

## **COUNCIL**

**22 JANUARY 2015**

### **ADDITIONS TO THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Alan Jarrett, Finance  
Report from: Mick Hayward, Chief Finance Officer  
Author: Phil Watts, Head of Finance Strategy

#### **Summary**

This report seeks approval to add five schemes to the Capital Programme.

#### **1. Budget and policy framework**

1.1 Additions to the Capital Programme are a matter for Full Council.

#### **2. Background**

2.1 The Cabinet recommended five schemes, at its meeting on 13 January 2015, for approval by Full Council:

- Tractor and Ancillary Equipment (Greenspaces)
- Flood Defences (Strood Riverside)
- Parking System Scheme
- Contraception and Sexual Health Scheme
- Land at Horsted Valley.

#### **3. Tractor and Ancillary Equipment (Greenspaces)**

3.1 £42,830 is requested to fund the purchase of a tractor and ancillary equipment to meet Greenspaces land management obligations around wildlife conservation. Specifically this equipment will be used to support the management of existing habitats and the creation of new habitats to improve the conservation value of Medway Greenspaces Estate. The capital purchase of this specialist equipment will be financed through Prudential Borrowing funded from within existing budgets.

#### **4. Flood Defences (Strood Riverside)**

4.1 £4,000,000 is requested for Flood Defences along a new river wall at Strood Riverside. This is to be funded from a successful bid against PWLB project rate borrowing (a special discounted rate of 0.4% below standard PWLB rates) and repaid from a first call on the future capital receipts that the regeneration programme is expected to generate. Strood Riverside is one of Medway's key

development sites and without the river wall the development cannot be progress.

Priorities for the site are:

- To provide between 500 and 600 new homes;
- To develop a recreational waterfront with new public spaces and leisure facilities;
- To improve access to Strood station, the town centre and the Medway City Estate;
- To provide community support facilities.

## **5. Parking System Scheme**

5.1 £40,000 is requested as an addition to the new Parking system scheme created by the necessity of extending the licence arrangements for the old system, to be funded via a revenue contribution from additional parking income.

## **6. Contraception and Sexual Health Scheme**

6.1 Following revisions to the original plans and submission of the architect's estimation of refurbishment costs a further £100,000 addition is required to the relocation of the Contraception and Sexual Health scheme, taking it up to £300,000. This will also be funded from the Public Health reserves.

## **7. Land at Horsted Valley**

7.1 In accordance with Cabinet minute 133/2013 the Assistant Director for Legal and Corporate Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, has negotiated the purchase of freehold land in Horsted Valley on the best terms reasonably obtainable. The £50,000 cost will need to be added to the programme to be funded from the capital receipt from the sale of the Hook Meadow Snack Bar site.

## **8. Risk management**

8.1 The risk of overspending against the programme is managed through regular monitoring and remedial action as appropriate throughout the year. There are no specific risks to report at this time.

## **9. Financial and legal Implications**

9.1 The financial implications for each proposed addition are set out in the body of this report.

9.2 There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

## **10. Recommendation**

10.1 Council is asked to approve the following additions to the capital programme:

- (i) Tractor and Ancillary Equipment (Greenspaces) - £42,830
- (ii) Flood Defences (Strood Riverside) - £4,000,000
- (iii) Parking System Scheme - £40,000
- (iv) Contraception and Sexual Health Scheme - £100,000
- (v) Land at Horsted Valley - £50,000.

### **Lead officer contact**

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### **Background papers**

Capital Budget Monitoring Report – Round 2: Cabinet 13 January 2015  
<http://democracy.medway.gov.uk/mgconvert2pdf.aspx?id=25903>

Various Property Matters: Cabinet 6 August 2013  
<http://democracy.medway.gov.uk/mgconvert2pdf.aspx?id=20916>