

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

21 FEBRUARY 2018

SECTION A – MATTERS FOR DECISION

WARDS AFFECTED – ALL

CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING 2017/18

Purpose of Report

1. To provide Members with information in relation to delivery of the 2017/18 Capital Programme.
2. Members should note that following receipt of additional Highways Infrastructure monies in 2017/18 the report previously approved by Cabinet on 30th January is now updated by a further £360k.

Background

3. On 1st February 2017 Council approved its Capital Programme for 2017/18; the report detailed planned Capital Expenditure totalling £59.273m for the financial year. An updated Programme totalling £76.366m was approved by Council on 29th November 2017.

The purpose of this report is to update Members as to the delivery of this Programme as at 31st December 2017 and to seek approval for an updated budget position.

Targeted Achievements

4. As Members are aware the following achievements are being targeted during this financial year:
 - Construction of a new 3-16 School in Margam to replace the Lower and Upper sites of Dyffryn Comprehensive as well as Groes Primary School (Ysgol Newydd Margam) with a budget of £31m.
 - Continuation of the construction and re-modelling works at the Welsh Medium 3-18 North Campus site in Ystalyfera (Ysgol

Gymraeg Ystalyfera). Also, commencement of the new Welsh Medium 11-16 South Campus (Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Dur) on the site of the former Sandfields Comprehensive School.

- Members should also note that Ysgol Bae Baglan was judged the UK's 'Building Project of the Year' at the 2017 Constructing Excellence Awards having already been awarded the title of 'Best Educational Building' at the grand finals of the 2017 Local Authority Building Control (LABC) Building Excellence Awards. Earlier in the year it also won the prestigious Gold Medal for Architecture at the National Eisteddfod of Wales 2017.
- Construction of a £7.6m new primary school in Briton Ferry, 'Ysgol Newydd Briton Ferry', on the site of the former Cwrt Sart Comprehensive School. The project will see three primary schools (Brynhyfryd, Llansawel and Ynysmaerdy) with significant surplus capacity and backlog maintenance issues close and be replaced by a new 21st Century school.
- Town Centre Regeneration including the commencement of the next phase of the redevelopment of Neath Town Centre.
- Completion of the Integrated Transport Hub in Port Talbot. The Hub will improve access to employment on strategic sites and integrate public transport connecting bus and rail services and will improve public transport's viability as a realistic alternative for commuting.
- Further investment of £3m into Disabled Facility Grants to assist people to live at home and investment of c£3m in Schools Capital Maintenance and Highways and Engineering Maintenance improvements.

Changes to the approved Budget

5. Members should note that the capital programme approved by Cabinet and commended to Council amounted to £75.153m. This report has been updated for submission to Council following the Welsh Government recent announcement of a new specific grant for Highways improvements. Of the £1.129m made available to this Council £360k will be invested this year to improve Fabian Way with the balance of £769k made next year in 2018-19.

The updated Capital Programme now totals £75.513m with the main variations being the re-profiling of expenditure relating to the 21st Century School programme mainly relating to Ysgol Newydd Margam and the inclusion of a budget provision of £2.050m relating to the proposed acquisition of the former Crown Foods site in Neath.

2017/18 Capital Expenditure

6. Details of Capital Expenditure as at 31st December 2017 are outlined in the table below:

Table 1 – Capital Budget and Spend 2017/18

	Current Budget £'000	Proposed Budget £'000	Actual @ 31st Dec 2017
Ysgol Bae Baglan *	0	1	-524
Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera (Welsh Medium North Campus)	4,025	4,025	2,215
Ysgol Newydd Briton Ferry	5,385	5,385	1,907
Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Dur (Welsh Medium South Campus)	12,439	12,439	6,317
Ysgol Newydd Margam	18,549	16,000	9,289
Schools Capital Maintenance	1,083	1,238	1,161
Highways and Engineering Maintenance	2,153	2,098	1,316
Integrated Transport Hub	2,539	2,539	1,613
Highways Infrastructure Investment		360	0
Bridge Strengthening – Alltwen Hill	864	864	501
Retaining Edge Work – Afan Valley	409	300	189
Bus Corridor Improvements	617	617	18
Bus Routes and Cycle Ways (LTF)	847	847	393
Road Safety Improvements	582	582	304
Safe Routes in Communities	250	250	95
PDR 2 – Land Compensation	500	500	40
Street Lighting	1,482	1,851	875
Vehicle Replacement Programme	2,413	2,413	731
Health and Safety	1,080	1,080	732
Regeneration	2,952	1,593	806
Neath Town Centre Redevelopment	500	100	10
Former Crown Foods Site Acquisition		2,050	0
Harbourside Development	199	199	104
Disabled Facilities Grants	3,063	3,063	2,169
Housing Energy Efficiency Works	477	477	401
Residential Care Contract Contribution	10,000	10,000	10,000
Contingency	401	486	
Remaining Capital Programme	3,557	4,156	2,493
Total	76,366	75,513	43,155

* The negative actual relates to contract retention accounted for in 2016/17 but not yet paid.

Risk Management

7. The capital programme is actively managed by managers and the Capital Programme Steering Group to comply with all relevant planning conditions, legislation, regulations and health and safety.

Consultation

8. There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

Recommendations

9. Cabinet commends to Council:
 - The approval of the proposed 2017/18 budget totalling £75.513m
 - And note the position in relation to expenditure as at 31st December 2017.

Reason for proposed decisions

10. To update the capital programme for 2017/18 and inform Members of the current year spend to date.

Implementation of Decisions

11. The decisions are proposed for implementation after consultation with the Scrutiny Committee and approval by Council.

List of Background Papers

12. Capital Programme working files

Officer Contact

13. For further information on this report item, please contact:

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