

Report to: **STRATEGIC PLANNING AND CAPITAL MONITORING PANNEL**

Date: 06 September 2021

Executive Member Councillor Allison Gwynne – Executive Member (Neighbourhoods, Community Safety and Environment)

Reporting Officer: Emma Varnam – Assistant Director (Operations and Neighbourhoods)

Subject: **CAPITAL PROGRAMME – OPERATIONS AND NEIGHBOURHOODS (JULY 2021)**

Report Summary: This report provides information with regards to the 2021/2022 Operations and Neighbourhoods Capital Programme.

Recommendations: That the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel be recommended to NOTE the following:

- (i) The progress with regards to Flooding: Flood Prevention and Consequential Repairs.
- (ii) The progress with regard to the Slope Stability Programme and potential additional works required.
- (iii) The progress with regards to the replacement of Cremators and Mercury Abatement, Filtration Plant and Heat Recovery Facilities.
- (iv) The progress of the Walking and Cycling infrastructure schemes set out in section 3 of the report.
- (v) The progress of Capital schemes in section 2.13-2.20, and external grant schemes in section 3 and 4.
- (vi) Following the GMCA approval on 25 June 2021, to note that £2.415m Highways grant funding was added to the Council's 2021-22 capital programme and £1.500m Pothole and Challenge funding of the same grant was added to the 2021-22 Operations and Neighbourhood's directorate Highways revenue budget.

That the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel recommend to Executive Cabinet to APPROVE the following:

- (vii) To add £0.022m to the Capital Programme for Pedestrian Crossings at side roads (section 3.18). This scheme will be wholly financed via TfGM Mayors Challenge grant funding.

Corporate Plan: The schemes set out in this report support the objectives of the Corporate Plan, in particular the 'Infrastructure and Environment' strand of the Corporate Plan.

Policy Implications: In line with Policy.

Financial Implications: **Appendix 2** provides a summary of the Operations and Neighbourhoods directorate 2021/22 capital programme as at 30 June 2021.

(Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer & Chief Finance Officer)

Members should note that **Appendix 3** provides an update on the key milestones for relevant schemes

Highway Maintenance Programme

A previous report advised Members of GMCA approval of £3.915m grant funding for the Council's 2021/22 Highway Maintenance programme Section 2.2 of this report sets out the proposed allocation of the grant. £2.415m of the grant funding has been added to the Council's 2021/22 capital programme and £1.500m Pothole and Challenge funding of the same grant has been added to the 2021-22 Operations and Neighbourhood's directorate Highways revenue budget.

Replacement of Cremators

Section 2.11 of this report sets out the need for urgent work on the crematorium steeple. The cost of the emergency works to the steeple and associated surveys are still being developed. However, the estimated cost will be less than the available contingent budget.

The 2021/22 forecast at 30 June 2021 shows the scheme to spend on budget. However, based on updated information, £0.681m may be available to be returned to the corporate funding pot:

Total approved scheme budget	£2.500m
Contract value	£1.519m
Scheme budget contingency	£0.300m
Budget remaining	£0.681m

Mayor's Challenge Fund

Section 3.3 of this report sets out the reasons for a delay in the Hill Street and Chadwick Dam schemes. Members should note that TfGM has been informed and there is no risk to funding.

Main Road LED Street Lighting Lanterns

Section 2.18 to 2.20 of this report sets out the progress of the LED main road street lighting scheme which is scheduled for completion in March 2022 within the available budget as stated in Appendix 2.

Pedestrian Crossing Facilities at Side Roads

Section 3.17 of this report provide details direct and safe crossing points schemes for pedestrians. The estimated cost is £0.022m which will be fully funded by TfGM Mayors Challenge grant funding. This report seeks approval for £0.022m to be added to the Council's 2021/22 Capital Programme.

