



**REPORT of  
INTERIM CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

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**to  
COUNCIL  
15 FEBRUARY 2024**

**CAPITAL AND INVESTMENT STRATEGIES FOR 2024 / 25 AND MINIMUM REVENUE  
PROVISION STATEMENT 2024 / 25**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The Council is required to approve an annual Capital Strategy and Investment Strategy before the start of the financial year to which they relate.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Council approves:

- (i) the 2024 / 25 Capital Strategy (**APPENDIX 1**);
- (ii) the 2024 / 25 Capital Project Bids (**APPENDIX 2**);
- (iii) the 2024 / 25 Investment Strategy (**APPENDIX 3**);
- (iv) the 2024 / 25 Minimum Revenue Provision Statement (**APPENDIX 4**).

**3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES**

- 3.1 This report details the intended capital expenditure plans and funding arrangements and sets Prudential Indicators against which actual expenditure and borrowing should be monitored. The Capital Strategy for 2024 / 25 is at **APPENDIX 1**.
- 3.2 The Capital Project Bids is at **APPENDIX 2**.
- 3.3 The Investment Strategy is at **APPENDIX 3**.
- 3.4 The Minimum Revenue Provision Statement is at **APPENDIX 4**.
- 3.5 The Strategies have been compiled with the advice and support of the Council's treasury advisor, Link Group, with the latest available 'outlooks' and interest rate forecasts at the time the strategies were drafted in December 2023.
- 3.6 Note: Link Group won the Treasury Management Advisory procurement process via tender. This process was transparent and gave all bidders an equal opportunity, to ensure the Council gained value for money from its current Treasury Management Advice service provider. The winning tenderer was announced 27 February 2023 and the new contract commenced 3 April 2023. It is a three year contract, with the option of a two year extension.

## 4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The Capital Strategy has been prepared considering the future plans of the Council, ensuring that they are affordable and prudent. It links with the Council's Investment Strategy.
- 4.2 The Annual Investment Strategy has been updated in line with statutory requirements and good practice. It takes into account the Council's financial position and wider strategies, plans and aims. It also draws on the advice of the Council's external treasury advisor.

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

### 5.1 Smarter finances

- 5.1.1 Utilising reserves acquiring or enhancing the Council's capital assets reduces the need to spend annual funds raised from local taxation to maintain existing assets.

### 5.2 Provide good quality services.

- 5.2.1 Avoiding service failure is a key consideration when determining which assets to acquire or enhance.

## 6. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – None directly.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None directly.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – Any new investment decision will be entered with suitable due diligence to ensure that any risk is mitigated.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – Approved Capital Project Bids impact on the Council's reserves. Investment interest received is a financial resource available to support spending on service provision.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – None directly.

### Background Papers:

Capital and Investment Strategies report to the Strategy and Resources Committee – 25 January 2024.

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