



POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 19 February 2025

REPORT TITLE:	2025-32 CAPITAL PROGRAMME
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides the Policy and Resources Committee with the proposed Capital Programme 2025-32 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 2025-32 Capital Programme represents a combination of schemes originally approved as part of the 2024-29 Programme, updated through the Capital Monitoring reports in 2024-25 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.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Policy and Resources Committee is requested to recommend to Council the approval of:

- 1 The new bids as detailed in Appendix 2 to this report requiring £18.8m of funding for inclusion in the Capital Programme; and
- 2 The Capital Programme 2025-32 as detailed in Appendix 3 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).

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 Following approval at Policy and Resources Committee in November 2023, Microsoft Limited was appointed as the Council's Digital Transformation Partner in June 2024. Initial focus is on supporting the transformation of the customer journey, with workshops being held with all services to 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 long-standing 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, that was approved by this Committee on 9 November 2022, ensures that capital assets continue to be of long-term use. The strategy sets 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. This strategy is currently being reviewed, and it is planned that a revision will be presented to this committee early in 2025 for their consideration.
- 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.

Change Advisory Board (CAB)

3.6 The role of the CAB 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. The strategy 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 2030. 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 2030.

New Submissions

- 3.11 Each scheme is 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 CAB for review. Schemes that are deemed suitable for progression are then referred to this Committee before being considered by Council for full formal approval as per the requirements of the Council's constitution.
- 3.12 Due to the restricted financial environment within which the Council must operate, CAB 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 1 to this report, with a summary of the main bids below.

Fleet Recovery Vehicle & Lifts

- 3.17 Within the Transport Maintenance workshop, there are two, four poster vehicle lifts, both over 20 years old. Due to the age of the equipment these lifts require replacement due to safety and inability to obtain replacement parts. These lifts are vital to service delivery.

Demolitions

- 3.18 Top up funding is sought for the existing 'Demolitions' scheme within the programme. Some sites may be earmarked for onward regeneration within Wirral which will generate capital receipts and inward investment.

Hind Street Urban Village: Storm Water Attenuation Tank

- 3.19 Through discussions with United Utilities in relation to the Hind Street Urban Village planning application the requirement for a storm water attenuation tank has arisen. This tank will reduce the risk of flooding for the Hind Street site and wider area beyond the boundary of the Hind Street project.

Health & Safety Works to The Grange & Pyramids

- 3.20 JLL are appointed as the Council's managing agents for the Grange and the Pyramids. They have assessed the condition of various aspects of the centre and have recommended to the council that a Capital Programme of health and safety works is put together, for a programme to be delivered at a sum of £1.000m per year (excluding VAT), over the next 3 financial years (2025/26, 2026/27 and 2027/28).

Mosslands Reprovision of Land & Sports Pitches

- 3.21 £3.392m match funding is required to support the new build of Mosslands School. Circa £65m will be grant funded by the Department for Education (DFE), which will provide a modern state of the art secondary education flagship facility within the heart of Wallasey. This development will occur on both the current site and onto the appropriated part of the Wallacre sports pitch area.

Golf Course Machinery

- 3.22 The Council's Golf Service has at present approximately 45 machines in the Parks and Countryside Golf fleet. This equipment varies in size from handheld machines such as brush cutters and hedge cutters to large four-wheel drive tractors of 100 horsepower. This equipment has been maintained to a high standard by the Parks and Countryside Workshop but is now in need of replacement.

Wirral Country Park Car Park Essential Health and Safety

- 3.23 The main Visitor Car Park at Wirral Country Park, Thurstaston, requires resurfacing and a redesign to ensure it is fit for purpose and meets the needs of modern cars and increased visitor use. Repairing potholes and edging is no longer an economical alternative compared to the cost of resurfacing with additional safety features.

Car Parking Equipment

- 3.24 A report was presented to the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee on 3rd December 2024 that provided an update to Members regarding the 'Consultation on Proposed Car Parking Charges'. Within the report it was stated that capital funding would be required to implement the scheme.