Resources available to fund the Capital Programme

Available Corporate Funding for capital investment is currently forecast to be £24.318m, consisting of £8.908m remaining in the Capital Investment reserve plus £15.4m of forecast capital receipts. The current anticipated level of capital receipts is based on the disposal of surplus assets approved by Executive Cabinet in September 2020.

The current approved capital investment programme requires a minimum of £15.985m of capital receipts or reserves. Any additional priority schemes that are approved by Executive Cabinet will increase the amount of corporate funding needed for the capital programme.

Available Corporate Funding:	£'000
Capital Reserves	£8,908
Anticipated Capital Receipts	£15,410
Total	£24,318
Corporate funding committed to approved schemes:	
2021/22 approved programme	£15,192
2022/23 approved programme	£294
Statutory Compliance earmarked pot	£499
Total	£15,985
Balance of forecast funding available	£8,333

After commitments in the approved programme, there is a forecast balance of £8.333m for other priority capital investment. Earmarked schemes previously included on the capital programme (and not reflected in the figures above) exceeded £40m. With the exception of statutory compliance, all earmarked schemes have now been removed from the programme whilst a review and refresh of Capital Investment proposals is undertaken.

Legal Implications:
(Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

This report is not seeking any decisions rather it is providing Members with a detailed overview of projects in order that they can scrutinise progress and consider whether the expenditure the projects represents the best value for money for the council.

Each of the projects detailed in this report will be subject to its own due diligence, governance and decision making.

Risk Management:

Risk management is covered in **Section 5** of the report.

Background Information:

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Lee Holland, Head of Engineering Services



Telephone: 0161 342 3978



e-mail: lee.holland@tameside.gov.uk

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide information on the Operations and Neighbourhoods 2021/2022 Capital Programme and impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on a number of projects.

2. APPROVED SCHEMES

Highways: Transport Asset Management Plan (TAMP) and 2021/22

Highway Maintenance Programme

- 2.1 Confirmation of the 2021/22 Highway Capital Allocation from the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) was received at the end of June.
- 2.2 A total of £3.915m has been allocated to Highway works as detailed below:
- Highways £1.816m
 - Structures £0.437m
 - Street Lighting £0.162m
 - Risk Management £1.500m
 - **Total £3.915m**

- 2.3 Officers are currently working on drawing up a detailed programme of works which will be reported in a subsequent update.

Flooding: Flood Prevention and Consequential Repairs

- 2.4 Works to improve critical infrastructure on the following inlet structures are anticipated to start on site in August/ September 2021:
- Stalybridge Country Park,
 - Mottram Old Road, Stalybridge,
 - Broadacre, Stalybridge,
 - Ney Street, Ashton-under-Lyne,
 - Store Street, Ashton-under-Lyne.

- 2.5 All works should be completed before March 2022, and it is envisaged the costs will be within budget.

Slope Stability Works and Potential Additional Works Required.

- 2.6 The engineering works at Fairlea, Denton are complete. The works were completed within the budget of £0.350m.
- 2.7 The Greenside Lane, Droylsden, retaining wall works were anticipated to be completed in December 2020. However, post-construction monitoring has highlighted an ongoing issue with the wall structure, which requires additional works to be carried out. The Council's consultants and contractor have been working through various options to find the optimum solution. The design of this solution is close to completion and it is expected the works to carry out remedial measures will commence on site in August 2021. A revised program for completion will soon be available including information on any additional costs.

Repair and Restoration of Cemetery Boundary Walls

- 2.8 The remainder of the original budget (£0.260m) to be spent this financial year is £0.060m. Further works are now planned for Hyde cemetery with minor additional works on medium risk walls at other cemeteries. All works are envisaged to be completed this financial year and will be within budget.

