



## **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, 13 February 2024**

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024-29</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF FINANCE</b>

### **REPORT SUMMARY**

This report provides Policy and Resources Committee with the proposed Capital Programme 2024-29 for consideration and referral to Council for approval. It also includes information regarding the revenue implications of this Programme and an update on the latest forecast for capital receipts.

The 2024-29 Capital Programme represents a combination of schemes originally approved as part of the 2023-28 Programme, updated through the Capital Monitoring reports in 2023-24 and new bids for inclusion as detailed in this report.

The report supports the delivery of the Council Plan: Wirral Working Together 2023-27 specifically in terms of the Efficient, Effective and Accessible Council theme. The Capital Programme also contributes towards projects that support all five Council Plan delivery themes.

This matter is a key decision which affects all Wards within the Borough.

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

The Policy and Resources Committee is requested to recommend to Council: -

- 1 the approval of the new bids as detailed in Appendix B to this report requiring £3.3 million of funding for inclusion in the Capital Programme.
- 2 the approval of the Capital Programme 2024-29 as detailed in Appendix C to this report.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1.1 The purpose of the Capital Programme is to transform the way the Council operates in the medium to long term by taking opportunities from investment in digitalisation, assistive technology and a modern and efficient asset portfolio. This will enable the Council to prioritise and effectively deliver capital investment that contributes to the achievement of Council objectives.
- 1.2 Links to the revenue budget ensure that revenue funding is provided to meet the financing costs, and any running costs, as a result of the Capital Programme investment.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 For a scheme to be included in the Capital Programme it must be supported by a Business Case which includes consideration of alternative options and has been reviewed by the Change Advisory Board (CAB) and approved for recommendation by the Investment & Change Board (ICB).

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

#### **Capital Strategy**

- 3.1 The Capital Strategy is a key document that sets out the Council's medium to long term ambition. As the Medium-Term Financial Strategy sets out the plans for revenue, the Capital Strategy describes the strategic plan for economic growth, digitalisation and the use of assets and how these will support the Council to achieve its objectives.
- 3.2 An extensive and long-term capital programme is the key to better run services throughout the Borough and a reduced revenue budget commitment over time. Significant investment in assets will enable those assets to be used more efficiently and effectively in the delivery of services and may, as a beneficial by-product, generate a revenue return to support the revenue budget.
- 3.3 At Policy and Resources Committee in November, the procurement of a Digital Transformation Partner was approved to support the delivery of Council's digital transformation. The Digital Transformation Partner will work with all services across the Council to understand how they operate and identify opportunities for digitalisation to modernise the service and deliver efficiencies.
- 3.4 The largest proportion of this Capital Programme is within the Regeneration & Place directorate. Asset Management and Housing are both contained within this directorate, but the largest funding is associated with the Regeneration focus. Wirral's Regeneration Programme is set against a backdrop of longstanding economic challenges and regional underinvestment. It is envisaged that successful regeneration will deliver much needed housing delivery and be a fundamental driver of economic growth, creating an inclusive

place where people can live and prosper. As well as promoting a portfolio of place-based regeneration schemes, the vision includes significant infrastructure delivery requirements necessary to boost accessibility and connectivity across the borough. As developments start to take shape, further income will be realised from new homes and new businesses in council tax and business rates which in turn will be re-invested to grow the local economy. Capital funding is the catalyst to making this happen.

3.5 The Capital Strategy does not stand alone. It is intrinsically linked to a suite of other documents which together will enable the achievement of the Council's long-term strategic ambition. These are:

- The Council Plan: Wirral Working Together 2023-27
- The Asset Strategy, which was approved by Policy & Resources Committee on 9 November 2022. The strategy will set the high-level framework for managing Wirral's Public Sector land and property for the future. It is developed to guide the collective strategic asset decisions of all partners and seeks to maximise efficiencies through a collaborative approach to the use and management of the whole asset portfolio.
- The Economic Strategy sets out the ambition for growing a strong economy in the Borough in conjunction with support from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority. The strategy was approved by the Economy Regeneration & Development Committee on the 22 November 2021.
- The Treasury Management Strategy which is concerned with keeping sufficient but not excessive cash available to meet the Council's spending needs, while managing the risks involved; and
- The Medium-Term Financial Strategy in supporting the Council to remain financial sustainable by investing in cost saving and income generating projects to avoid high-cost reactive activity in future years

### **Investment and Change Board (ICB)**

3.6 The role of the ICB is to ensure alignment of investments against corporate priorities giving due consideration to risk. Amongst its functions are:

- The development, monitoring and review of the capital investment appraisal system, providing guidance when bids are submitted.
- To assess, recommend, accept or reject capital bids to Members in accordance with the above appraisal system.
- To ensure that all bids for capital funding are aligned to the Council strategies and the Council Plan.