2025/32 Capital Programme

- 3.25 In forecasting a seven-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.
- 3.26 The 2025/32 Capital Programme represents a combination of:
- a) Schemes approved as part of the 2024/29 Programme and updated through the Capital Monitoring reports in 2024/25. The table below reflects the Quarter 3 position 2024/25.

Table 1: Capital Programme - per Quarter 3 24/25 Monitoring Report

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Programme	Budget £m	Budget £m	Budget £m	Budget £m	Budget £m
Adult Care & Health	0.767	1.446	1.000	0.691	-
Children, Families & Education	11.442	6.742	2.000	-	-
Finance	25.579	-	-	-	-
Neighbourhoods	14.486	14.898	19.952	0.885	-
Regeneration & Place	41.679	78.816	26.442	6.200	0.772
Total	93.953	101.902	49.394	7.776	0.772
Source of Financing					
Borrowing	33.715	21.551	22.604	3.762	0.772
Grants/Contributions	53.235	79.594	26.790	4.014	-
Capital Receipts	5.181	0.722	-	-	-
Revenue/ Reserves	1.822	0.035	-	-	-
Total	93.953	101.902	49.394	7.776	0.772

- 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 1 to this report provides a brief description of each scheme. Appendix 2 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

	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Programme	Budget £m	Budget £m	Budget £m	Budget £m
Neighbourhoods	1.701	-	-	-
Regeneration & Place	7.156	8.991	1.000	-
Total	8.857	8.991	1.000	-

- 3.27 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 2024/25 Capital Monitoring report. This would allow works on successful bids to commence in 2024/25 rather than having to wait for 2025/26.
- 3.28 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 Health and Safety or strategically important can be considered for inclusion.

- 3.29 The proposed Capital Programme combines Tables 1 and 2 and some revised reprofiling. Also included is an estimate in 2026/27 for a potential food waste scheme £3.200m, although at this time this scheme is deferred pending a full review once complete, full details will be presented for approval. In 2025/26 £4.832m of Transformational Capitalisation is included funded by Flexible Use of Capital Receipts. The detail of the programme can be found in Appendix 3 to this report.

Table 3: Proposed Capital Programme 2025/32

	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32
Programme	Budget £m	Budget £m	Budget £m	Budget £m	Budget £m	Budget £m	Budget £m
Adult Care & Health	1.446	1.000	0.691	-	-	-	-
Children, Families & Education	6.742	2.000	-	-	-	-	-
Finance	4.832	2.000	1.000	1.000	-	-	-
Neighbourhoods	16.599	19.952	0.885	-	-	-	-
Regeneration & Place	85.972	35.433	7.200	0.772	-	-	-
Total	115.591	60.385	9.776	1.772	-	-	-

Source of Financing							
Borrowing	30.408	31.595	4.762	0.772	-	-	-
Grants/Contributions	79.594	26.790	4.014	-	-	-	-
Capital Receipts	5.554	2.000	1.000	1.000	-	-	-
Revenue/ Reserves	0.035	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	115.591	60.385	9.776	1.772	-	-	-

Capital Receipts

- 3.30 The available balance for general use in the Capital Receipts Reserve at 1 April 2024 was approximately £1m. 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.
- 3.31 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

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Anticipated receipts	2,238	8,150	4,600	2,940	-	-

- 3.32 The estimated value of receipts to be achieved and their utilisation, for later years will be updated though the capital monitoring procedures.

Grant Funding

- 3.33 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.

Future Planning

- 3.34 It is reasonable to suggest that capital activity will continue beyond the schemes and funding that are formally approved as part of this programme. There will continue to be a need for investment to replace elements or enhance the Council's asset base, for example as equipment becomes obsolete or technological advancements can be benefitted from. A longer-term view of potential future requirements is key to effective resource and management planning.
- 3.35 With this in mind, Appendix 4 of this report gives an indication of what future requirements may be asked of the Capital Programme. Within the estimates are grant awards that are yet to receive formal award confirmation. Once this confirmation is received, they will form part of the fully approved programme, with movements reported to Members via the quarterly monitoring reports.