Replacement of Cremators and Mercury Abatement, Filtration Plant and Heat Recovery Facilities

- 2.9 £2.500m was earmarked in the capital programme to fund this project. This scheme was marked as business critical and was approved by Executive Cabinet on the 24 October 2018.
- 2.10 Work on the scheme is progressing. The twin cremators are now in situ. The new gas supply is completed. Air ducts for the twin cremators was completed w/c 16 July 2021. Dry commissioning of the twin cremators is due to take place from 26 July 2021. The temporary cremator is still being utilised to ensure the service can still meet the demand for funerals. The contractor is still able to keep the crematorium running on a minimum of three cremators at any one time
- 2.11 Due to COVID issues, accessibility of parts caused by Brexit and other unforeseen circumstances, the project is currently behind schedule by approximately 12 weeks. This means that Cremator Two should be operational 1st -15th August 2021, Cremator One to be operational 1st-31st August 2021 and Cremator Three to be operational late September 2021. The urgent work identified to ensure that the fabric and integrity of the steeple is safe following the recent survey is progressing. Listed building consent for the repairs to the steeple was granted on 29 June 2021.
- 2.12 The cost of the emergency works to the steeple and associated surveys are still being developed. However, the estimated cost will be less than the available contingent budget with no immediate impact on the approved capital programme.

Children's Playgrounds

- 2.13 Children's playgrounds across Tameside are being improved to help youngsters stay active and healthy. The Capital investment of £0.600m will improve play areas across the borough and ensure they are good quality and safe facilities for children to enjoy. Wetpour surfacing improvements have been completed on several sites. Work to improve the appearance of the play area at Haughton Green is due to start in August. Phase 2 of the wetpour project will commence in September 21. A package of infrastructure works to improve things like gates and benches will commence in October 21 and further improvements such as the installation of new play equipment will take place across the rest of this financial year

Ashton Town Centre Public Realm Project

- 2.14 As a result of the pandemic the Ashton Town Centre Public Realm project had been temporarily paused in line with Government guidance.
- 2.15 Procurement documentation for the paving materials is currently being finalised with STAR and it is anticipated to go out to tender shortly. Uncertainly remains nationally regarding availability and delivery of construction materials.
- 2.16 A detailed review of the project is still required, once the procurement exercise is complete. Tenderers will be required to provide delivery timescales as part of their submissions.
- 2.17 As lockdown eases and the town centre begins to open up for business, it is important that the original objectives for this scheme are also reviewed by key stakeholders in order to determine if the plans remain relevant and fit for purpose.

Main Road LED Street Lighting Lanterns

- 2.18 The Main Road LED design works are substantially complete. As reported previously the only designs remaining will be the ones requiring bespoke design parameters (ie. Metrolink, high mast columns and heritage lighting).
- 2.19 To date there have been no issues with the supply of the LED lanterns.

2.20 The completion of the project is still scheduled for March 2022.

3 WALKING AND CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEMES

Mayor's Challenge Fund

- 3.1 On 29 March 2018, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority agreed to allocate £160 million of Greater Manchester's £243 million Transforming Cities Fund to develop a Mayor's Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund.
- 3.2 Previous reports have highlighted that the Council has successfully secured Programme Entry Status for schemes at Tranches 1, 4, 5 and 6 of the programme.
- 3.3 Previously, we have reported that the Hill Street and Chadwick Dam schemes were due to be completed by summer 2021, however due to Covid related issues outside of our control this programme is being re-evaluated. It is anticipated that this will result in a 2-month delay to the original programme. TfGM, the project sponsors, have been informed.

Dukinfield Active Neighbourhood Pilot

- 3.4 The last report provided information on TfGM's plans to develop and deliver one pilot Active Neighbourhood scheme in each of the 10 Greater Manchester districts.
- 3.5 On the 3 March 2021 the Council approved, via Executive Decision, the selection of an area in Dukinfield for Tameside's Active Neighbourhood pilot scheme. Work has since started on this resident-led initiative.
- 3.6 An initial stakeholder workshop was held in March 2021. The workshop provided residents and interested parties an opportunity to talk about their local area, problems, issues, opportunities and ideas. A second workshop is now being planned.
- 3.7 TfGM's specialist team will lead on the design and development of the scheme, with the Council providing support. Any costs incurred by the Council will be claimed back from TfGM's Tranche 5 MCF budget allocation. This means that no funding is anticipated from Council budgets.

