

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 22 December 2009

Portfolio Holder: Councillor C Whitbread

Item: 13

1. CAPITAL STRATEGY - 2009-2014

Recommending:

... **That the attached draft Capital Strategy 2009-2014 be approved.**

Background

1. It is no longer necessary for the Council to submit the Capital Strategy to the Government Office for assessment but there is an expectation that the strategy will continue to be produced and updated. Whilst there is no requirement to update the strategy annually it is considered important to do so in order to ensure that it is kept up-to-date. A good Capital Strategy enables the Council to make sound strategic decisions in relation to its use of capital resources and forms an important part of the Council's performance management and financial planning frameworks.
- ... 2. The attached draft Strategy is based on the Council's Capital Programme as reviewed by the Cabinet on 12 October 2009, updated for carry forwards of £272,000 from 2009/10 to 2010/11 and amended to take account of decisions in respect of planned maintenance capital works and Limes Farm Hall.

Key Capital Priorities

3. We have reviewed the ranking of the Council's key capital priorities in the light of fulfilling the Council's aims and objectives.
4. The priorities are set out in the table below.

The abbreviations in italics cross-reference with the key capital schemes in the strategy and the priorities in brackets relate to last year's capital strategy:

Priority	Key Capital Priority	Abb	Main Link to Aims and Priorities
1 (2)	Meeting housing need	(MHN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address key housing need
2 (1)	Improving the Council's housing stock	(ICS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address key housing need Procure services in the most beneficial and cost effective way
3 (3)	Improving quality of life	(IQL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain the special character and advantage of the District, and address local environmental issues Address key housing need Address leisure need
4 (4)	Protecting the environment	(PE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain the special character and advantage of the District, and address local environmental issues
5 (5)	Promoting economic development	(PED)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage sustainable economic development
6 (6)	Regenerating areas in need	(R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address key housing need Create safer communities Encourage sustainable economic development Co-operate and plan with partners
7 (7)	Delivering quality public services through e-government	(QPS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop services, staff and the working environment
8 (8)	Improving private sector housing stock	(IPS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address key housing need

5. The key capital priorities have been re-assessed and re-ranked to reflect members' recognition of the Council's role in meeting housing need in the District. An initiative to investigate the benefits of establishing a new Local Housing Company is now underway to take on board the new challenges facing housing services. While meeting housing need becomes Priority 1, improvement of the Council's own stock moves down to number 2; this recognises the substantial improvements already made towards the Decent Homes initiative which is on target to be achieved in full by the 2010 deadline. At the same time, it reflects the need to continue to invest in Council stock to maintain high standards.

Key Capital Schemes 2009-2014

6. Having considered various options for capital investment a Capital Programme has been formulated to meet the Council's key capital priorities. The proposed schemes are ranked in priority order in Section 6 with the draft Strategy.
7. The Strategy has been updated with the latest examples of historic achievements, cross-cutting partnership initiatives and cross-border working relationships. The generation and application of capital receipts has also been revised in line with latest trends and forecasts.

8. We recommend as set out at the commencement of this report.