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 2024/25 to 2031/32), the Council will consequently require borrowing of £102m 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 £102m of borrowing required to fund all forecast works in this programme is as follows:

Table 5 MRP Charges to Revenue Relating to 2025/32 Debt Funded Capital

	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	2028/29 £m	2029/30 £m	2030/31 £m	2031/32 £m
Additional Revenue Cost	1.201	1.748	2.345	2.491	2.619	2.693	2.718

Notes

- MRP repayments from revenue only by default start the year after the capital expenditure has taken place i.e., for spend incurred in 2025/26,

the first MRP repayments will be charged in the 2026/27 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 2074/75 at £2.935m 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 There are no additional resource requirements arising directly from this report as the content of this report relates to Investment into the Council. The Capital Programme 2025-32 will be managed internally from within existing directorate structures.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 The possibility of failure to deliver the Capital Programme will be mitigated by regular programme review by the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). The SLT 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 CAB 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, BIODIVERSITY 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 1 – Capital Bids for the 2025/32 Capital Programme
- Appendix 2 – Financial Summary of Capital Bids
- Appendix 3 – Proposed Capital Programme 2025/26 to 2031/32
- Appendix 4 – Future Planning

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)

Council Meeting	Date
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
Council – 2023/24 Capital Outturn Report	17 July 2024
Council – 2024/29 Capital Programme	26 February 2024
Council – 2024/29 Capital Financing Strategy	26 February 2024
Council – 2024/25 Capital Monitoring Q1	17 July 2024
Council – 2024/25 Capital Monitoring Q2	2 December 2024
Council – 2024/25 Capital Monitoring Q3	3 March 2025

APPENDIX 1 - Capital Bids for the 2025/32 Capital Programme

1.1 Fleet Recovery Vehicle & Lifts - Funding Required £0.100m

Within the Transport Maintenance workshop, there are two, four poster vehicle lifts, both over 20 years old, due to the age of the equipment these lifts require replacement due to safety and inability to get hold of replacement parts. These lifts are vital to service delivery.

In addition to the above, the tyre van, used by the transport fitters to provide a service to all Council fleet users, is now approximately 18 years old and requires replacing. This vehicle contains equipment to support the breakdown service that the Council provides to all users. Without a suitable vehicle to carry out this service, users and their services will suffer with delays or/and inability to carry out their duties.

A recent Health & Safety Audit also highlighted the need to have a Mobile Elevating Work Platform (MEWP) lift in order to safely work at heights on vehicles. The current approach, using ladders, was considered unsafe as it offered limited protection should a fall take place, and a MEWP Lift was recommended.

1.2 Demolitions Top-Up Bid - Funding Required £5.755m

Top up funding is sought for the existing 'Demolitions' scheme within the Programme. The original capital bid for demolition projects has been expended by the completion of several demolition projects and demolition projects that are now in the programme. There are several buildings within the Asset Portfolio that are now considered as being in need of demolition. There are also further assets that may come into scope during the lifecycle of this project to ensure effective management of the Council estate.

The demolition projects identified above have significant Health and Safety risks if they are left in a "mothballed" state due to the presence of asbestos, structural risks, vandalism, utility costs and rates etc.

Some sites may be earmarked for onward Regeneration within Wirral which will generate capital receipts and inward investment.

1.3 Hind Street Urban Village: Storm Water Attenuation Tank - Funding Required £5.000m

Through discussions with United Utilities in relation to the Hind Street Urban Village planning application the requirement for a storm water attenuation tank has arisen. This tank will reduce the risk of flooding for the Hind Street site and wider area beyond the boundary of the Hind Street project. Without agreement to the delivery of this tank United Utilities would have maintained their objection to the Hind Street planning application.

The current estimate cost for this tank is £5m (with a 25% optimism bias allowance included). The overall Hind Street Urban Village project has an existing budget of £52m (grant funded by Homes England and LCRCA) but this does not include the £5m for the attenuation tank. However, the Hind Street project cannot progress without construction of the tank as it is a condition of both planning and grant funding.

