

FINANCE & PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY REPORT 12TH SEPTEMBER 2023

Report of the Head of Finance

Lead Member: Cllr Ashcroft

CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT PERIOD 4 JULY 2023

Purpose of Report

This report is to inform Finance and Performance Scrutiny of the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital spend position at Period 4, 31st July 2023 compared with the profiled budget to date.

Recommendation

That the Capital Monitoring Summary position for Period 4, 31st July 2023 for the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account be noted as per Table 1. The detailed Capital Monitoring Report is included in Appendix 1.

Reasons

To enable the information to be used as a monitoring tool and when considering the future 3-year Capital Plan and Capital Strategy.

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

Financial resources are required to carry out all the aims and strategies of the Council.

Report Implications

The following implications have been identified for this report.

None the Capital Programme is fully funded.

Risk Management

There are no specific risks associated with this decision.

APPENDIX: Capital Monitoring Report Summary

Key Decision: No

Background Papers: None

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Part B - Executive Summary

To highlight the following: -

1. The General Fund full year capital budget is £25,663k, Period 4 profiled budget is £8,554k compared to spend of £3,287k, 38% with an underspend of £5,267k. It should be noted however that this underspend can be almost wholly attributed to 'Provisional' Schemes where there is no specific underlying project and expenditure plan. Excluding Provisional Schemes the 'Live' Schemes are showing expenditure against plans of some 97% of the profiled budget.
2. The HRA Full year capital budget is £15,369k, Period 4 profiled budget is £5,123k compared to spend of £2,948k, 58% with an underspend of £2,175k.

Table 1

Capital Summary	Full Year	Period 4	Period 4	Period 4	Period 4
	Budget	Budget	Actual Spend	Variance under/(over spend)	% Spend against Budget
General Fund	25,663	8,554	3,287	5,267	38
HRA	15,369	5,123	2,948	2,175	58
	41,032	13,677	6,235	7,442	46
General Fund Split					
GF Live	8,631	2,877	2,795	82	97
GF Provisional	15,087	5,029	0	5,029	0
GF 3rd Party	1,945	648	492	156	76
Total	25,663	8,554	3,287	5,267	38

3. Some of the Major Capital schemes are as follows-

Enterprise Zone - This budget is a provisional budget of £10m 2023/24 The fund was created to allow "forward funding" of buildings or infrastructure within the Zone financed by future business rate receipts. 9th March 2023 Cabinet report approved a new EZ agreement with Charnwood Campus of £4.1m, this will be paid over in September 2023 and reclaimed back over a 4-year period.

Bedford Square Project - Delegated Decision 182, 15th October 2021 approved a revised total budget of £3.869m funded by Town Deal £1.7m, External Funding £708k, Capital Receipts £1.461m. This scheme is complete, the final costs are yet to be determined. Leicestershire County Council, require final works to be inspected for snagging and a cost for this is still to be determined, totals costs to date are £4.153m, some costs are being reclaimed with two contractors and we will have a final update on this scheme in the Autumn.

Regeneration Projects - As part of the Treasury Management Strategy report 9th February 2022, £5m was set aside for a Regeneration Schemes and to date there are no projects identified. Any project would be subject a Capital Appraisal and external borrowing sought.

Lanes and Links – Town Deal Project (including Hope Bell)

The budget for 2023/24 is £509,400, and profiled budget is £169,800 against spend to date £57,729k, 34% spend to date.

Festive lights proposal is to install permanent multi-coloured lighting on catenary lines along Bleach Yard. This will be lighting that can be used year-round, with the ability to change colours for different seasons, including seasonal colours at Christmas. Hope Bell quotes have been secured. The project is due to be completed towards the end of 2024.

Living Loughborough – Town Deal Project

The budget for 2023/24 is £1,568k, and profiled budget is £523k against spend to date £132k, 25% spend to date. The Project has started to move forward. Work packages 1 (Phase 3 of the Wi-Fi project) and work package 2 (heritage trails) have been completed and launched. The BID's crime reduction scheme has been given a boost with the completion of the s of 100 new radios, which are currently being leased out to local businesses by the BID (68 radios have been leased out so far). The BID is also preparing for the launch of its Business Digital Support Programme at the end of September/early October.

Disabled Facilities Grants

The budget for 2023/24 is £1.2m, and the profiled budget to Period 4 is £404k and actual spend is £467k, 116%. An independent consultant has been appointed to carry out an options review for the delivery of disabled facilities grants within Charnwood. The review is currently underway and a report outlining the findings and recommendation is due to be available by the end of September 2023. One of the main objectives of the review is to identify ways to maximise the grant spend.

Shepshed Town Centre Development and Public Realm - The total budget for phase one scheme is £2.475m, as per 13th April Cabinet Report 2022, actual spend to date £1,440k, 58% spend to date. This scheme is progressing with the current contractors and Leicestershire County Council.

HRA Capital Schemes

Acquisition of Affordable Housing to meet Housing Needs –

The budget for 2023/24 is £3.86m, to date 1 property has been purchased £214k and several properties are under consideration plus 2 assets have been gifted, the current Housing Acquisition policy is being reviewed to enable further purchases to be made.

Sheltered Accommodation Scheme -The total budget is £2m, spend to date is £97k, the balance of the budget will be spent in 2024/25.

The scheme comprises of building 9 bungalows, significant engagement and communication with stakeholders, including the church adjacent to the site has taken place. An open day in June 23 was held to talk to residents. A specification for a contractor to deliver the work is in development. Subject to planning permission work (i.e., demolition) is expected to start in early 2024 / Calendar year.