## **Capital Programme**

- 3.7 The Capital Programme details the schemes being undertaken over the medium term which help the Council achieve its objectives. It is aligned to the Council Plan and Medium-Term Financial Strategy. It is reviewed, updated and considered by Council each year as part of the annual budget setting process.
- 3.8 Government announcements may include grant support for specific themes but grant acceptance as with other investment is based upon affordability over the whole asset life. Additional grant funding may be announced during the year. The inclusion of any schemes funded from new grant notifications will be reported through the capital monitoring process.
- 3.9 If an asset is sold then the proceeds, known as capital receipts, can be spent on new assets or to repay debt. In accordance with the capital receipts flexibilities introduced by the Government capital receipts generated can be used to support expenditure that is 'Transformational' in nature until 31 March 2025. Repayments of capital grants, loans and investments also generate capital receipts.
- 3.10 It is assumed that capital receipts achieved will be either used towards the repayment of the Capitalisation Directive relating to 2020/21 and 2021/22 or to finance new bids requiring Council funding. As above, the Council retains the ability to fund further transformation projects which have a benefit to the revenue budget until 31 March 2025.

## **New Submissions**

- 3.11 Each scheme should be supported by a business case which enables an assessment to be undertaken to ensure that it is either targeted to Council priority areas or fulfils statutory obligations. Individual bids have been scrutinised by the ICB for review. Schemes that are deemed suitable for progression are then referred to Policy & Resources Committee before Council for full formal approval as per the requirements of the Council constitution.
- 3.12 Due to the restricted financial environment within which the Council must operate, ICB assess whether a proposed capital bid meets agreed criteria if it is to progress to Committee. This assessment considers whether the bid is for essential health and safety works, does the bid present an 'invest to save' opportunity, or is the scheme of significant strategic importance to the Council.
- 3.13 Wherever financially viable, a bidding department is instructed that the cost of financing the Capital investment is to be met from either their existing revenue budgets or via additional income/cost savings that result from the investment. This approach re-emphasises a key factor that Capital investment is not 'free money.' Any borrowing incurred as a result of Capital expenditure is ultimately repaid via the revenue budget.
- 3.14 Capital bids can be submitted throughout the financial year for consideration, rather than just having one fixed programme at the start of the year. This enables the Council to better react to changing service requirements or

incidents as they occur. Likewise, this flexibility in bid submissions allows for the possibility of new bids or supplementary bids, should the resource requirements of an existing bid change after inception. There may also be new opportunities for the Council to bid for external resource e.g., grants that become apparent during the year and the Council needs to be able to react to such potential.

- 3.15 As a consequence of adopting this flexible approach to allowing and assessing bids, the Capital Programme will evolve further as the financial year progresses. This will include new schemes that require funding in the current year as well as potentially funding in future years, along with schemes that then may require re-profiling in terms of their projected expenditure and timing.
- 3.16 The new capital submissions are included within Appendix A to this report, with a summary of the main bids below.

### **Landican Cemetery Extension of Burial Area & Modernisation of Chapel Complex**

- 3.17 The project involves the extension of Landican Cemetery at its south-western corner to create additional burial plots each of approximately 0.27 hectares within the existing cemetery boundary, as current space is forecast to be fully utilised within the foreseeable future. Investment is also being sought to enhance the chapel complex and provide increased facilities to those using the facility.

### **Environmental Improvements**

- 3.18 A top up to the allocated £300k for replacement litter bins, expanding the scope of this allocation to support members' priorities around environmental improvements. This can include modest enhancements to parks and green spaces, investment in gully-cleaning machinery, improvement in our capability to monitor air quality and any other suitable investment in accordance with the council's priorities and policies.

### **Bidston Court Path Improvements**

- 3.19 Bidston Court Gardens is a Public open space classified as a local park. The current state of Bidston Court Park's pathways presents a series of substantial safety concerns. The project involves the careful removal of the existing Victoria brick surfaces, followed by the environmentally intentional process of filling the pathways with soil and seeding. This approach not only optimises our financial resources but also contributes to the sustainable regeneration of the park.

### **2024/29 Capital Programme**

- 3.20 In forecasting a five year Programme it is recognised that there are many variables and factors that will impact on future requirements. The Programme will be subject to regular review to ensure the most effective use of resources

whilst providing the opportunity to update agreed schemes, bring forward deferred schemes as necessary and add any new schemes which will arise as new funding is identified and delivery plans are developed along with Council partners.

3.21 The 2024/29 Capital Programme represents a combination of:

- a) Schemes approved as part of the 2023/28 Programme and updated through the Capital Monitoring reports in 2023/24. The table below reflects the Quarter 3 position 2023/24.