Efforts will be made to try and secure external funding to cover or contribute to this cost. Discussions with potential funders are ongoing, but any potential grant funding/contributions from third party sources would need to be secured by September 2025 to enable the works to be included in the Hind Street Primary Enabling works contract. If such third-party funding is not secured the cost would need to be borne by the Council's Capital Programme via borrowing.

1.4 Health & Safety Works to The Grange & Pyramids - Funding Required £3.000m

JLL are appointed as the councils' managing agents for the Grange and the Pyramids.

They have assessed the condition of various aspects of the centre and have recommended to the council that a Capital Programme of health and safety works is put together, for a programme to be delivered at a sum of £1m per year (excluding VAT), over the next 3 financial years (2025/26, 2026/27 and 2027/28).

The recent fire risk assessment has identified that all fire doors within The Pyramids Shopping Centre need replacing to comply with updated fire legislation and further significant investment is required to address fire stopping works (closing of breaks in the walls between areas).

1.5 Mosslands Re provision of Land & Sports Pitches – Funding Required £3.392m

The funding approval is paramount in support of the New Build Mosslands School Circa £65m, to be grant funded by the Department for Education (DFE), which will provide a modern state of the art secondary education flagship facility within the heart of Wallasey. This development will occur on both on the current existing site and onto the appropriated part of the Wallace sports pitch area.

The appropriated area of Wallace was necessitated to provide sufficient external area to allow the New Build school construction, whilst maintaining the uninterrupted education provision to be maintained within the existing school on the existing site (Without the need for an offsite temporary mobile school provision), until the full decant into the new flagship school in 2026. Following which the onsite demolition of the existing school buildings, temporary car parking re-location to the Northern part of the existing site, removal of the external open spaces and play provisions will commence in late 2026.

Should approval to the funding not be granted, the DFE would need to reconsider its options in support of the overall scheme.

1.6 Golf Course Machinery – Funding Required £0.301m

Wirral Council Golf Service has at present approximately 45 machines in the Parks and Countryside Golf fleet. This equipment varies in size from handheld machines such as Brush cutters and Hedge cutters to Large four-wheel drive Tractors of 100 horsepower. This equipment has been maintained to a high standard by the Parks and Countryside Workshop but is now in need of replacement.

The replacement of the golf machinery was not included in the 2018 capital bid for Parks and Countryside machinery due to the potential transfer of the golf operation to an external provider. The proposed outsourcing did not proceed, and golf was retained 'in-house', the grounds maintenance aspects were scheduled to be transferred to Leisure Services to operate in its entirety. As a result of this decision no plan is currently in place to replace/renew golf machinery which is in desperate need to be replaced.

Most of the remaining golf fleet is now at considerable age which causes considerable problems in both maintenance costs and operator safety. The manufacturers are no longer producing some of the spare parts required to maintain these machines which means that very soon we will not be able to conduct repairs which will ultimately affect the course condition. Operator Safety is also now a major concern, and the aged equipment also waste fuel and are not environmentally friendly compared to modern equipment.

1.7 Wirral Country Park Car Park Essential Health and Safety – Funding Required £0.300m

The main Visitor Car Park at Wirral Country Park, Thurstaston, requires resurfacing and a redesign to ensure it is fit for purpose and meets the needs of modern cars and increased visitor use. Repairing potholes and edging is no longer an economical alternative compared to the cost of resurfacing with additional safety features.

Drainage needs to be significantly improved to take into account the Climate Emergency and increased periods of prolonged and heavy rainfall that are making access to the car park dangerous.

Estimated cost of refurbishment is £0.300m for a car park that, together with the Overflow Car Park, generates an annual income of £0.150m. There are currently 190 car parking spaces in total at Wirral Country Park Pay and Display Car Park, with each car parking space generating an income of just under £800 per year. If the main Visitor Centre Car Park is not improved and needs to be closed there would be a loss of 70 spaces and subsequently a loss of income to the Council.

