

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

COUNCIL: 28TH APRIL, 2025

REFERENCE FROM CABINET: 6TH MARCH, 2025

“C281 CAPITAL STRATEGY AND INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2025/26 TO 2029/30 (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –

The Leader presented the report to set out final proposals for Cabinet Members to consider, before making their recommendations to Full Council, in respect of the final capital budget for the financial year 2025/26 to 2029/30 and to consider the Capital Strategy for 2025/26.

On 10th February, 2025, Welsh Government (WG) announced the final 2025/26 General Capital Funding settlement which was £7.606m, made up of £4.229m grant and £3.377m of supported borrowing. This was £620k greater than the general capital funding of £6.986m that was allocated for 2024/25.

As no further indication had been received from Welsh Government currently, it has been assumed that from 2026/27 onwards, the level of capital funding would be flatlined at £7.606m and will then remain constant for the remainder of the period of the programme.

The total value of capital schemes over the next five years was £434.229m, including £15.6m for the Band B Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme (excluding the pipeline schemes), £233.8m for the Housing Improvement Programme and £21.785m for the levelling up scheme.

Welsh Government had confirmed that it was making revenue support available to Councils to enable Authorities to consider borrowing to undertake highways works under a Local Government Borrowing Initiative.

The Council was advised in 2023 that it had been awarded grant for the UK Government’s Levelling Up Fund totalling £19.785m. Match funding of £2m was required and the Council had entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with UK Government based on the original timeframes. The Levelling Up grant, if approved, would be used to fund the refurbishment of the Docks Offices, the construction of a new Barry Watersports Centre, the development of a new Linear Park, and a Marina and subsequent facilities and infrastructure.

Councillor Wilson welcomed the news concerning highways works under a Local Government Borrowing Initiative.

This was a matter for Executive decision and referral to Full Council.

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T Cabinet recommend to Full Council that the Capital Strategy 2025/26 as set out in Appendix 1 be approved.

(2) T H A T Cabinet recommend to Full Council that the final Capital Programme for the years 2025/26 to 2029/30 as set out in Appendix 2 be approved.

(3) T H A T Cabinet recommend to Full Council that Officers have the authority to vire £10k or below between schemes that were already approved within the five year Capital Programme.

(4) T H A T Cabinet recommends to Full Council that the Chief Executive and the Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources, be given delegated authority to make additions, deletions or transfers to or from the:

- i. 2025/26 to 2029/30 Housing Improvement Programme as appropriate.
- ii. 2025/26 to 2029/30 Asset Renewal budgets as appropriate.
- iii. S106 funded schemes subject to Member consultation as required under the existing process.
- iv. Decarbonisation Schemes.
- v. Building Strong Communities Fund schemes.
- vi. Sustainable Communities for Learning programme.
- vii. Discretionary Adaption Grant Schemes.
- viii. Vale Regeneration Schemes.
- ix. Shared Prosperity Fund.

(5) T H A T the use of the urgent decision procedure as set out in Section 15.14 of the Council's Constitution be granted to enable the Capital Strategy 2025/26 and Final Capital Programme Proposals 2025/26 to 2029/30 to be considered by Full Council on 10th March, 2025.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To approve the Capital Strategy for 2025/26.

(2) To set and approve future capital programmes to 2029/30.

(3) To enable officers to progress schemes more quickly where low value virements below £10k were required.

(4) To enable the Housing Capital budget, Asset Renewal budgets, S106 schemes, Decarbonisation Schemes, Building Stronger Communities Fund, Sustainable Communities for Learning programme, Discretionary Adaption Grant

Schemes, Vale Regeneration schemes and Shared Prosperity Fund to be managed effectively.

(5) To allow the Capital Strategy 2025/26 and Final Capital Programme Proposals 2025/26 to 2029/30 to be referred to Full Council on 10th March, 2025 for consideration and approval.”