**Table 1: Capital Programme - per Quarter 3 23/24 Monitoring Report**

<b>Analysis of Capital Programme</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>	<b>2026/27</b>	<b>2027/28</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Adult Care & Health	1,560	3,279	-	-	-
Children, Families & Education	10,561	11,818	3,649	2,500	2,500
Finance (Formerly Resources)	5,306	2,717	-	-	-
Neighbourhoods	24,369	13,241	3,590	5,748	5,200
Regeneration & Place	55,307	121,266	28,024	5,203	-
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>97,103</b>	<b>152,321</b>	<b>35,263</b>	<b>13,451</b>	<b>7,700</b>
<b>Financing</b>					
Borrowing	38,398	28,672	11,745	3,703	500
Capital Receipts	2,289	2,512	722	-	-
Grants	53,761	121,092	21,626	9,748	7,200
Revenue/Reserve Contribution	2,655	45	1,170	-	-
<b>Total Financing</b>	<b>97,103</b>	<b>152,321</b>	<b>35,263</b>	<b>13,451</b>	<b>7,700</b>

- b) New bids for consideration at this meeting. The emphasis has been to ensure that the bids support the delivery of the Council Plan and the priorities within. Appendix A to this report provides a brief description of each scheme. Appendix B to this report provides details of the borrowing requirement and revenue implications of funding each scheme.

**Table 2: New bids for funding for inclusion in the Programme**

<b>Service Area</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>	<b>2026/27</b>	<b>2027/28</b>	<b>2028/29</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Neighbourhoods	2,109	640	550	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,109</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

3.22 The bid submission process allows bids to be presented throughout the year, rather than at one deadline for inclusion in this programme setting report. There are new bids which are seeking Council approval via the Quarter 3 2023/24 Capital Monitoring report. This would allow works on successful bids to commence in 2023/24 rather than having to wait for 2024/25.

- 3.23 Given the severe financial circumstances the Council is facing, there has been a strict approach to accepting new bids. With no surplus revenue budget readily available to finance new bids, only bids which can self-finance the associated capital financing costs and/or are vital and strategically important can be considered for inclusion.
- 3.24 The proposed Capital Programme combines Tables 1 and 2, some revised reprofiling, together with estimates for continued grant to be received for both Schools Modernisation of £2.5 million and Disabled Facilities Grant of £4.7 million through to 2028/29. Factored into the programme for 2024/25 is the inclusion of £2.0 million for Transformational Capitalisation, to be funded via capital receipts. Also included is an estimate in 2026/27 for a potential food waste scheme, although at this time this scheme is deferred pending a full review once complete, full details will be presented for approval. The detail of the programme can be found in Appendix C to this report.

**Table 3: Proposed Capital Programme 2024/29**

<b>Analysis of Capital Programme</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>	<b>2026/27</b>	<b>2027/28</b>	<b>2028/29</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Adult Care & Health	3,279	-	-	-	-
Children, Families & Education	11,818	3,649	2,500	2,500	2,500
Finance	4,717	-	-	-	-
Neighbourhoods	15,350	4,230	6,298	-	-
Regeneration & Place	57,464	70,134	25,423	5,900	5,472
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>92,628</b>	<b>78,013</b>	<b>34,221</b>	<b>8,400</b>	<b>7,972</b>
<b>Financing</b>					
Borrowing	25,214	14,788	6,020	1,200	772
Capital Receipts	4,512	722	-	-	-
Grants/External Contributions	62,857	61,333	28,201	7,200	7,200
Revenue/Reserve Contributions	45	1,170	-	-	-
<b>Total Financing</b>	<b>92,628</b>	<b>78,013</b>	<b>34,221</b>	<b>8,400</b>	<b>7,972</b>

### Capital Receipts

- 3.25 The available balance for general use in the Capital Receipts Reserve at 1 April 2023 was approximately £1.0 million. This is after accounting for capital accounting adjustments and ring-fenced receipts arising for example from the sale of school playing fields and which must be spend in a prescribed manner. With regards to future receipts that may be achieved, there is much uncertainty and external factors such as the economic landscape will affect the level of receipts received. Longer term projections can be updated as and when more information becomes available.
- 3.26 All Council assets will be reviewed to assess which are not essential to the delivery of Council services with a view to disposal where appropriate.

**Table 4: Projected Capital Receipt Generation**

	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>	<b>2026/27</b>	<b>2027/28</b>	<b>2028/29</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Anticipated receipts	3,085	3,475	8,475	1,600	3,040	-

3.27 The estimated value of receipts to be achieved and their utilisation, for later years will be updated through the Capital monitoring procedures.

### **Grant Funding**

3.28 Wherever possible the Council will continue to seek grant funding to either replace a known borrowing requirement or to enable Capital schemes to take place or be continued. In the event of any notable grant awards being achieved in the future, the relevant schemes will be introduced into the capital programme via the regular monitoring reports.

