

**Executive – 16 July 2009**

## **CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING**

### **Report of Strategic Director (Community)**

**Statutory Powers:** Local Government Act 1972, Section 151 and section 2 Local Government Act 2000

**Financial Implications:** None directly relating to this report.

### **Purpose**

To advise Members of progress to the approved proposed capital programme for 2008/09 and 2009/10 agreed at Council on 24 July 2008, in line with Council resolution (minute 40/08).

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That Members welcome progress made to date on the implementation of the approved capital programme**

### **Background**

1. At Council on 24 July 2008 approval was given to the capital programme for 2008/09 and 2009/10. Part of that approval was;
  - a) delegated authority be given to the Council's Strategic Management Team to deliver the capital programme, including the procurement of appropriately skilled resources, in consultation with the Leader and the appropriate Executive Member; and
  - b) the Strategic Management Team report progress of the programme to Executive at least four times per annum.
2. Progress on the capital programme was last reported to Executive on 23 April 2009 (E.93/08) and this report provides an update of progress since that date.

### **The 2008/09 to 2009/10 Programme Monitoring**

3. The membership and purpose of the Capital Programme Working Group was reported on 2 October 2008. This Group has remained in place and has met regularly to oversee the delivery of the programme.
4. In addition to the monitoring role of the Working Group, the Head of Property Services has provided a monthly update report to the Strategic Management Team.

## **Capital Investment in Existing Assets**

5. This element of the programme identifies 22 projects. These are being delivered through a balance of internal and external resources as assessed by the Head of Property Services. Progress to date is set out in appendix A. Members will note that all projects are indicated as 'green' or 'amber'.
6. The major projects delivered have included the replacement pontoon for the passenger ferry at Kingswear, the refurbished public toilets in Kingsbridge, works at the Fish Quay Dartmouth and cliff stabilisation at Castle Cove. Where schemes have overspent these have been balanced with under spends on other projects to keep the programme in balance.
7. In addition to the above, £30,000 was used from the Economic Regeneration Reserve to carry out works so that the Outdoor Pool at Ivybridge could be opened for this summer.
8. New works are now only being committed where there are operational, environmental or health and safety implications, otherwise items are being held for inclusion in the Council's revised capital programme which is currently under consideration.

## **Public Space Projects**

9. This area of the programme has been tendered through the EU procurement process enabling a framework contract to be established offering flexibility for the three distinct areas of work – Open Space, Play and Sport. Five companies have been selected and the contract is established. All Parishes and Towns and relevant community groups have been informed of the proposed consultation process and are invited to engage in the design and delivery of new facilities. Projects have been distributed between the selected contractors and delivery has commenced.

## **Public Space Improvements**

10. In accordance with the Council resolution on 24 July 2008, (min 40/08 refers) the Council's in-house team of Trades Persons within Property Services is now delivering this element of the programme. The programming of work on 60 key open space sites has begun and delivery started in January 2009. Works have been completed at Woodlands Park, Salcombe, Ermington Road and Norton Playing Fields. Improvement works have commenced at Kingsbridge.

## **Play Areas and Skate Parks**

11. Three specialist companies, procured in accordance with the EU regulations, will deliver the play aspect of the programme, projects have been allocated to them and start dates are in the process of being agreed.

## **Sports Improvements**

12. This element of the programme relates predominantly to replacement of tennis courts. Contractors are expected, by the date of this Committee, to have completed works at the tennis courts at Kingsbridge and Totnes. The

start is planned for tennis courts at Dartmouth in September following the regatta. It has previously been reported that the MUGA at Woolwell has been completed.

### **Pool at Ivybridge Leisure Centre**

13. The Council has identified £1m towards the cost of replacing the pool at Ivybridge. A meeting with stakeholders was held on 04 June to assess the viability of further fund raising based on the feasibility study. It was concluded that further funding from other sources would be unlikely in the current economic climate. A local stakeholder volunteered to undertake a sketch design of a pool based on the £1m allocated funding. Officers accepted this offer and investigations and discussions will continue with stakeholders over the summer.

### **Salcombe Fish Quay Regeneration**

14. The European Fisheries Fund has issued guidance for bids. Officers are confident that the Council's needs at Salcombe will be eligible within the guidelines for a 50% grant. Consultation has been carried out with the occupiers of the fish quay and a design will now be commissioned to investigate options for eligible improvements.

### **District Council Investments in the Community**

15. Six bids have been received and have been initially assessed by officers and where appropriate further clarification sought from bidders. The member panel will receive presentations from bidders on 24 July and will then make their recommendation to Executive on the allocation of the fund.

### **Other Capital Programme Items**

16. This paper focuses primarily on the proposed capital expenditure on property and assets. There are no specific issues to raise in relation to the Affordable Housing Development Programme which has 26 units currently under construction. An update to the Affordable Housing Capital Programme was reviewed at Community Policy Development Group on 27 November and its recommendations agreed at Executive on 4 December 2008.
17. An update on private sector renewal and disabled facilities grants was provided in the Draft Proposals Report considered by Executive on 4 December 2008.
18. The five-year rolling Vehicle Capital Programme for the purchase of vehicles and plant was set out as Appendix F to the Draft Budget Proposals Report (E79.08), which was also considered by Executive on 4 December 2008.

### **Future Capital Programme**

19. Work is in hand to consider items for inclusion in future capital programmes. A member task and finish group will work with the Head of Property Services and the Chief Accountant to assess capital need and balance priority with the

overall demands on the medium term financial strategy. A recommendation will be made to the Executive in the autumn.

## Risk Assessment

20. These are the key risk issues.

<b>Strategic opportunities</b>	<b>Issues/Obstacles</b>	<b>Benefits</b>
Meeting existing Council priorities in line with the Council's Asset Strategy, and the opportunity to assess emerging projects, which could contribute to the Council's priorities.	The Council must demonstrate that capital investment contributes to corporate priorities, provides value for money, and takes account of the revenue implications of the investment. This requires a project appraisal for each proposal. This needs to be taken into account when assessing possible implementation timescales. Complex capital programmes have a relatively long lead-in period.	An effective programme will improve the well-being of residents and contribute to achieving Council priorities.

## Conclusion

21. The capital programme will shortly be reviewed.

Alan Robinson  
Strategic Director (Community)

Executive  
16 July 2009

## Background papers

Report to and minute 40/08 of South Hams District Council on 24 July 2008  
Report to and minute E.133/08 of Executive on 23 April 2009