1.8 Car Park Equipment– Funding Required £1.000m

Following the report presented to the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee on 3rd December 2024, capital funding is sought to for £1.000m in order to finance these schemes. This would include approximately £0.750m for the supply and installation of Pay and Display equipment, £0.200m for the supply and installation of signs and £0.050m for road lining and any remedial maintenance works and other infrastructure necessary for the recommended car parking charging options.

This capital bid is presented on an invest to save business case basis.

APPENDIX 2 - Financial Summary of Capital Bids

Scheme Ref	Scheme	Total Funding Required £000	Borrowing Required £000	Revenue Cost 2025/26 £000	Revenue Cost 2026/27 £000	Revenue Cost 2027/28 £000	Revenue Cost 2028/29 £000	Revenue Cost 2029/30 £000
A1	Fleet Recovery Vehicle & Lifts	100	100	5	16	16	17	17
A2	Demolitions - Top Up	5,755	5,755	165	301	312	314	315
A3	Hind Street Urban Village: Storm Water Attenuation Tank	5,000	5,000	50	254	271	272	273
A4	Health & Safety Works to The Grange & Pyramids	3,000	3,000	50	104	159	163	164
A5	Mosslands Reprovision of Land & Sports Pitches	3,392	3,392	93	177	184	185	186
A6	Golf Course Machinery	301	301	15	39	40	42	43
A7	Wirral Country Park Car Park Essential Health and Safety	300	300	15	24	24	25	25
A8	Car Parking Equipment	1,000	1,000	50	130	134	138	142
	Total	18,848	18,848	443	1,046	1,141	1,155	1,166

Notes to Appendix 2:

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 3 - Proposed Capital Programme 2025/26 to 2031/32

In Detail:

Scheme	2025/26 Budget £000	2026/27 Budget £000	2027/28 Budget £000	2028/29 Budget £000	2029/30 Budget £000	2030/31 Budget £000	2031/32 Budget £000
Adult Care and Health							
Extra Care Housing	585	1,000	691	0	0	0	0
Telecare & Telehealth Ecosystem	861	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Adult Care and Health	1,446	1,000	691	0	0	0	0
Children, Families & Education							
Basic Needs	427	0	0	0	0	0	0
Child Care Capital Expansion Fund	182	0	0	0	0	0	0
Condition/modernisation (SCA)	2,660	1,000	0	0	0	0	0
Family support	100	0	0	0	0	0	0
High Needs Provision Capital	2,638	1,000	0	0	0	0	0
School Works - Department for Education Ringfenced Receipts	722	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transforming Care - Therapeutic Short Breaks	13	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Children, Families & Education	6,742	2,000	0	0	0	0	0
Finance							
Transformational Capitalisation	4,832	2,000	1,000	1,000	0	0	0
Total Finance	4,832	2,000	1,000	1,000	0	0	0
Neighbourhoods							
Allotment & Cemetery Standpipes	313	0	0	0	0	0	0
Allotment Sites Expansion	50	0	0	0	0	0	0

Scheme	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32
	Budget £000	Budget £000	Budget £000	Budget £000	Budget £000	Budget £000	Budget £000
Allotment Sites Expansion - Top Up	148	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arrowe Country Park - Main Driveway Resurfacing & Fencing Work	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arts Council Capital LIF	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beechwood Play Area	50	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bidston Court - Path Improvements	340	0	0	0	0	0	0
Birkenhead Park World Heritage Project Team	16	49	0	0	0	0	0
Bridges excluding Dock Bridge	516	1,075	0	0	0	0	0
Catering Units	160	0	0	0	0	0	0
Car Parking Equipment	1,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cemetery Extension & Improvements (Frankby)	93	0	0	0	0	0	0
Climate Emergency Budget	21	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coastal Defence - Meols Feasibility Study	100	0	0	0	0	0	0
Combined Authority Transport Plan (CATP)	1,308	5,810	0	0	0	0	0
Coronation Park Sustainable Drainage	207	0	0	0	0	0	0
DEFRA -Food Waste Collection Service	0	2,377	0	0	0	0	0
DfT Funding Highways Maintenance and Improvements	545	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dock Bridges replacement	210	0	0	0	0	0	0
England Coastal Path	300	0	0	0	0	0	0
Environmental Improvements	475	575	0	0	0	0	0
Fitness Equipment	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Flaybrick Cemetery Pathway	200	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fleet Recovery Vehicle & lift	100	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food Waste	0	3,200	0	0	0	0	0
Future Golf - Project 1.1	286	0	0	0	0	0	0
Golf Course Machinery	301	0	0	0	0	0	0