### **Liverpool City Region Freeport**

3.29 Wirral Waters is one of three designated Freeport tax sites in the Liverpool City Region approved by government in January 2023, with a range of incentives for eligible developers and businesses that can support economic growth. One of the measures enables the Council to retain growth in business rates income within the tax site area, above an agreed baseline, over a guaranteed 25 year period. Through tax increment financing the Council can invest in projects and recoup the borrowing for investments from the future growth in retained business rates. In March 2023, having considered a detailed business case, this Committee approved the establishment of the Freeport Investment Fund to support the Council's tax site regeneration ambitions and the necessary governance and management arrangements required. Given that part of the Freeport tax site overlaps with the existing Enterprise Zone, the business case allowed for re-alignment of the similarly operated Wirral Waters Investment Fund, enabling management through a single financial reserve and modelling approach to inform future investment decisions. Any proposals for funding from the Freeport Investment Fund which fulfil the requisite eligibility criteria will be subject to a robust appraisal process and considered and decided on a case-by-case basis as they come forward.

## **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The Capital Programme is funded via a number of sources including Council borrowing, capital receipts, grants and revenue contributions. Where the Council finances capital expenditure by borrowing, it must put aside resources to repay that debt in later years. The amount charged to the revenue budget for the repayment of debt is known as Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). If the Capital Programme is delivered as forecast in this report (covering the period 2023/24 to 2028/9), the Council will consequently require borrowing of £86.4m to finance the capital schemes covered by this report. This debt would be repaid via charges to the revenue budget over the lives of the assets



created or enhanced. The revenue impact of the £86.4m of borrowing required to fund all forecast works in this programme is as follows:

**Table 5 MRP Charges to Revenue Relating to 2023/29 Debt Funded Capital**

	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Additional revenue cost	951	1,624	1,827	2,278	2,399

Notes

- MRP repayments from revenue only start the year after the capital expenditure has taken place i.e., for spend incurred in 2024/25, the first MRP repayments will be charged in the 2025/26 revenue accounts.
- The additional revenue costs in Table 5 are not cumulative, rather an annual comparison to the current MRP charges to be incurred.

4.2 It is estimated that these costs will peak in 2030/31 at £2.62million reflecting the fact that the principal repayment associated with debt (the MRP) increases over the expected life of the asset funded from borrowing. These are the costs associated purely with the capital borrowing detailed within this report, the Council will be subject to MRP charges associated with capital borrowing incurred prior to this programme.

4.3 Where a proposed bid includes the generation of additional income or cost saving as a result of the investment, a budget virement will be sought to the Treasury Management budget to offset the Capital repayments made via the revenue budget.

**5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no legal issues arising directly from this report, should any such issues arise during an individual scheme, then these matters will be addressed.

**6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS**

6.1 The Programme is about investment into the Council assets so does include schemes relating to IT and assets.

**7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

7.1 The possibility of failure to deliver the Capital Programme will be mitigated by regular programme review by a senior group of officers, charged with improving performance. The Investment and Change Board (ICB) is supported by the Change Advisory Board (CAB), which will provide enhanced Capital

Programme review. The risks mentioned below are the key risks associated with the delivery of the Capital Programme.

- 7.2 If the programme is not delivered as projected, this could see individual schemes progressing ahead of, or being behind, the projected timetable. The regular monitoring and reporting of the Programme allow the reprofiling of project budget and for this to be reported back to Committee.
- 7.3 Capital receipts are below the level estimated. Regular reporting to ICB on progress of asset disposals allows the Capital Programme to be reviewed should this eventuality arise.
- 7.4 Interest rates increase to a level greater than budgeted for. Regular monitoring of economic forecasts should assist in determining the best time to borrow to fund the Programme. Officers will also be assessing options to fix loan rates to lessen interest rate risk.
- 7.5 In terms of individual scheme specific risks, these are identified as part of the original business case application and any potential risks to deliverability should be flagged as part of the ongoing scheme review process.

## **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

- 8.1 There has been no specific consultation with regards to this report. In terms of the delivery of schemes consultation will take place as part of the scheme development and implementation.

## **9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 There are none arising directly from this report as they will be identified as each scheme is progressed. Individual schemes within the Programme will have a direct impact upon groups for example the Aids and Adaptations investment within Regeneration. Associated actions may need an Equality Impact Assessment and these will be done at the earliest possible time.

## **10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 Capital bids are welcomed that support the Council's Environment and Climate Emergency Action Plan that was compiled following the declaration of a Climate Emergency by the Council in July 2019. Within the existing capital programme there are projects that positively contribute to environmental issues, such as the capital bid listed in the report, associated with the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme fund bid. The environmental and climate implications, both positive and negative, are reported for each scheme separately to the relevant policy and service committee.
- 10.2 The programme also includes projects that focus on environmental initiatives such as energy efficient buildings, sustainable and green travel infrastructure, energy efficient street lighting and urban tree planting.

