

Appendix 4

Capital Bids Seeking Approval for Funding

D1 Wirral Tennis Centre/Facility Upgrade – £0.420m

The refurbishment of the Wirral Tennis and Sports Centre – now re-named the 'Bidston Sports and Activity Centre' was the culmination of a number of previously agreed project sums, reflected in the Capital Programme under the following titles:

£1.364m - Wirral Tennis Centre Facility Upgrade

£0.766m - Wirral Tennis & Sports Centre

£0.410m - Soft Play

£2.540m Total

The refurbishment project has now been completed and the new Bidston Sports and Activity Centre, opened for business, August 2023. The total capital spent totalled £2.960m, including the following items of unforeseen expenditure, unaccounted for within the capital programme; -

£80,000 - Unforeseen Building Works

£48,000 – Replacement Intruder and Fire Alarms

£50,000 – Capitalisation of staff to oversee project

£22,000 – Retention

D2 PSDS Decarbonisation Phase – £1.262m

The Council has made a commitment to attaining carbon net zero by 2030 as it is locally determined contribution to the Borough wide target of net zero before 2041. It supports the Liverpool City Region goals of net zero by 2040 and the national goal of net zero by 2050. The Climate Emergency Team has been working with the Liverpool City Region (LCR) North-West Net Zero Hub since 2022 to secure funding from the Low Carbon Skills Fund (LCSF) and the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS). This is to support the corporate commitment to achieving carbon net zero by 2030. The next step is to use the Heat Decarbonisation Plans (HDP's) delivered by the LCSF as a basis for a PSDS application to access Government grant funding for the delivery of capital works which include measures to the building fabric to improve energy efficiency and installation of renewable energy technology.

The LCR submission projects that the total decarbonisation cost will be £14.756m of which £1.958m will be the contribution expected from the Council. If successful, the projected participant contribution expected from the Council is £1.958m. This will consist of £1.262m of new borrowing, plus the use of £0.696m budget already in the programme under the 'Energy Efficient Buildings' scheme. The LCR have provided a breakdown covering the nine assets that are included in the bid using Salix resources which suggests that £4.166m would be required if the Council were submitting its own bid.

As the PSDS applicant the Liverpool City Region will be responsible for the delivery all works which are expected to take place over 2024/25 and 2025/26. It is expected that official notification of whether the combined bid has been successful will be issued by the Scheme administrators, Salix Finance, in January/February 2024. Match funding will only be required if grant funding is confirmed by the LCR.

D3 Levelling Up Fund Round 3 Grant – £1.385m

The Council has been provisionally awarded £10,788,000 from Levelling Up Fund Round 3 against a total programme cost of £12,043,000. A local contribution of £1,385,000 is required.

The original bid focused on: shop frontage upgrades and public realm improvements on Liscard Way and Mother Redcap Place; reconfiguration of key gateway junctions to improve traffic flows and enable cycling and pedestrian travel; unlocking high quality residential development in Liscard Village by addressing its viability gap and creating new public realm to encourage alternative pedestrian footfall and accessibility from/to the core town centre; and enhancing communities facilities in the Town Centre.

The proposals are based on the Liscard Neighbourhood Framework: An Integrated Masterplan, which was approved by the Council in November 2021. The Neighbourhood Framework was subject to consultation with a range of stakeholders including local businesses, residents, and Elected Members, and has received widespread support.

The proposals will support the Wirral Plan and the Council's Local Plan.

The Council is in active discussions with the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority regarding securing pre-development funding towards the £1,385,000 local contribution requirement.

As this has not yet been confirmed, a request is being made to the Council's capital programme to provide a contingency in the event a local contribution from elsewhere cannot be secured.

Failure to meet the local contribution for the Levelling Up Fund could jeopardise the Council's opportunity to secure £10.788m of Levelling Up Funding and would undermine delivery of the Liscard delivery programme