

## CABINET – 14TH SEPTEMBER 2023

### Report of the Scrutiny Commission

#### CAPITAL PLAN AMENDMENT REPORT

##### Purpose of Report

To consider the comments and recommendations of the Scrutiny Commission in relation to the Capital Plan Amendment Report.

##### Recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission

That the Cabinet be informed that the Commission welcomes and supports the recommendations set out in the report of the Head of Finance.

##### Reason

The Commission, having carefully considered and asked questions on the report felt the Cabinet should approve the recommendations set out.

##### Meeting Discussion

- i. The Capital Plan Amendment report included an audit trail, highlighting the initiation of each of the capital projects requesting funds.
- ii. There had been a £50k allocation for 'Garages' as part of 'Stock Maximisation'. The Head of Finance provide more detail on how the £50k was spent, following the meeting.

*Post meeting note: The Director of Housing and Wellbeing confirmed that the £50k would be used for major repairs and improvements to garages and garage sites.*

- iii. The Replacement Hardware Programme had been increased from £45k to £90k in 2023/24, for the purchase of laptops and headsets for the new councillors and replacing existing equipment for returning councillors. Members felt that £90k was a large amount to cover this request. The Head of Finance and the Democratic Services Manager agreed to provide a breakdown of this expenditure, following the meeting.

*Post meeting note: Of the additional £45k funding, £19k was allocated for new laptops for the 29 new councillors, and £16k was allocated for the replacement of laptops for returning councillors (scheduled for November 2023). This amounts to £35k. The remaining £10k would be used to support the replacement of laptops for staff.*

- iv. It was recommended that a virement of £60.2k in 2023/24 from the Sheltered Housing Improvements budget to the Delivery of Stock Condition Survey and Associated Costs budget be made. This was surplus budget that would be used to fund HRA (Housing Revenue Account) schemes. Members highlighted that there had recently been a housing stock survey conducted and questioned the need for a further survey. The Head of Finance agreed to provide more information on this following the meeting.

*Post meeting note: The Director of Housing and Wellbeing stated that the stock condition survey and the associated works was complete. It was substantively completed last year (although not 100% which was why there was an accrual). It included an energy study, an asset performance evaluation, and an updated HRA business plan. These items were fed into the Asset Management Strategy considered last financial year. The updated HRA Business Plan was considered earlier this year by the Housing Management Advisory Board and would be brought forward to Cabinet. The sheltered housing improvement budget was typically used for one off large capital items at sheltered housing (eg heating system).*

- v. Members felt that the report was well presented and easy to understand.

#### Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

Scrutiny Commission Procedure Rule 11.12 sets out the procedure by which a report of a Scrutiny Committee should be considered by Cabinet.

#### Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

The information on this in the Cabinet report is not affected by the recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission.

#### Report Implications

The following implications have been identified for this report.

##### *Financial Implications*

There are no further financial implications associated with the recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission.

##### *Risk Management*

There are no specific risks associated with the recommendations of the Scrutiny Commission.

Key Decision: Yes

Background Paper:

Scrutiny Commission Minute 34 2023/24, 11th  
September 2023.

Officer to Contact:

Sally Watson  
Democratic Services Officer  
(01509) 634969  
[Sally.watson@charnwood.gov.uk](mailto:Sally.watson@charnwood.gov.uk)