## **11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 The Community Wealth Building Strategy is a key part of how the Council will tackle economic, social and health inequalities across the borough and make a major contribution to improving the economic, social and health outcomes on the Wirral. Schemes contained within the Capital programme include several regeneration projects that look to improve the economic outlook for the borough, including job creation, training facilities and enhanced transport links. The Community Wealth Building implications are reported for each scheme separately to the relevant policy and service committee

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## **APPENDICES**

Appendix A – Capital Bids for the 2024/29 Capital Programme  
Appendix B – Financial Summary of Capital Bids  
Appendix C – Proposed Capital Programme 2024/25 to 2028/29.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK 2021/22.  
Local Government Act 2003 and subsequent amendments.  
Local Government (Capital Finance and Accounting) Regulations 2008.  
Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015.

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

This report is being considered by the Policy and Resources Committee in accordance with 1.2(a)(i) of the Policy and Resources Committee Terms of Reference:

formulate, co-ordinate and implement corporate policies and strategies and the medium-term financial plan (budget), which includes responsibility for any decision:  
(i) that relates to such matters to the extent that they are not reserved to full Council.

Policy and Resources Committee is recommended to refer the decision to Council in accordance with 2(a)(i)(1) of the Functions Reserved to Council:

The Council reserves to itself the following functions (in accordance with the rules and procedures contained in this Constitution):

(i) The Budget – The approval or adoption of a plan or strategy for the control of the local authority’s borrowing, investments, or capital expenditure or for determining the authority’s minimum revenue provision, which includes the overarching annual: -

- (1) Capital programme
- (2) Capital Financing Strategy

**SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Council – 2020/21 Capital Monitoring Q3	1 March 2021
Council - 2020/21 Capital Outturn Report	6 September 2021
Council – 2021/26 Capital Programme	1 March 2021
Council - 2021/22 Capital Financing Strategy	1 March 2021
Council – 2021/22 Capital Monitoring Q1	18 October 2021
Council – 2021/22 Capital Monitoring Q2	6 December 2021
Council – 2021/22 Capital Monitoring Q3	28 February 2022
Council – 2021/22 Capital Outturn Report	11 July 2022
Council – 2022/27 Capital Programme	28 February 2022
Council – 2022/27 Capital Financing Strategy	28 February 2022
Council – 2022/23 Capital Monitoring Q1	10 October 2022
Council – 2022/23 Capital Monitoring Q2	5 December 2022
Council – 2022/23 Capital Monitoring Q3	27 February 2023
Council – 2022/23 Capital Outturn Report	10 July 2023
Council – 2023/28 Capital Programme	27 February 2023
Council – 2023/28 Capital Financing Strategy	27 February 2023
Council – 2023/24 Capital Monitoring Q1	09 October 2023
Council – 2023/24 Capital Monitoring Q2	13 December 2023
Council – 2023/24 Capital Monitoring Q3	26 February 2024

## **APPENDIX A - Capital Bids for the 2024/29 Capital Programme**

### **A1 Allotment & Cemetery Standpipes- Funding Required £0.313m**

United Utilities have been undertaking a Water Supply Audit across all of Wirral Councils 42 Allotment Sites and 9 Cemetery sites. Across all the Allotment sites there are 275 Individual standpipes that require replacement. Across the Cemetery sites there are further 68 standpipes.

United Utilities have reported that the vast majority of standpipes on site do not comply with the Water Regulations.

To ensure the safety of the mains water supply and to prevent potential contamination, these standpipes require upgrading to ensure that they comply with Water Regulations. This will mean that new standpipes need to be fitted as they require non-return valves to prevent back-syphoning of water, individual isolation valves, and for the standpipes themselves to be insulated. The intention is also for standpipes to be boxed to prevent vandalism or unauthorised connections.

### **A2 Bidston Court Path Improvements- Funding Required £0.350m**

The Bidston Court Cemetery pathways have deteriorated significantly over time posing a substantial health and safety hazard to park users. The existing pathway surfaces, composed entirely of Victoria Brick, have been affected by the growth of tree roots, leading to extensive lifting and causing large potholes to develop. These conditions have made the pathways irregular, uneven, potentially dangerous.

This project will eliminate the current health and safety hazards, ensuring that park users can navigate the pathways safely. This reduces the risk of trips, falls, and accidents. By creating smooth and even pathways, we will make the park more accessible to all community members, including individuals with mobility challenges, parents with strollers, and the elderly, ensuring that everyone who walks these pathways can do without worry or fear of accidents.

### **A3 Football Goals- Funding Required £0.097m**

Wirral's Parks & Countryside Service is tasked with the maintenance of 65 full size adult grass football pitches. As a part of this maintenance the service maintains the goals for these adult pitches, removing them in the off season for maintenance and putting them back in place for the next season. In total the service maintains 130 goals for these 65 pitches, two per pitch.

There is a requirement for Capital funding in order to replace these goals due to the age and the failings of the current stock which are now 25/30 years old.

While previously the service has sought to replace / repair the current stock on a rolling programme, the service can no longer purchase the square stock as they are not long manufactured and are deemed non-industry standard.

