



**REPORT of  
INTERIM CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

**to  
STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
23 NOVEMBER 2023**

**CAPITAL BIDS 2024 / 25**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider the capital projects that have been put forward by officers prior to the approval of the 2024 / 25 budget and updated Medium Term Financial Strategy in February 2024.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

That the Committee reviews the capital project bids set out in **APPENDIX A** in preparation to recommend a 2024 / 25 capital programme at the Strategy and Resources Committee in January 2024 for approval by the Council in February 2024.

**3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES**

- 3.1 The 2024 / 25 project bids set out in Table 1 below and detailed projects sheet can be found at **APPENDIX A**. The projects have been categorised by Officers into three main groups:
- Essential (E): Failure to carry out the project is likely to have health and safety implications and/or will have fundamental impact on service provision;
  - Service failure (SF): Relating to an operational asset that requires capital funding to ensure continued reliability or service provision.
  - Invest to Save (ITS): Capital investment that will reduce revenue expenditure in relation to the asset on an ongoing basis.

**Table 1: Capital Bids 2024 / 25**

<b>Project Category</b>	<b>Project Category</b>	<b>£'000</b>
<b>Brickhouse Farm</b>		
E	Scout Hut – New flooring throughout. Needed to comply with Health and Safety (H&S) regulations.	36
E	St Georges Play Site – Equipment renewal relocation and installation. To address Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and H&S.	17
<b>Cemeteries</b>		
ITS	Cemeteries - Renovation of garden of remembrance	10

<b>Leisure</b>		
E	Dengie 100 – Extend Gym and additional car parking	80
<b>Parks</b>		
E	Promenade Park Amphitheatre – Strengthening. H&S.	85
E	Goldhanger – Decommission current 10 garages on land as now a dangerous structure. H&S.	35
E	Seawall and Coach Park toilets – replacement lighting. H&S.	12
ITS	Matting Play site surfacing for Riverside Park, St Georges, Cherry Gardens, Longfields. To save on sand and bark costs.	75
E	Longfields – All pathways require full tarmac. H&S.	45
E	Remembrance Avenue – Road resurface.	32
<b>Rivers</b>		
SF	New Navigation buoys	14
<b>Vehicles Plant and Equipment</b>		
E	Trimas Pegasus - Grass cutting machine	35
SF	John Deere Gator Vehicle replacement	30
<b>Total Capital Programme; of which</b>		<b>506</b>
<i>E</i>	<i>Essential</i>	<i>377</i>
<i>SF</i>	<i>Service Failure</i>	<i>44</i>
<i>ITS</i>	<i>Invest to Save</i>	<i>85</i>

- 3.2 Also, in the Capital Programme for 2024 / 25 will be the previously agreed rolling replacement programmes of £47k for employee laptops and accessories. These are over and above the capital bids summarised in Table 1. The programme will also include any Section 106 funded projects which have been agreed separately by the Committee.
- 3.3 As part of the budget strategy the broad principles adopted in relation to capital are that expenditure should be financed from existing capital resources and not directly from revenue.
- 3.4 At the start of 2023 / 24 the Council had capital reserves totalling £1.6m. £0.6m was agreed by the Council in February 2023 to be used to support the 2023 / 24 Capital Programme, which would leave £1.0m to support future programmes for 2024 / 25 and beyond.
- 3.5 In considering the demands on the Capital Programme for 2024 / 25 and beyond, it must be noted in the absence of any sizeable capital receipts from disposals of assets, the Council is likely to use up its usable capital reserve within the next few years. This would mean that future capital programmes would need to be funded from borrowing. Maldon District Council (MDC) is currently debt free.

## **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 The Committee is invited to comment on the proposed capital schemes prior to their inclusion in the 2024 / 25 Capital Programme for Council approval in February 2024.

Any revenue consequences of the approved capital projects will be included in the 2024 / 25 revenue budget.

## **5. IMPACT ON PRIORITIES AS SET OUT IN THE CORPORATE PLAN 2023 - 2027**

### **5.1 Supporting our communities**

5.1.1 The aims of the projects and impact on the community are detailed on the bid templates in **APPENDIX A**.

### **5.2 Enhancing and connecting our place**

5.2.1 As per paragraph 5.1.1.

### **5.3 Smarter finances**

5.3.1 Invest to save projects aim to reduce ongoing revenue expenditure.

### **5.4 A greener future**

5.4.1 Many of the capital project bids are to maintain existing facilities or infrastructure. Any repair works will be undertaken sensitively to minimise the impact upon the wider environment.

### **5.5 Provide good quality services.**

5.5.1 Two of the projects are specifically to ensure quality services are continued.

## **6. IMPLICATIONS**

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – The aims of the projects and impact on customers are detailed on the bid templates in **APPENDIX A**.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None identified.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – Risks have been considered as part of each project brief; this includes information about the risks should the project not be taken forward, as well as risks that may impact on the success of the project.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – Both capital and revenue implications are outlined within **APPENDIX A**. The Capital Programme will be financed internally by utilising capital reserves and the consequent impact on revenue will be factored into the Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – As well as financial factors, staff resources to deliver each project has been considered and this has been included within each project brief.

Background Papers: None.

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