Scheme	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32
	Budget £000	Budget £000	Budget £000	Budget £000	Budget £000	Budget £000	Budget £000
Highway Maintenance	6,670	5,763	0	0	0	0	0
Key Route Network (LGF3) - Operate Key Roads / Routes Efficiently	166	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kingsmead School - Playing Field S106	300	0	0	0	0	0	0
Landican Cemetery Extension of Burial Area & Modernisation of Chapel Complex	200	200	885	0	0	0	0
Levelling Up Parks Fund-Woodchurch	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Moreton Sandbrook Drainage	188	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parks Workshop & various machinery	40	0	0	0	0	0	0
Play Area Improvements	223	0	0	0	0	0	0
Plymyard Cemetery Roadways	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Plymyard Playing Field	35	0	0	0	0	0	0
PSDS Decarbonisation Phase 1	1,000	903	0	0	0	0	0
Quick Win Levy	25	0	0	0	0	0	0
Solar Campus 3G	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Studio refurbishment Les Mills classes	15	0	0	0	0	0	0
Surface Water Management Scheme	32	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tower Road National Productivity Investment Fund (NPIF) - ease congestion / upgrade national or local networks	32	0	0	0	0	0	0
Traffic Signal LED Upgrade	15	0	0	0	0	0	0
Urban Tree Challenge Fund	21	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wallasey Embankment Toe Reinforcement	227	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Kirby Flood alleviation	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
Williamson Art Gallery Catalogue	56	0	0	0	0	0	0
Williamson Art Gallery Ventilation 21-22	288	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wirral Country Park - Main Visitor Car Park	300	0	0	0	0	0	0

Scheme	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32
	Budget £000	Budget £000	Budget £000	Budget £000	Budget £000	Budget £000	Budget £000
Total Neighbourhoods	16,599	19,952	885	0	0	0	0
Regeneration & Place							
Aids, Adaptations and Disabled Facility Grants	5,861	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arrowe Country Park Depot: Re-Surfacing, Material Bays & Electronic Entrance Barrier	102	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bebington Oval Facility Upgrade	470	0	0	0	0	0	0
Birkenhead Regeneration Framework	174	0	0	0	0	0	0
Birkenhead Town Centre	15,604	4,500	0	0	0	0	0
Birkenhead Waterfront Programme	20,741	1,511	0	0	0	0	0
Business Investment Fund	585	0	0	0	0	0	0
Capitalisation of Regen Salaries	1,145	1,100	0	0	0	0	0
Central Birkenhead Programme	8,055	1,628	0	0	0	0	0
Community Asset Transfer	415	0	0	0	0	0	0
Concerto Asset Management System	25	0	0	0	0	0	0
Consolidated Library Works Fund	213	0	0	0	0	0	0
Demolitions	4,471	2,450	0	0	0	0	0
Dock Branch Park Programme	580	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hamilton Park enabling works-Birkenhead Regen Delivery	126	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health & Safety - Condition Surveys	1,000	700	700	772	0	0	0
Health & Safety works - The Grange & Pyramids	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0	0	0
Hind Street Programme	1,882	4,000	0	0	0	0	0
Leisure Capital Improvement Programme	150	0	0	0	0	0	0
Liscard Town Centre	1,774	5,000	5,000	0	0	0	0
Moreton Youth Club & Library	893	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mosslands School - new build & land works	1,851	1,541	0	0	0	0	0