Current stock of these heavy steel post (200kg per set) and the risk this causes has a health and safety concern to the public and pitch users. Failing structure of the steel will continue to deteriorate causing further risks.

**A4 Health & Safety Equipment for Transport Workshop - Funding Required £0.021m**

The Fleet Workshop carries out the servicing and repair of all Council owned vehicles, were practical, numbering over 300 vehicles currently.

The Council has recently bought an Electric Vehicle, this will be the first of many as the Council moves away from fossil fuel vehicles as it seeks to reduce its CO2 emissions following the Council Climate Emergency Declaration. In order to service this and future vehicles the correct tools are required.

In addition, following a recent workplace inspection, some items of equipment have been identified as either being required or in need of replacements.

**A5 Arrowe Country Park - Main Driveway Resurfacing & Fencing Work - Funding Required £0.060m**

The main tarmac access driveway from Arrowe Park Road and the original park lodge (now in private ownership) to Arrowe Hall requires an urgent upgrade to provide a safe environment both to pedestrian visitors to the park, park staff and both private and external service vehicles to the park lodge.

This work would involve the complete re-surfacing of the driveway at this location and to remove old, damaged park railings and renew some sections. Due to the uneven, broken, and unsafe surfacing, this driveway location within the park poses a significant risk for injury and potential claim (s) due to failing in our duty of care to park visitors, residents of the lodge and Arrowe Hall, park staff and external services providers.

**A6 Landican Cemetery Extension of Burial Area & Modernisation of Chapel Complex – Funding Required £1.310m**

The project involves the extension of Landican Cemetery at its southwestern corner to create at least five/six additional burial plots each of approximately 0.27 hectares within the existing cemetery boundary.

The works will include new burial plots, providing additional sections for full burials, cremated remains and a natural burial area together with hard and soft landscaping and new access road linked to the existing cemetery infrastructure.

The existing cemetery extension was created in 2008 and predicted capacity is as follows based on current trends:

- Full burials – 3 years
- Cremated Remains burials – 4-5 years

The key benefit of the cemetery extension will be that the project will generate space for additional grave spaces and will extend the provision of burial within the cemetery for a further 20+ years.

Whilst being able to enjoy some of the leading cremator engineering and performance, unfortunately, the focal public areas, including the chapels themselves, are now showing major signs of wear and tear and are in desperate need of refurbishment and modernisation to bring them to an acceptable level.

By improving the aspect of the service that our visitors see, the return on the investment would be achievable, as families would continue to select Landican for their cremation instead of traveling to Chester or Liverpool Springwood who are able to offer a more modern setting. It will also place Landican in a good position to maintain its current catchment area, where competition for the establishment of a new private crematorium in nearby Hooton has been seen over previous years

#### **A7 Allotment Sites Expansion – Funding Required £0.148m**

Wirral Council has a legal obligation to provide allotments to its residents and has an Allotment Strategy which recognises the importance of delivering allotments for Wirral residents. As part of the Strategy, and in recognition of both high demand and large waiting lists for allotments, there is a target to provide one thousand additional allotment plots.

An additional site at Dawson allotments for extension has been identified and a request for planning permission is about to be submitted for this site. Additional funds will be required to ensure completion and also to start work on the next site identified for extension, which is Love Lane.

The Capital Bid has also allowed for a number of unlettable plots, which have been out of use for over twenty years, to be brought back into use.

#### **A8 Environmental Improvements – Funding Required £1.0m**

In the Quarter 1 Capital Monitoring 2023/24 report funding was sought and approved or £0.3 million to provide a comprehensive infrastructure of litter bins to capture litter at specific locations, provide and maintain the Authorities litter bin provision. The additional funding being sought will allow the expansion of the scope of this allocation to support members' priorities around environmental improvements. This can include modest enhancements to parks and green spaces, investment in gully-cleaning machinery, improvement in our

capability to monitor air quality and any other suitable investment in accordance with the council's priorities and policies.



## APPENDIX B - Financial Summary of Capital Bids

Scheme Ref	Scheme	Total Funding Required £000	Borrowing Required £000	Revenue Cost 2024/25 £000	Revenue Cost 2025/26 £000	Revenue Cost 2026/27 £000	Revenue Cost 2027/28 £000	Revenue Cost 2028/29 £000
A1	Allotment & Cemetery Standpipes	313	313	16	25	25	26	27
A2	Bidston Court - Path Improvements	350	350	18	28	29	29	30
A3	Football Goals	97	97	5	7	7	7	7
A4	Health & Safety Equipment for Transport Workshop	21	21	1	3	3	3	3
A5	Arrowe Country Park - Main Driveway Resurfacing & Fencing Work	60	60	3	5	5	5	5
A6	Landican Cemetery Extension of Burial Area & Modernisation of Chapel Complex	1,310	1,310	6	40	76	85	86
A7	Environmental Improvements - Top Up	148	148	7	9	9	9	9
A8	Allotment Sites Expansion - Top Up	1,000	1,000	50	130	134	138	142
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,299</b>	<b>3,299</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>308</b>

### Notes to Appendix B:

The estimated revenue costs factor in both the repayment of capital, via the Minimum Revenue Provision and the estimated interest cost associated with the borrowing required.

