

Appendix 2

Capital Programme – Scheme Updates

B1 Adult Social Care & Health

- **Extra Care Housing** - Adult Social Care Commissioning Leads are working closely with strategic housing colleagues on new site opportunities which are either at planning or pre-planning stage. There are several sites under current consideration across Wirral. Due to current schemes securing alternative funding the current programme has been slipped into 2024/25.
- **Telecare & Telehealth Ecosystem** – Plans are now in place to complete the analogue to digital transition of Telecare by the end of 2024. Wirral Council will have completed its transition one year ahead of the national deadline, minimising risk to residents and offering improved and more flexible services to customers.

B2 Children, Families & Education

- **School Condition Allocation (SCA)** – to be used to keep school buildings safe and in good working order by addressing poor building condition, building compliance, energy efficiency, and health and safety issues. The allocation includes £2.4m roofing works at various schools and £0.50m for boiler installation works.
- **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) / High Needs Provision Capital** – To deliver additional classroom provision for SEND pupils across several Special schools. The planned schemes cover Leasowe Early Years Centre, The Observatory School, and Pensby/Elleray Park School.

B3 Neighbourhoods

- **Highway Maintenance** – the major planned road resurfacing and surface treatment programmes for 2023/24, which account for the majority of the budget, were all substantially completed within Q3. The footway refurbishment schemes, and footway surface treatments will be completed within Q4 along with structural repairs in concrete roads. Preparation works will continue for next year's surface treatment programme and improvements to highway drainage assets will also continue during Q4. Principal bridge inspections are due to be completed within Q4. Street lighting asset capital works are in progress and will be completed by the end of Q4. There will be some carry-over slippage of this budget as a result of additional devolved grant funding being allocated too late in the year. The 2024/25 programming is well advanced and will be flexible enough to be able to incorporate any additional grant funding allocations, provided that council corporate governance procedures allow.

- **Combined Authority Transport Plan (CATP)** – Phase 1 of the 20mph speed limit programme was completed in Q3, utilising funding slipped from 2022/23. Phase 2 will be commenced in Q4, following recent approval at Committee. A number of local safety schemes and junction improvements have been progressed to design stage during Q3 and will be progressed to procurement, consulted upon, or commenced on site in Q4. Orders have been placed for some of the equipment required for traffic signal analogue to digital upgrades within Q3, and more will be ordered in Q4. There will be some significant re-profiling and carry-over slippage of this budget as a result of the time taken to complete some of design work against the programme and conduct the necessary consultations. A significant amount of officer time was lost from this programme during Q1 and Q2 in planning and delivering the traffic management plan for the Open Golf tournament. External supplementary resources have been commissioned to mitigate the effects of this. There may also be a need to make some legitimate cross project virements. The 2024/25 programming is well advanced and will be flexible enough to be able to incorporate slippage and any addition grant funding allocations, provided that council governance procedures allow.
- **Parks Machinery** – The Capital allocation for 2023/24 was £2.635m of this amount £2.485m has been spent with orders raised through the procurement system. The remainder will be spent this financial year on items that it was not possible to procure through the initial procurement (e.g.: Skips, Compact Flail's, Pedestrian Sweepers, and Gators). It is expected that all allocated funds will be spent in this financial year.
- **Parks Vehicles** – The Capital allocation for 2023/24 was £0.580m, of this amount £0.271m has been used to purchase 1 x Medium Van, 1 x Skip Truck, 1 x Electric Van and 4 x Off Road Vehicles. The remainder is being used to purchase 8 x Single Cab Tipper Vans, at a cost of £0.330m this procurement has been undertaken with a supplier identified but is awaiting 'sign off' from Procurement.

B4 **Regeneration & Place**

- **Town Deal Fund Birkenhead** – This £25m fund is to enable access to capital grants to support the regeneration of Birkenhead. It encompasses a number of projects to be delivered both internally and by external organisations. A Treasury compliant 'Green Book' business case has been prepared and approved for each of the projects. Grants will be paid out to the organisations delivering the external projects via Grant Funding Agreements. All projects will be delivered by March 2026. Robust monitoring and evaluation arrangements are in place.
- **Aids, Adaptations and Disabled Facility Grant (DFG)** – This is a ring-fenced grant received for the provision of aids and adaptations

which is operated on a rolling basis where works can be committed in one year and expenditure incurred the next or across financial years. A further in-year allocation has been awarded to Wirral increasing the budget for 2023/24 by a further £412,184. This will help eligible older and disabled people to live as independently and safely as possible in their homes and where local housing authorities are encouraged to use this additional funding in an agile and responsive way to supplement the core delivery of DFG to further help people to live independently and assist in wider Better Care Fund outcomes.

- **Future High Streets Fund Birkenhead (FHSF)** – This is a capital grant from Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and includes funding to support the regeneration of Birkenhead Town Centre (Market, Europa Housing and Connectivity (Grange Road/Charing Cross/Conway Street/Bus Station area improvements). Procurement/award of contract for a delivery partner for the connectivity projects is currently being finalised and demolition of House of Fraser has now commenced. The FHSF grant budget was profiled to 2023/24, however on 13 September 2023 P&R Committee approved an invitation from DLUHC for the Council to participate in a Pathfinder Simplification Pilot which streamlines Future High Streets Fund, Town Deal and the Council’s Levelling Up Round 1 allocation into a single programme with a revised spend deadline of 31st March 2026. On 4 October Policy and Resources Committee delegated the Director of Regeneration and Place, in consultation with Group Leaders, to develop and submit the Pathfinder Investment Plan to DLUHC for approval. An Officer Decision Notice was published on 27 October 2023 providing details of the submitted Investment Plan and a decision from DLUHC is now awaited.
- **Birkenhead Waterfront Programme** - The £19.6m Levelling Up Fund Round 1 allocation is a capital grant administered by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. The funding is intended to support the transformation of the Woodside Waterfront area as a key visitor destination. Projects included a renewed landing stage at Woodside Ferry Terminal, a new International Battle of the Atlantic attraction at Woodside, and a number of public realm and highways enhancements designed to drive footfall between Hamilton Square and the Waterfront. The funding is subject to an additional 10 per cent local contribution, which is being met by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and council borrowing. Projects are progressing at pace, with all projects expected to start on site in 2024 and complete by March 2026.

B5 Resources

- **Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)** – Phase 1 (Core Financials and Procurement) was delivered in April 23 with Enterprise Performance Management (EPM) going live on 12/06/23. Phase 2: - Supplier Qualification Management (SQM), Sourcing P-Cards (expenses) and

Supplier Portal are delivered. Projects is live for core finance users. Engagement with project managers is being planned at present in order for the module to be rolled out in Q4 and be live to project managers April 2024. There is high confidence on delivery of Phase 2 within budget.

- **IT Client Refreshment, Laptops, Desktops & Tablets** - The initial batch of new devices has been purchased and have been deployed together with the new Windows 11 solution to pilot users.
- **Digital Foundations Programme** - This programme has now been completed with the outstanding deliverables being implemented as part of the IT Client Refreshment, Laptops, Desk & tablets programme of work.