telecare to enable vulnerable adults to be supported remotely with fewer social worker visits and implementation of the Care Act by providing equipment such as tablets and digi-pens to enable social workers to work more efficiently in the field.
- 4.3.2 The programme also includes £672k per year for the acquisition of occupational therapy aids and equipment from the Berkshire Community Equipment Service. This is funded partly through a contribution of £390k per year from the Disabled Facilities Grant from the Department of Health (DoH) and partly from an ongoing contribution from the Adult Social Care revenue budget to the cost of borrowing the balance of the funds needed.

Education

- 4.3.3 The proposed programme has been set within the existing Council funding envelope and latest assumptions of available government grants.
- 4.3.4 The draft programme takes into account the delays to the new Highwood Copse Primary school and the relocation and expansion of Theale Primary School. Both of these schemes have been delayed because of issues with the availability of land. The build cost of both these schemes is expected to increase by about 3% additional building cost inflation due to the delays to their start.

- 4.3.5 Land has now been secured for provision of Highwood Copse Primary school, although this arrangement has not yet been formally agreed. However a £1.5m contribution to the cost of building the access roads is still needed from the developer but has not yet been agreed. Also the provisional allocation of LEP funding is dependent on the detail of the final plans for the development.
- 4.3.6 The building of Highwood Copse is currently programmed to start in June 2017, subject to planning permission and the resolution of the above issues. The programme allows for additional places to be provided at The Winchcombe, Fir Tree and Speenhamland Primary schools to compensate for the delay in the opening of Highwood Copse and to meet additional ongoing pressure for primary places in Newbury.
- 4.3.7 The cost and timescale of compulsory purchase (CPO) of the new site for Theale Primary school has also been built into the programme, although the cost and time delay may be reduced if an agreement can be reached with the Parish Council which avoids the need for CPO.
- 4.3.8 Work is underway to develop a Secondary Strategy for Newbury and Thatcham to mitigate the impact from the significant primary demographic pressure in Newbury, as it moves into secondary. Future secondary Basic Need allocations are currently indicative for 18/19 and unknown beyond that. The solution(s) to secondary basic need are likely to be very expensive, given the nature and scale of the accommodation and site requirements. The combination of grant funding levels that are insufficient to cover actual costs, uncertain future funding levels and the likely cost of secondary basic need mitigation present a potentially significant financial risk across latter part of the five year programme.
- 4.3.9 The programme also allows for the implementation of the review of Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) which will involve providing a new PRU facility in the east of the district, either on the site of the existing Badger's Hill PRU or on an alternative site to be determined.
- 4.3.10 The draft Education programme also includes the Service's best estimate of the cost of additional primary places in Newbury and secondary places at the Willink School in Burghfield, as result of planned future housing developments, which are expected to be funded from CIL, mainly in 2019/20.
- 4.3.11 The timing of delivery of new housing, forecast pupil numbers and expected future CIL receipts will have to be kept under close review. If the expected pressure as a result of increased demand for school places and a shortfall in CIL persists, and if government funding for additional school places does not increase to compensate for the shortfall in CIL, it may be necessary to reduce council or CIL funded spend on other services and/or increase borrowing to ensure that sufficient school places can be provided.

4.4 Environment

Public Protection and Culture

- 4.4.1 £550k investment is planned for structural maintenance of Shaw House and its grounds between 2017/18 and 2021/22. £300k of this sum is from allocations of £50,000 per year set aside for this purpose in previous years, with a further £50k per year being allocated from 2017/18 onwards in line with the conditions of Heritage Lottery Funding for the building. Major works will include the restoration of the historic boundary wall adjacent to Love Lane which is currently in a dangerous state of disrepair.
- 4.4.2 The five year programme also includes £1.3 million (an average of £262k per year) on essential maintenance and modernisation of Leisure Centres. This sum includes £300,000 for refurbishment of Leisure Centres which will be funded from contributions from the revenue budget for Leisure and investment of around £100,000 per year in Leisure Centre equipment which is required under the contract to operate West Berkshire's Leisure Centres. Investment will be focussed on meeting urgent health and safety needs and on improvements which will enable a new contract for operation of Leisure Centres to be negotiated on more favourable terms for the Council when the existing contract expires in 2022.
- 4.4.3 The Culture and Environmental Protection programme also includes £100,000 per year for structural maintenance of libraries and to fulfil the Council's maintenance responsibilities as landlord of the Corn Exchange.