Revenue costs will increase year on year due to the nature of the Minimum Revenue Repayment (MRP) repayment calculation, which is based on an annuity repayment profile.

Where a proposed bid includes the generation of additional income or cost saving as a result of the investment, a budget virement will be sought to the Treasury Management budget to offset the Capital repayments made via the revenue budget.

If a scheme is funded via a repurposing of previously approved budget, the revenue costs indicated above will already be included within capital financing charges to the revenue budget.

## APPENDIX C - Proposed Capital Programme 2024/25 to 2028/29

### In Detail:

	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	2028/29 £'000
<b>Adult Care and Health</b>					
Extra Care Housing	2,276	-	-	-	-
Liquidlogic - Early Intervention & Prevention	169	-	-	-	-
Telecare & Telehealth Ecosystem	834	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Adult Care and Health</b>	<b>3,279</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Children, Families &amp; Education</b>					
Basic Needs	504	427	-	-	-
Child Care Capital Expansion Fund	604	-	-	-	-
Children's System Development	445	-	-	-	-
School Condition/Modernisation Allocation	6,698	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Family Support	157	-	-	-	-
High Needs Provision Capital	2,520	-	-	-	-
School Works - Department For Education Ringfenced Receipts	722	722	-	-	-
Transforming Care - Therapeutic Short Breaks	168	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Children, Families &amp; Education</b>	<b>11,818</b>	<b>3,649</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>2,500</b>
<b>Finance</b>					
Creative & Digital Team - Specialist Software and Hardware	3	-	-	-	-
Customer Experience Improvements Project	288	-	-	-	-
Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)	500	-	-	-	-
IT Client Refreshment, Laptops, Desktops & Tablets	1,790	-	-	-	-
Transformational Capitalisation	2,000	-	-	-	-

	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	2028/29 £'000
<b>Finance (continued)</b>					
Upgrade of WIFI Network	97	-	-	-	-
Worksmart I.T.	39	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Finance</b>	<b>4,717</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Neighbourhoods</b>					
Air Quality Control DEFRA	40	-	-	-	-
Allotment & Cemetery Standpipes	313	-	-	-	-
Allotment Sites Expansion	172	-	-	-	-
Arrowe Country Park - Main Driveway Resurfacing & Fencing	60	-	-	-	-
Arts Council Capital	7	-	-	-	-
Ashton Park Lake	48	-	-	-	-
Bidston Court - Path Improvements	350	-	-	-	-
Birkenhead Park World Heritage Project Team	85	-	-	-	-
Bridges excluding Dock Bridge	607	-	-	-	-
Catering Units	53	-	-	-	-
Cemetery Extension & Improvements (Frankby)	47	-	-	-	-
Churchyard Boundary & Landican Cememetry Structural	19	-	-	-	-
Climate Emergency Budget	17	-	-	-	-
Coastal Defence - Meols Feasibility Study	100	-	-	-	-

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Neighbourhoods (continued)</b>					
Combined Authority Transport Plan (CATP)	3,397	1,910	1,910	-	-
Coronation Park Sustainable Drainage	222	-	-	-	-
Defibrillators	4	-	-	-	-
Dock Bridges replacement	70	-	-	-	-
Environmental Improvements	1,075	75	75	-	-
Fitness Equipment	2	-	-	-	-
Food Waste	-	-	3,200	-	-
Football Goals	97	-	-	-	-
Future Golf - Project 1.1	250	-	-	-	-
Health & Safety Equipment for Transport Workshop	21	-	-	-	-
Highway Maintenance	2,884	563	563	-	-
Key Route Network (LGF3) - Operate Key Roads / Routes	55	-	-	-	-
Key Route Network (CRSTS)	586	-	-	-	-
Landican Cemetery Extension of Burial Area & Modernisation of Chapel Complex	120	640	550	-	-
Levelling Up Parks Fund-Woodchurch	13	-	-	-	-
Moreton Sandbrook Drainage	203	-	-	-	-
New Brighton Gym Equipment	1	-	-	-	-
New Ferry Rangers Community Clubhouse	281	-	-	-	-
Parks Machinery	545	-	-	-	-
Parks Vehicles	449	42	-	-	-

