

21. 2012/13 GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL BUDGET

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Finance and Estates providing an updated general services capital budget for 2012/13.

The report recommended that the Council Executive:-

1. Approve the capital budget for 2012/13 as set out in appendix 2 to the report;
2. Approve the capital funding for 2012/13 as set out in section 5 of the report;
3. Note the £398,000 2011/12 programme saving available for allocation with Strategic Outline Business Cases;
4. Approve the proposal to submit a bid to the Scottish Futures Trust for funding to improve facilities at West Calder High School and agree to delegate authority to Moira Niven, Depute Chief Executive, to co-ordinate preparation of submission of a bid by the deadline of 21 July 2012, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Executive Councillor of Education.

The report advised that on 20 November 2007 the Council Executive approved a ten year capital investment and asset management strategy for 2008/09 to 2017/18. This was a culmination of an exercise involving business cases for investment and a corporate prioritisation process.

The final outturn position showed expenditure in 2011/12 of £38.865 million. The £4.718 million outturn for 2011/12 comprised net slippage, after over programming of £4.320 million, with a saving of £398,000.

As part of the annual consultation process local members were asked to consider the content of the budget and the scheduling of individual projects in 2012/13 and comments received were considered and incorporated in the updated plan.

An extensive exercise was completed with asset lead officers to ensure that project phasing within the plan was realistic and achievable. The total proposed investment for 2012/13 was £31.402 million and a detailed breakdown was provided in appendix 2 to the report.

The Head of Finance and Estates went on to explain that the Scottish Government had invited local authorities to submit an application for funding from the Scottish Futures Trust and it was proposed that West Lothian Council submit an application for funding to improve PE facilities and upgrade dining, social facilities and curricular/support accommodation at West Calder High School to bring the school up to the agreed Council Secondary school accommodation standard.

In conclusion the report set out the detailed capital investment programme for 2012/13. Approval of the revised programme would allow the ongoing

implementation of the capital plan to proceed resulting in significant improvements to services provided by the council and to the overall asset infrastructure throughout West Lothian.

Motion

The Council Executive agrees the recommendations contained in the report. Council Executive notes the £398,000 programme saving from the 2011/12 General Services Capital Budget and agrees to allocate as follows:

West Lothian Villages Improvement Fund:

Establish a Villages Improvement Fund of £258,000, phased over 2012/13 and 2013/14, with officers to bring a further report to the Council Executive detailing proposals for the operation of the fund.

Road Safety Schemes:

Provide funding of £120,000 to fund priority School Road Safety Schemes.

Provide funding of £20,000 to fund improvements to Braehead Traffic Signals.

- Moved by Councillor John McGinty and seconded by Councillor Cathy Muldoon

Amendment

West Lothian Council Executive agrees

1. To approve the 2012/13 capital budget as set out in appendix 2 to the report.
2. To approve the capital funding for 2012/13 as set out in section 5 of the report.

In noting the £398,000 2011/12 programme saving the Executive also notes that the Mid Calder pavilion project is currently incomplete and that to complete this project, as intended, by creating a hall, small kitchen and office area requires a supplementary allocation of £100,000.

West Lothian Council Executive therefore further agrees;

3. To allocate £100,000 from the reported £398,000 2011/12 programme saving to allow the Mid Calder pavilion to be completed by providing the intended hall, small kitchen and office area.

West Lothian Council Executive agrees that the improvement of facilities at West Calder High School, the only secondary school in West Lothian without a games hall and related PE facilities is a key council priority which requires to be urgently addressed in the 2012/13 capital programme and in succeeding years.

West Lothian Council Executive therefore further agrees;

4. To allocate £298,000 from the report £398,000 2011/12 programme saving to deliver improvements to school dining facilities and altering/upgrading of PE facilities.
 5. Delegate authority to Moira Niven, Depute Chief Executive, to submit a bid to the SFT for funding to deliver fit for purpose PE facilities including a new games hall, dance studio, fitness suite, changing rooms, PE store, PE staff base, PE classroom, swimming pool/changing area refurbishment and external changing facilities.
- Moved by Councillor Peter Johnston and seconded by Councillor Greg McCarra

It was agreed that a roll call vote be taken, the result of which was:

Motion

Jim Dixon

Lawrence Fitzpatrick

Dave King

Danny Logue

John McGinty

Anne McMillan

Angela Moohan

Cathy Muldoon

George Paul

Decision

The motion was successful by 9 votes to 2 and it was agreed accordingly.

Amendment

Peter Johnston

Greg McCarra