Streetcare and Transport

- 4.4.4 The proposed programme is approximately £48m over the 5 year period and includes £6.9m Council funding, £34m external grant funding and £7.7m S106 & CIL funding.
- 4.4.5 A total of £18.5m has been allocated to carriageway resurfacing over the five years, along with a further £3.2m for the maintenance of other major highway assets including bridges and street lighting.
- 4.4.6 £7.2m has been allocated for investment in drainage and flood prevention which includes £5m from Defra for major flood alleviation schemes, the majority of which will continue the excellent work on implementing the Thatcham Surface Water Management Plan.
- 4.4.7 £2m will be invested in walking and cycling with £800k from the Local Enterprise Partnership towards the development of a new National Cycle Network Route along the A4. This also includes substantial footway improvements funded from S106 in Newbury and Aldermaston.
- 4.4.8 Almost £16m will be invested in Network Management and Road Safety improvements, with much of this funding towards improving traffic flow on the A339 and supporting economic growth.
- 4.4.9 Approximately £1.1m will be invested in public transport infrastructure including the construction of a new public transport interchange in Newbury's wharf area.

4.4.10 The Streetcare and Transport Programme also includes £125k per year investment in the essential maintenance and improvement of 1,100km of rights of way, public conveniences and children's play areas. £563k S106 contributions have also been allocated in 2017/18 and 2018/19 which includes the development of an additional all weather pitch and improved parking facilities at Henwick Worthy. In addition the Service plans to use the remainder of the severe weather recovery grant received in 2014 to complete repairs to flood damaged rights of way in 2017/18.

Development and Planning

4.4.11 This programme (formerly managed by the Care Commissioning, Housing and Safeguarding Service) includes approximately £1.5 million per year for grants to enable people with disabilities to live independently in their own homes. £1.1 million of this is expected to be funded from the Disabled Facilities Grant from the DoH. These grants are mandatory and if the level of demand increases or the DoH grant is lower than expected, it will be necessary to increase the level of Council contribution.

4.4.12 The programme also allows £1.3m funds brought forward from previous years' programmes to complete the redevelopment of the Gypsy and Travellers' site at Four Houses Corner. This work is necessary to ensure that the site remains fit for purpose, because of the strategic importance of the site to the Council and to enable the lease for the site to be renewed.

4.4.13 Approximately £1.9 million has also been allocated in 2017/18 to continue the programme of acquisition of additional units of temporary accommodation, to replace existing units which are about to be lost due to redevelopment. The cost of borrowing to fund this new accommodation will be funded from rents received from tenants at local housing allowance levels.

4.5 Resources

Chief Executive

4.5.1 The Chief Executive's programme consists of £15k per year to help implement the Council's vision for the redevelopment of Thatcham.

Finance and Property

4.5.2 The five year programme includes approximately £389k per year for survey and maintenance of corporate offices and other council buildings and for the remainder of a programme of fire risk remedial works which is expected to be completed 2019. The staffing cost of project management of corporate and Education capital projects is approximately £846k per year.

4.5.3 The Finance programme consists of a Corporate Allocation of £65k per year to allow for any unforeseen capital pressures across all services.

Customer Services and ICT

4.5.4 Investment in ICT to enable the maintenance of existing systems and to enhance the efficient delivery of Council's systems remains a priority for officers and members. It is therefore proposed to invest approximately £750k per year in improvements and upgrades to corporate ICT systems between 2017 and 2022. This allows for the provision for upgrading of the existing cash management, HR Payroll and ICT asset management systems. The programme also provides for improvements to the audio visual system in the Council Chamber to allow better accessibility for the public, including through web casting of key meetings.

4.3.5 In addition, the programme includes £1.5 million Council funding and £6.6m contributions from government grant, other local authorities and the private sector to enable the completion of the Superfast Broadband project across Berkshire. This is scheme expected to provide superfast broadband to over 99% of homes in West Berkshire and forms part of a major project funded jointly by West Berkshire Council, the other Berkshire Local Authorities, Central Government and private sector broadband providers.

Strategic Support

4.3.6 The Strategic Support programme includes approximately £107,000 per year to support community projects across West Berkshire (including the Members' bids programme) and the Shopmobility scheme in Newbury.