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Neighbourhoods (continued)</b>					
Play Area Improvements	59	-	-	-	-
Plymyard Cemetery Roadways	25	-	-	-	-
Plymyard Playing Field	45	-	-	-	-
PSDS Decarbonisation Phase 1	958	1,000	-	-	-
Quick Win Levy	20	-	-	-	-
Removal of Remaining Analogue CCTV Circuits	4	-	-	-	-
Street Lighting -Column Replacement & Signage	170	-	-	-	-
Studio Refurbishment Les Mills Classes	5	-	-	-	-
Surface Water Management Scheme	57	-	-	-	-
Tower Road National Productivity Investment Fund (NPIF)	52	-	-	-	-
Traffic Signal LED Upgrade	389	-	-	-	-
Tree Strategy	21	-	-	-	-
Urban Tree Challenge Fund	49	-	-	-	-
Wallasey Embankment Toe Reinforcement	248	-	-	-	-
Williamson Art Gallery Catalogue	19	-	-	-	-
Williamson Art Gallery Ventilation	96	-	-	-	-
Wirral Tennis Centre - 3G Pitch	355	-	-	-	-
Woodchurch Sports Pavillion	585	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Neighbourhoods</b>	<b>15,350</b>	<b>4,230</b>	<b>6,298</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Regeneration and Place</b>					
Active Travel Tranche 2	777	-	-	-	-
Aids, Adaptations and Disabled Facility Grants	6,524	4,700	4,700	4,700	4,700
Arrowe Country Park - New Machine Shed & Wash Bay	79	-	-	-	-
Arrowe Country Park Depot: Re-Surfacing, Material Bays & Electronic Entrance Barrier	27	-	-	-	-
Bebington Oval Facility Upgrade	527	-	-	-	-
Birkenhead Market Construction	3,000	8,800	-	-	-
Birkenhead Regeneration Delivery Fund	2,000	-	-	-	-
Birkenhead Regeneration Framework	105	-	-	-	-
Birkenhead Town Centre Masterplanning & Housing Delivery	97	-	-	-	-
Birkenhead Town Centre Sub-Station	2,250	2,250	-	-	-
Birkenhead Waterfront Programme	8,000	11,970	-	-	-
Business Investment Fund	585	-	-	-	-
Capitalisation of Regen Salaries	984	-	-	-	-
Changing Places Toilets	46	-	-	-	-
Clearance	30	195	-	-	-
Community Asset Transfer	500	-	-	-	-
Concerto Asset Management System	8	-	-	-	-
Consolidated Library Works Fund	229	-	-	-	-
Demolitions	1,479	-	-	-	-
Depot Welfare Improvements	15	-	-	-	-
Empty Property Grant Scheme	310	-	-	-	-

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Regeneration and Place (continued)</b>					
Emslie Morgan (Solar Campus)	149	-	-	-	-
Future High Streets Fund New Ferry	1,000	1,112	-	-	-
Floral Pavilion	33	-	-	-	-
Future High Streets - Birkenhead	4,903	1,170	-	-	-
Health & Safety - Condition Surveys	700	700	700	700	772
Heswall Day Centre	17	-	-	-	-
Hind Street Programme	5,000	18,528	18,528	-	-
Leisure Capital Improvement Programme	470	-	-	-	-
Levelling Up Fund 3 - Liscard	634	751	-	-	-
Lever Sports Pavilion	80	-	-	-	-
Liscard Town Centre Delivery	3	-	-	-	-
Moreton Youth Club & Library	993	-	-	-	-
New Brighton Masterplan for Marine Promenade	15	-	-	-	-
New Ferry Regeneration Strategic Acquisitions	842	-	-	-	-
Parks and Countryside Equalities Act	419	-	-	-	-
Pool Covers	10	-	-	-	-
Property Pooled Plus I.T System	3	3	3	-	-
Strategic Acquisition Fund	1,000	1,000	992	-	-
Strategic Acquisitions - Capital Enhancements	667	500	500	500	-
Sustainable Urban Development - Leasowe to Seacombe	3,016	-	-	-	-
Transport Advisory Group - A41 Corridor North	117	-	-	-	-
Transport Advisory Group - Wirral Waters	13	-	-	-	-



	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>	<b>2026/27</b>	<b>2027/28</b>	<b>2028/29</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
<b>Regeneration and Place (continued)</b>					
Town Centre scheme - New Ferry	2	-	-	-	-
Town Deal Fund - Birkenhead	8,909	11,455	-	-	-
Town Fund Birkenhead	18	-	-	-	-
UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)	445	-	-	-	-
Vale Park Toilets	33	-	-	-	-
West Kirby Concourse/Guinea Gap Reception Upgrade	351	-	-	-	-
West Kirby Marine Lake/Sailing Centre	31	-	-	-	-
West Kirby Masterplan	19	-	-	-	-
Wirral Waters Investment Fund	-	7,000	-	-	-
<b>Total Regeneration and Place</b>	<b>57,464</b>	<b>70,134</b>	<b>25,423</b>	<b>5,900</b>	<b>5,473</b>
<b>TOTAL PROGRAMME</b>	<b>92,628</b>	<b>78,013</b>	<b>34,221</b>	<b>8,400</b>	<b>7,972</b>