Scheme	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32
	Budget £000	Budget £000	Budget £000	Budget £000	Budget £000	Budget £000	Budget £000
New Ferry Projects	4,315	5,000	0	0	0	0	0
Property Pooled Plus I.T System	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
Regeneration Delivery Resources	1,650	500	0	0	0	0	0
Seacombe River Corridor Programme	3,777	0	0	0	0	0	0
Strategic Acquisitions - Capital Enhancements	500	500	500	0	0	0	0
Strategic Transport (excl. Birkenhead 2040 Programme)	2,105	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Kirby Concourse/Guinea Gap Reception upgrade / improve	250	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wirral Waters	6,255	6,000	0	0	0	0	0
Total Regeneration & Place	85,972	35,433	7,200	772	0	0	0
Total Capital Programme	115,591	60,385	9,776	1,772	0	0	0

Appendix 4

Future Planning

4.1 A Summary of the known, proposed Capital Programme is shown in the table below:

Table 1: Proposed Capital Programme at 2025/32

	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32
Programme	Budget £m	Budget £m	Budget £m	Budget £m	Budget £m	Budget £m	Budget £m
Adult Care & Health	1.446	1.000	0.691	-	-	-	-
Children, Families & Education	6.742	2.000	-	-	-	-	-
Finance	4.832	2.000	1.000	1.000	-	-	-
Neighbourhoods	16.599	19.952	0.885	-	-	-	-
Regeneration & Place	85.972	35.433	7.200	0.772	-	-	-
Total	115.591	60.385	9.776	1.772	-	-	-

Source of Financing							
Borrowing	30.408	31.595	4.762	0.772	-	-	-
Grants/Contributions	79.594	26.790	4.014	-	-	-	-
Capital Receipts	5.554	2.000	1.000	1.000	-	-	-
Revenue/ Reserves	0.035	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	115.591	60.385	9.776	1.772	-	-	-

- 4.2 In previous capital reports, the £52m grant funding associated with the Hind Street development has been included to provide a fuller picture of future capital activity. The Council still awaits formal grant approval documentation regarding this funding therefore it is now included within the 'Future Planning' view of the programme.
- 4.3 Once the appropriate confirmation documentation has been received, the grant funding will become part of the approved Capital Programme, via the appropriate quarterly monitoring update to Members, when funds will then become available for utilisation.
- 4.4 Along with the inclusion of the Hind Street grant funding in the future estimate of the Capital Programme, the following capital funding assumptions have been factored into the potential programme shown Table 2 below:
- continued grant to be received for Schools Modernisation of £2.5m per year
 - continued grant to be received for Disabled Facilities Grant of £5.1m per year
 - continued grant to be received for Highways of £8.0m per year (from 28/28 onwards)
 - Continuation of capital investment in I.T infrastructure, up to £2m per year from 2027/28)

Table 2: Potential Capital Programme 2025/32

	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32
Programme	Budget £m	Budget £m	Budget £m	Budget £m	Budget £m	Budget £m	Budget £m
Adult Care & Health	1.446	1.000	0.691	-	-	-	-
Children, Families & Education	9.242	4.500	2.500	2.500	2.500	2.500	2.500
Finance	4.832	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000
Neighbourhoods	16.599	19.952	8.885	8.000	8.000	8.000	8.000
Regeneration & Place	103.032	72.893	12.300	5.872	5.100	5.100	5.100
Total	135.151	100.345	26.376	18.372	17.600	17.600	17.600

Source of Financing							
Borrowing	30.408	31.595	4.762	0.772	-	-	-
Grants/Contributions	79.594	26.790	4.014	-	-	-	-
Capital Receipts	5.554	2.000	1.000	1.000	-	-	-
Revenue/ Reserves	0.035	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pipeline Funding	19.560	39.960	16.600	16.600	17.600	17.600	17.600
Total	135.151	100.345	26.376	18.372	17.600	17.600	17.600

- 6.5 This new presentation of the possible future Capital Programme will be further adopted from the 2025/32 Capital Programme quarterly monitoring reports, when departments will be asked to estimate future capital requirements, subject to full capital approval process.