

Report To:	STRATEGIC PLANNING AND CAPITAL MONITORING PANEL
Date:	22 June 2023
Executive Member/ Reporting Officer:	Councillor Jacqueline North – First Deputy (Finance, Resources and Transformation) Ashley Hughes – Director of Resources
Subject	IT CAPITAL PROGRAMME
Report Summary:	This report provides a summary and final sign off of the remaining IT capital projects.
Recommendations:	To note the report and the details of the status of the schemes in the programme.
Financial Implications: (Authorised By the Section 151 Officer)	<p>The Digital by Design scheme has corporate funding allocated to it, as the scheme is complete and the remaining £14,000 of funding is no longer required, This funding should now be returned to the Corporate Centre so that it can be re-allocated to other Council priorities.</p> <p>There is also a remaining budget of £0.274m in relation to the Microsoft Licensing scheme (£14,000 in 2022/23 and £0.260m in 2023/24). This scheme was funded through prudential borrowing. As the remaining funding is no longer required, the Council will not need to take up the borrowing. As borrowing rates from the Public Works Loans Board (PWLB) are sitting between 4.5% and 4.9%, dependent upon the length of the loan duration, this means the Council will avoid revenue costs arising for interest of between £12,330 and £13,426 per annum. The Council will also avoid Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) for this borrowing. MRP is the statutory amount the Council must set aside for the repayment of external debt. MRP at Tameside Council is set aside using the straight-line method against the useful life of an asset. The useful life for this asset is 5 years, therefore the MRP avoided by not taking up the borrowing is £54,800 per annum.</p>
Legal Implications: (Authorised By Borough Solicitor)	It is not clear from the report the intended position of the underspends which needs to be stated.
Risk Management:	As noted in the report
Access to Information:	<p>The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting:</p> <p>Julie Hayes (Head of ICT Strategy & Operations) Telephone: 0161 342 2213 e-mail: julie.hayes@tameside.gov.uk</p>

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report provides a summary and final sign off of the remaining IT capital projects. The approved IT Capital Programme is now complete and no further capital funding is required.

2 DIGITAL BY DESIGN

- 2.1 A capital scheme for the Digital by Design (DbD) programme was approved in March 2016. The DbD program aimed to transform how the council manages contact with the public through the better use of new technology and in so doing save time, money and improving levels of service. Specific projects were undertaken with services that generate high call volumes to reduce and, in some cases remove telephone demand altogether including Refuse and Revenues and Benefits.
- 2.2 The project has been complete for some time, but residual budget has been carried over for the last 3 years to cover residual costs related to the project.
- 2.3 There has been £1,000 of spend in 2022/23 but the remaining budget of £14,000 is not required. There are no current projects that would draw on this budget. Whilst there is discussion about a review of the website any required funding would be subject to a separate bid.

3 TAMESIDE FIBRE INFRASTRUCTURE

- 3.1 A Capital scheme for Fibre Infrastructure (£1.725m) was approved by the Executive Cabinet in December 2017. Work to construct the resilient figure of 8 fibre network to connect 22 key council sites and a further 30 health sites is complete.
- 3.2 A Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) Grant of £2.262m was also awarded to the council in 2018 by the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) with the intention to both accelerate the deployment of fibre across Tameside and support its commercialisation. The money was to pay for additional fibre cable to be installed around the core figure of 8 network to provide additional capacity, an additional 13.5km of ducting and fibre optic cables to connect high employment and industrial sites across Tameside, contribute towards the costs of a Digital Exchange facility in the new Data Centre being built at Ashton Old Baths and a further 8 mini digital exchanges located across Tameside and finally a new resilient fibre link to Manchester from Tameside. All these works are now complete and grant claims submitted and paid.
- 3.3 In January 2018 the DCMS announced a second round of LFFN funding. Greater Manchester Combined Authority coordinated a pan-Manchester £23.8m bid involving 10 Local Authorities, Police, Transport for Greater Manchester and Greater Manchester Health & Social Care Partnership with aim of increasing fibre to the premise coverage across Greater Manchester from 2% to 25% by 2020. The Tameside element of the successful bid was £2.5m and was based on expanding our existing re-use of public assets model, with the further commercialisation through the Digital Cooperative. All these works are now complete and grant claims submitted and paid.
- 3.4 There is ongoing ad hoc investment to the network via revenue funding where the business case is sound and warrants the investment.
- 3.5 Apart from the £3,000 of residual costs charged to the Tameside Digital Infrastructure Fibre budget during 2022/23 no further capital budget is required at this time.
- 3.6 The £3,000 will be funded as a Revenue Contribution to Capital (RCCO).

4 MICROSOFT LICENCING

- 3.1 £1.362m was approved by Executive Cabinet in September 2019 to purchase second user on premise perpetual licences for replacement Microsoft desktop Office 2016 and associated software, server operating systems and SQL databases.
- 3.2 The licences for Office 2016 were purchased immediately and deployed across the organisation.
- 3.3 The bulk of the SQL licences were also purchased in the first year of the scheme but the rest awaited the completion of the Ashton Old Baths data centre. The data centre is now complete and the remaining licences have been purchased this financial year. £36,000 of the £50,000 budget for 2022/23 was spent, the remaining £14,000 will not be required.
- 3.4 The remaining unspent budget of £0.260m in 2023/24 will not be required as all required licences have been purchased.

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 As set out on the front of the report.