Active Travel Fund (ATF) – Tranche 2

- 3.8 The previous Capital update report provided confirmation that the Council has been awarded £0.985m, from TfGM on the 29 January 2021, to create an environment that is safe for both walking and cycling in order to replace journeys previously made by car or by public transport.
- 3.9 A requirement of the grant funding was the Council's ability to demonstrate progress and commitment to implementing the schemes in Tranche 2 by March 2022. In addition, unlike the Emergency Active Travel Fund, there is a requirement to undertake consultation on all schemes and obtain design approval from TfGM prior to implementation and to implement appropriate monitoring and evaluation.
- 3.10 Following a procurement exercise, Mott MacDonald's – Highway Designers, have been commissioned to work on the feasibility and design of each of the ATF schemes has started. Once outline designs have been approved by TfGM then consultation with relevant residents and stakeholders will commence.
- 3.11 The table below provides a summary of the schemes approved alongside the available budget.

Scheme Name	Budget £'m	Summary of Proposals
Ashton Active Neighbourhood	0.300	Introduction of an Active Neighbourhood to improve connections to local schools and other key destinations.
Cycle Upgrade Schemes – various locations across Tameside	0.335	Review of existing cycle lanes completed to identify where improvements can easily be made to make cycling trips safer and more comfortable for commuting essential trips or leisure. This may include the introduction of light segregation where applicable.
Dowson Road, Hyde	0.200	Introduction of a new segregated cycle lane.
Ashton Town Centre	0.150	Works to compliment the Mayor's Challenge Fund in development for the town centre.
Total	0.985	

Capability Fund

- 3.12 The previous report provided an overview of the Capability Fund bids, submitted by the Council, earlier in the year. The table below summarises these bids which were designed to support behaviour change activities and the development of local cycling and walking infrastructure proposals.
- 3.13 The table below provides a summary of the bids submitted for consideration. Confirmation of whether the bids have been successful will be provided at a future meeting.

Scheme Name	Scheme Description	Estimated Scheme Value £'m
Stalybridge to Mottram Active Travel Corridor Study.	To identify and understand the opportunities and constraints for active travel along this key transport corridor.	0.050
Stalybridge to Dukinfield Corridor Study.	To identify and understand the opportunities and constraints for active travel along this key transport corridor.	0.050
Accessibility at Existing Filtered Streets and Access Controls.	This scheme will look to improve accessibility at existing filtered streets or access controls across the borough.	0.030
Cobden Street (Active Neighbourhood).	This scheme supports an Emergency Active Travel Fund scheme in looking at wider issues associated with routing of traffic through a residential neighbourhood between Ashton and Stalybridge.	0.020

- 3.14 The Council is currently awaiting a decision on whether any of the bids have been successful. Confirmation of the outcome will be provided at a future meeting.

Places to Ride – Tame Valley Loop (TVL)

- 3.15 The previous report provided details of a potential funding package to formalise, promote and improve existing tracks around Stalybridge and Mossley known as the Tame Valley Mountain bike loop. This included a British Cycling bid for funding through the "Places to Ride" programme.

- 3.16 The Council has now received the formal offer of funding from British Cycling which is currently awaiting sign-off. Works are currently being programmed so that the formalised route can start to be promoted later in the year.

Pedestrian Crossing Facilities at Side Roads

- 3.17 TfGM are researching the use of road markings at side roads in urban areas, working with the Transport Research Laboratory (TRL). The aim is to provide direct and safe crossing points for pedestrians. The Council are supporting this research by implementing two trial sites at locations in Denton and Audenshaw. The on-road trials are now complete, with monitoring completed in early July 2021.
- 3.18 This work is being funded by TfGM, under the Mayor's Challenge Fund, with design and delivery being carried out by the Council estimated at £0.022m.
- 3.19 The costs are to be met by TfGM, including Council staff time. Costs are being compiled for submission to TfGM.