Subject to Call-In:

Yes: No:

The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position	<input type="checkbox"/>
Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission or associated Task Groups within preceding six months	<input type="checkbox"/>
Item is Urgent Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Report is to note only	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strategic Aims and Priorities Supported:

The proposals will help achieve the following Council Strategy aims:

- BEC – Better educated communities**
- SLE – A stronger local economy**
- P&S – Protect and support those who need it**
- HQL – Maintain a high quality of life within our communities**
- MEC – Become an even more effective Council**

The proposals contained in this report will help to achieve the following Council Strategy priorities:

- BEC1 – Improve educational attainment**
 - SLE2 – Deliver or enable key infrastructure improvements in relation to roads, rail, flood prevention, regeneration and the digital economy**
 - P&S1 – Good at safeguarding children and vulnerable adults**
 - HQL1 – Support communities to do more to help themselves**
 - MEC1 – Become an even more effective Council**
-

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Appendix B

Equality Impact Assessment - Stage One

We need to ensure that our strategies, policies, functions and services, current and proposed have given due regard to equality and diversity.

Please complete the following questions to determine whether a Stage Two, Equality Impact Assessment is required.

Name of policy, strategy or function:	Capital Strategy and Programme 2017/18 to 2021/22
Version and release date of item (if applicable):	Version 1 - 19 January 2017
Owner of item being assessed:	Gabrielle Esplin
Name of assessor:	Gabrielle Esplin
Date of assessment:	19 January 2017

Is this a:		Is this:	
Policy	No	New or proposed	No
Strategy	Yes	Already exists and is being reviewed	Yes
Function	No	Is changing	Yes
Service	No		

1. What are the main aims, objectives and intended outcomes of the policy, strategy function or service and who is likely to benefit from it?	
Aims:	To target funding at Council priorities in order to enable the Council's assets and systems to be maintained and improved in a way which is affordable within the terms of the MTFS.
Objectives:	To enable the effective and efficient delivery of the Council's key priorities as set out in the Council Strategy 2015 to 2019.
Outcomes:	The Council's buildings, equipment and systems are maintained, renewed and improved.
Benefits:	Improvements in the effectiveness and efficiency of the Council's services.

2. Note which groups may be affected by the policy, strategy, function or service. Consider how they may be affected, whether it is positively or negatively and what sources of information have been used to determine this.

(Please demonstrate consideration of all strands – Age, Disability, Gender Reassignment, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race, Religion or Belief, Sex and Sexual Orientation.)		
Group Affected	What might be the effect?	Information to support this
Older people, people, people with disabilities, people at risk of homelessness, children with special educational needs and looked after children	The proposed capital programme includes a number of capital schemes to support services to these groups in particular the programme for services within the Communities directorate	See paragraphs 2.5 and 4.3 of Appendix B and Appendix D
Further Comments relating to the item:		
The capital strategy itself does not have any direct equalities impact, but more detailed equalities assessments will be carried out for any new schemes within the capital programme, or potential asset transfers, prior to implementation.		

3. Result	
Are there any aspects of the policy, strategy, function or service, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could contribute to inequality?	No
Please provide an explanation for your answer: The capital strategy seeks to improve the quality of buildings, equipment and systems in order to address improve accessibility for vulnerable groups.	
Will the policy, strategy, function or service have an adverse impact upon the lives of people, including employees and service users?	No
Please provide an explanation for your answer: The capital strategy seeks to improve the quality of buildings and equipment which are used by employees and for the benefit of service users	

If your answers to question 2 have identified potential adverse impacts and you have answered 'yes' to either of the sections at question 3, or you are unsure about the impact, then you should carry out a Stage 2 Equality Impact Assessment.

If a Stage Two Equality Impact Assessment is required, before proceeding you should discuss the scope of the Assessment with service managers in your area. You will also need to refer to the Equality Impact Assessment guidance and Stage Two template.

4. Identify next steps as appropriate:	
Stage Two required	No
Owner of Stage Two assessment:	
Timescale for Stage Two assessment:	
Stage Two not required:	

Name: Gabrielle Esplin

Date: 19 January 2017

Please now forward this completed form to Rachel Craggs, the Principal Policy Officer (Equality and Diversity) for publication on the WBC website.