

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

EXECUTIVE BOARD

4th FEBRUARY 2019

Capital Budget Consultation

DESIGNATION.	DIRECTORATE	TELEPHONE NO.
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SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – BUDGET CONSULTATIONS COMMENTS

POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 11th JANUARY 2019

5. FIVE YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2019/20 - 2023/24

The Committee considered the 5 year capital programme which had been approved by the Executive Board for consultation on the 17th December 2018. It was noted that feedback from the consultation process, along with the outcome of the final settlement, would inform the final budget report which would be presented to Council for consideration in February, 2019. The proposed capital programme was a capital spend of some £260m over the next 5 years and current funding proposals included external funding of £128m. The report highlighted the provisional settlement received from the Welsh Government which indicated capital funding of £9.437m for the Authority in 2019-20. The funding was made up of Supported Borrowing of £5.867m and General Capital Grant of £3.570m. In summary, the overall position of the capital programme was funded for the 5 years from 2019/20 to 2023/24.

The Director of Corporate Services advised that the Welsh Government had recently announced its approval for the Band B 21st Century Schools programme running to 2024 with the significant change in the intervention rate from 50% to 65% for schools generally and from 50% to 75% for special schools. This had provided the authority with scope to deliver more schools within the £129.5m Band B programme of which it funded £70m.

It was noted that also included were the City Deal Schemes for the Wellness Village and Yr Egin. The Llanelli Leisure Centre and the Llanelli area review had also been identified as key components of the Wellness Village.

Amongst the issues raised during consideration of the report were the following:

- In response to queries and concerns relating to the future of the Wellness Village scheme following recent suspensions at Swansea University the Director of Corporate Services advised that the Collaboration Agreement had, as reported to Council on the 12th December 2018, been terminated, and officers were working with Hywel Dda Local Health Board, University of Wales Trinity St David and Swansea University to bring forward an alternative delivery model that would see the Council itself facilitating the private investment needed. Members were assured that there were no financial risks for the Authority and the only expenditure which had been committed had been utilised for planning purposes and infrastructure. The Director of Corporate Services agreed to apprise the Committee members of any further developments via e mail;
- The Director of Corporate Services clarified that 'Prudential Borrowing' referred to un-supported borrowing funded directly by the Authority.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

5.1 that the Five Year Capital Programme 2019/20 – 2023/24 be endorsed;

5.2 that an update report on the Wellness Village scheme be submitted to the next meeting.