

REPORT TO	DATE OF MEETING
Cabinet	2 April 2014



SUBJECT	PORTFOLIO	AUTHOR	ITEM
Authorisation of Expenditure for Capital Projects and Schemes	Neighbourhoods and Streetscene. Finance and Resources. Regeneration, Leisure and Healthy Communities. Strategic Planning and Housing.	Mark Gaffney	4

SUMMARY AND LINK TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES

This report requests approval to commit capital expenditure for a number of projects, schemes and Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) as set out in the Capital Programme for 2014/15 and approved by Council on 5 March 2014.

This report links to all of the Council's Corporate Priorities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet agrees:

1. To grant authority under Section 3.4 of the Financial Regulations to incur capital expenditure of £330,000 to carry out a programme of capital works for Parks and Open Spaces as detailed in the report (the procurement being conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Council's Contract Procurement Rules).
2. To grant authority under Section 3.4 of the Financial Regulations to incur capital expenditure of £120,000 to replace the lifts at the Civic Centre (the procurement being conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Council's Contract Procurement Rules).
3. To grant authority under Section 3.4 of the Financial Regulations to incur capital expenditure of £95,000 to carry out capital works related to the Longton Improvement Plan (the procurement being conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules).
4. To grant authority under Section 3.4 of the Financial Regulations to incur capital expenditure of £110,000 to carry out a programme of capital works related to the formative Penwortham Improvement Plan (the procurement being conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Council's Contract Procurement Rules).
5. To grant authority under Section 3.4 of the Financial Regulations to incur capital expenditure of £249,715 (government subsidy allocation for 2014/15) for Disabled Facilities Grants.

DETAILS AND REASONING

The Council approved the budget for 2014/15 at its meeting on 5th March which included the capital programme. In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulation No. 3.4, permission is now sought to incur expenditure on schemes listed in the capital programme that exceed a value of over £75,000.

Neighbourhoods and Streetscene Portfolio Schemes

To improve parks and open spaces in the borough is a key Corporate Plan action, as is work to enhance Worden Park as a local asset and visitor attraction. Cabinet approved in 2013/14 £100,000 each year for 4 years to improve the boroughs parks and open spaces. An additional £200,000 has been allocated in 2014/15 to make the total investment £600,000. The budget for 2014/15 is £330,000 (including £30,000 re-phased from 2013/14) which is allocated to a number of schemes as listed below. Hurst Grange Park, Worden Park, Withy Grove Park and Gregson Green are also local priorities in the My Neighbourhood Plans.

Hurst Grange Park - Paths

The stone footpaths in the "extension areas" of the park are in need of resurfacing. This scheme will resurface the footpaths throughout this area of the park and address any outstanding drainage issues adjacent to the footpath network.

Longton Brickcroft – Paths, Car Park and Fence

The stone footpaths and stoned section of the car park are in need of resurfacing. This scheme will resurface the footpaths throughout the site and the stone section of the car park and also replace the rail fencing around the car park areas.

Worden Park – Overflow Car Park, Driveways and Drainage

Overflow Car park - The overflow car park can only be used when weather conditions are dry enough for vehicles to park on the grass. The park is becoming increasingly popular and car parking capacity is often exceeded which can create some issues with cars parking on streets adjacent to the park.

This scheme will construct an overflow car park with a capacity of approximately 150 cars which will be able to be used all year, whatever the weather conditions. It will be constructed with materials which are sympathetic to the aesthetical qualities of the park.

Driveway Resurfacing - The driveway from Worden Hall to the Walled Garden is in a very poor condition and is being used more since the Walled Garden was improved and opened up to the public. This scheme will resurface the tarmac driveway from Worden Hall to the Walled Garden.

Brickfield Wood Drainage – This scheme will consist of drainage works to improve the drainage issues in Brickfield Wood.

Withy Grove Park - Paths

The Council is working to improve Withy Grove Park. The entrance at Sergeant Street was improved last year and the scheme for 2014/15 will resurface some of the footpath network around the central area of the park.

Gregson Green – Drainage

The sports field area of Gregson Green is very poorly drained and is unusable for any activities for significant parts of the year. This scheme will consist of installing a drainage system to improve the usability of the site.

Finance and Resources Portfolio Schemes

Civic Centre Lifts

The budget of £120,000, in the capital programme for 2014/15, is for a scheme to replace the two lifts at the Civic Centre. The lifts were installed in 1974, when the Civic Centre was constructed, and after 40 years of use they are now often suffering from breakdowns. Repairers have stated that replacement parts are becoming increasingly difficult to obtain, and recommend replacement in their entirety. In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations permission is sought to authorise capital expenditure of up to £120,000 for an appropriate scheme, which will be procured in accordance with the Council's Contract Procurement Rules.

Regeneration, Leisure and Healthy Communities Portfolio Schemes

Major Schemes from the My Neighbourhood Plans

Longton

The Corporate Plan identifies the improvement of town and village centres as a priority. This is coupled with the Western Parishes My Neighbourhood plan placing improvements to Longton Village as a local priority. Longton centre was identified as the local shopping area requiring attention. This scheme aims to develop an improved local centre with better amenities and shopping to reinforce the Village as the centre of the local community. This will improve the footfall and image of Longton by stimulating local trade.

The Longton Village Improvement Plan would be a public/private partnership between land owners in the village, South Ribble Borough Council and Lancashire County Council to improve the stretch of Longton primarily along Liverpool Road from the entrance to the Health Centre to the entrance of Booths Grocers.