4 UPDATE ON GRANT FUNDING SCHEMES REPORTED PREVIOUSLY

Transport Infrastructure Investment Fund - Highways Maintenance Challenge Fund 2020/21

- 4.1 As reported in the previous report, works to replace gullies and drainage connections as part of the Transport Infrastructure Investment Fund, which includes the Highways Maintenance Challenge Fund, were substantially completed at the end of March 2021.
- 4.2 Works are currently underway to replace the outstanding gullies and connections and will be completed soon.
- 4.3 Works are anticipated to be completed within the available budget.

Department for Transport (DFT) – Safer Roads Fund

- 4.4 The scheme to enhance the safety on A670 Mossley – Oldham comprised a pedestrian crossing and footway widening works to the section of carriageway outside St George's School in Mossley, surface dressing and lining along the route and vehicle triggered variable message boards. The variable message boards (VMB) have been delivered.
- 4.5 As the signs will be erected on new posts with an electrical feed, it will involve work that is covered under the new connection framework that is currently being reviewed. This will mean a delay in connecting the signs to the electrical supply but does not restrict the sign and post erection, which will be carried out within the next two months.
- 4.6 Tactile surfacing at pedestrian crossing areas is also to be renewed throughout the scope of the scheme and discussions with the contractor have taken place. It is expected that this work will be carried out within a similar time period.

Growth Deal 3 Funding – Bus Stop Passenger Access Enhancement

- 4.7 Works to undertake enhancements to approximately 50 bus stops within the borough are substantially complete.
- 4.8 Work to a number of the stops are paused temporarily whilst TfGM undertake works to raise the level of shelters.
- 4.9 As this scheme has been delivered under budget, officers are working closely with TfGM to ensure the potential spend within Tameside for this works is maximised. As such additional stops have been identified.

4.10 The additional works will be arranged so as to ensure the scheme is completed within budget.

5 RISK MANAGEMENT

5.1 The table below provides a summary of the high risks associated with the delivery of the Operations and Neighbourhoods Capital Programme. The table also provides a summary of mitigating actions in order to minimise risk.

Risks	Mitigating Actions
1. Failure to implement the proposed Capital programme will prevent the appropriate allocation of resources by the Authority.	A robust programme of works will be developed to ensure that the objectives underpinning the Department for Transport and other funding allocations will be met and at the same time meet the objectives contained in Tameside's Community Strategy.
2. Inclement weather preventing commencement and completion of schemes.	A comprehensive and realistic programme of works will be agreed between partners to ensure completion by approved dates. However, should the programme not be achieved it may be necessary to arrange for any outstanding financial resources to be transferred into the following financial year.
3. Due to the most recent lock down announcements, both here and abroad, there is currently no certainty on the delivery timescales and availability of materials.	Procurement processes will start earlier than normal and the situation will be kept under review and delivery programmes adjusted if necessary. Whilst the Council's Operational Services and external contractors have access to many material suppliers, shortages of materials or delays in delivery may necessitate alternatives to be sourced or approval will be sought to carry forward the project into the following year.
4. Statutory procedures linked to certain schemes could delay implementation.	Should it be necessary approval will be sought to carry over the project into the following year for completion.
5. Failure to deliver schemes funded by external grants will impact on the future success of bids.	<p>External consultancy support being commissioned, with support from STAR, to increase design and business case capacity thereby helping to accelerate the development and delivery of the MCF schemes. Schemes which are currently projected to be completed beyond the funding timescales are being flagged with TfGM to determine opportunities to accelerate approval processes or extend the funding deadline.</p> <p>The Council has requested written confirmation, from funders, that grant can be carried forward beyond the original funding timescales.</p>

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 As set out on the front of this report.