A delegated decision for the first phase of this has already been approved (ref. 752 approved 7th March '14). The further phase of Longton Village Improvement Plan consists of a balanced scheme consisting hard engineering and 'soft' village management measures:

- Forecourt Improvements to the area around Church Row Chamber and Franklands.
- Frontage Improvements
- Traffic management & pedestrian improvements – Liverpool Road dominates the village centre and discourages convenient & safe people movement. Therefore a series of linked measures to improve the central area have been devised. These measures are mainly on the Highway and so are subject to LCC approvals:
- Pedestrian crossing areas to be raised to create a speed calming measure helping to reduce vehicle speeds through the busiest part of Longton.
- Raised junction (Franklands / Liverpool road)
- The frontage of Church Row Chambers on Franklands Avenue will be increased to improve amenity and appearance.
- Traffic Regulation Orders associated with these improvements.
- Planting & seating
- New seating area made of high quality hard wood
- Reinstatement of Longton Stocks which are currently in poor condition near the entrance of the library. The stocks will be repaired and cleaned and moved to the planting area.
- Village notice board and map showing local amenities for a mile radius.
- Additional lighting
- Bus shelter improvements
- Car parking
- Cycle parking
- Signage
- Central feature

There is already £128,000 allocated in the Council budget for 2013/14 (£38,000) and 2014/15 (£90,000). The delegated decision (ref. 752 approved 7th March '14) allocated £33,000 towards the first phase of works in Franklands, Longton. The present cost estimate for the full range of improvements to Longton is £200,000, but this is subject to procurement and contributions. Works are being undertaken with assistance from Lancashire County Council and possible contributions from Booths Supermarket. The value of these third party contributions is yet to be confirmed.

In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations permission is sought to authorise the remaining allocated capital expenditure of £95,000 for the scheme, which will be procured in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

Therefore authorisation for additional capital allocation may be sought in future, for example from Section 106 funds to make up the shortfall of the overall cost of public realm improvements.

Penwortham

In line with Longton, but timed to follow later in the year Penwortham has a budget allocated of £110,000 for improvements. The Penwortham My Neighbourhood plan places improvements to Penwortham as a local priority. This scheme aims to develop an improved local centre with better amenities and shopping to reinforce the independent shopping area as the centre of the local community. This will improve the footfall and image of Penwortham by stimulating local trade.

The Penwortham Improvement Plan is in its formative stages. A range of ideas that can be implemented within the timescale, within the £110k budget and that meet the aims of the project are being assembled for consideration by the local working group who will then liaise with both the Penwortham My Neighbourhood Forum, local stakeholders such as the business community, Lancashire County Council and Penwortham Town Council. Development of a wider and longer term improvement plan is also proposed. This would make any improvements implemented in 2014/15 the first phase of Penwortham improvement works.

In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations permission is sought to authorise capital expenditure up to £110,000 for the scheme, which will be procured in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

Strategic Planning and Housing Portfolio Schemes

Disabled Facilities Grants

The Capital programme for 2014/15 includes £249,715 (government subsidy allocation for 2014/15) for Disabled Facilities Grants. In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations permission is sought to authorise capital expenditure on Disabled Facilities Grants of £249,715.

WIDER IMPLICATIONS

In the preparation of this report, consideration has been given to the impact of its proposals in all the areas listed below, and the table shows any implications in respect of each of these.

FINANCIAL	Civic Centre The approved capital programme for 2014/15 includes the capital budget of £120,000 for the scheme to replace the lifts.
	Parks and Open Space Capital Works The approved capital programme for 2014/15 includes the capital budget of £330,000 for works on Parks and Open Spaces.
	Major Schemes from the My Neighbourhood Plans Longton - The approved capital programme for 2013/14 and 2014/15 includes the capital budget of £128,000 for works, of which approval has been given for expenditure of £33,000 on the first phase of works in Franklands, Longton. Additional S106 funds have been identified (ref. M3/237) to contribute to the scheme if costs exceed the current budget provision, however this would be subject to separate approval. Third parties may also contribute to costs to reduce the amount the Council is contributing.
	Penwortham - The approved capital programme for 2014/15 includes the capital budget of £110,000 for works.

LEGAL	The Council will be bound by the terms and conditions of any contractual documentation entered into with any contractors appointed to supply services or goods in relation to these capital schemes. Legal agreements between the Council and landowners will be required for the works in Longton and Penwortham.
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RISK	As the project plans are developed for the individual projects and schemes, consideration will be given to any risks identified from the project risk assessments.
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THE IMPACT ON EQUALITY	As the project plans are developed for the individual projects and schemes, consideration will be given to any equality issues arising from the schemes.
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OTHER (see below)	Health and Safety With regard to construction works the Council will, and successful tenderers be required to, conform to the requirements of the Construction (Design & Management) Regulations 2007.
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<i>Asset Management</i>	<i>Corporate Plans and Policies</i>	<i>Crime and Disorder</i>	<i>Efficiency Savings/Value for Money</i>
<i>Equality, Diversity and Community Cohesion</i>	<i>Freedom of Information/ Data Protection</i>	<i>Health and Safety</i>	<i>Health Inequalities</i>
<i>Human Rights Act 1998</i>	<i>Implementing Electronic Government</i>	<i>Staffing, Training and Development</i>	<i>Sustainability</i>

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Cabinet report Financial Strategy, Budget and Council Tax 2014/15