CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 19th November 2024
Report Subject	Capital Programme 2025/26 – 2027/28
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Transformation and Assets Cabinet Member for Finance and Social Value
Report Author	Chief Executive Corporate Manager – Capital Programme and Assets Corporate Finance Manager
Report Type	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the proposed Capital Programme for the period 2025/26 – 2027/28 for recommendation to Council.

The Council's Capital Programme covers investment in assets for the long term to enable the delivery of high quality and value for money public services. Assets include buildings (such as schools and care homes), infrastructure (such as highways and ICT networks) and assets not owned by the Council (such as works to improve and adapt private sector homes). The proposed capital investments outlined within this report are closely aligned to portfolio service business plans and the Council Plan.

The Council has limited capital resources from Welsh Government to support Council priorities, needs and liabilities. However, it has the powers to fund capital schemes by borrowing - this is temporary and ultimately, the cost and repayment of any borrowing is charged to the Council's revenue budget. Schemes funded by borrowing are carefully considered due to the long-term impacts on the Council's revenue budget.

The report divides the Council Fund Capital Programme into three sections: -

1. Statutory / Regulatory - allocations to cover regulatory and statutory works.

2. Retained Assets - allocations to fund infrastructure works necessary to ensure service and business continuity.

3. Investment - allocations to fund works necessary to remodel services to deliver efficiencies outlined in portfolio business plans and invest in services as outlined in the Council Plan.

Historically, much of the Council's programme has been funded from capital receipts and grants. The Council's ability to generate significant capital receipts is challenging as the assets the Council has available for disposal diminish. Wherever possible every opportunity to identify assets for sale and other sources of funding such as specific grants and revenue contributions will be explored. However, the Council will need to use prudential borrowing to finance more of the programme going forward. In particular, the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme, and other schemes included within the investment programme will need to be funded through prudential borrowing.

The Capital Strategy has been updated and is presented separately on the agenda.

The information in this report refers to the Council Fund (CF) programme only, not the housing programme which is funded from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and which is reported separately.

RECOMMENDATIONS	
1	To approve the allocations and schemes in Table 3 (paragraph 1.09) for the Statutory/Regulatory and Retained Assets sections of the Council Fund Capital Programme 2025/26 - 2027/28.
2	To approve the schemes included in Table 4 (paragraph 1.31) for the Investment section of the Council Fund Capital Programme 2025/26 - 2027/28.
3	To note that the shortfall in funding of schemes in 2027/28 in Table 5 (paragraph 1.35) although there are surplus in years prior.
4	To consider and approve the schemes included in Table 6 (paragraph 1.39) for the specifically funded section of the Council Fund Capital Programme which will be funded in part through borrowing.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2025/26 – 2027/28
1.01	The Council's Capital Programme encompasses investing significant resources in assets for the long term to enable the delivery of high quality, value for money public services. Assets include buildings (such as schools and care homes), infrastructure (such as highways and ICT networks), and assets not owned by the Council (such as works to improve and adapt private sector homes). The proposed capital investments outlined within this report are closely aligned to portfolio service business plans and the Council Plan. The Council has limited capital resources from Welsh Government (WG) to support Council priorities, needs and liabilities; however, it has the powers to fund capital schemes by borrowing, but this is temporary and ultimately the cost and repayment of any borrowing is charged to the Council's revenue budget. Schemes funded by borrowing are carefully considered due to the long-term impacts on the Council's revenue budget. The first half of this report covers parts of the Capital Programme where the Council invests in local infrastructure, facilities and assets, which will be funded from general capital resources (General Capital Grant, Unhypothecated Supported Borrowing and Capital Receipts). Regional programmes such as the Growth Deal for North Wales which will draw on national funds, and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme, which is reported separately and includes the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) work programme and Strategic Housing and Regeneration Programme (SHARP), supplement the Council funded Capital Programme. The second half of the report covers parts of the Capital Programme which includes specific grants as far as information is available at the time of writing and borrowing. This includes the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme, delivered in partnership between the Council and WG.
1.02	**General Capital Programme 2024/25 – 2026/27 Update** The Council's Capital Strategy divides the Capital Programme into three parts as follows. 1. **Statutory / Regulatory section** – to cover regulatory and statutory works. Examples include providing support to improve and adapt private sector homes (Disabled Facilities Grants), adaptations to schools for children with disabilities and any works required to keep buildings open by meeting Health and Safety requirements. 2. **Retained Assets section** – to ensure service and business continuity. This includes schemes that enhance and improve retained assets and infrastructure to deliver services and meets significant need identified by service plans or through condition surveys etc.

	3. **Investment section** – to fund costs incurred when remodelling and investing in services. This includes new schemes arising from portfolio business plans, the Council Plan, other relevant and emerging plans, and other strategies or emerging Council priorities approved through a selection process based on the provision of a business case.
1.03	Table 1 below summarises the updated Council funded Capital Programme for 2024/25 – 2026/27 as reported at Month 6 2024/25:

<u>Table 1</u>

ESTIMATED FUNDING 2024/25 - 2026/27

	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	Total £m
Funding				
Un-hypothecated Supported Borrowing (USB) [1]	4.017	4.017	4.017	12.051
General Capital Grant (GCG) [1]	4.125	4.125	4.125	12.375
Capital Receipts Available	0.071	0.000	0.000	0.071
Surplus B/Fwd from 2023/24	5.445	0.000	0.000	5.445
Total Funding	**13.658**	**8.142**	**8.142**	**29.942**
Expenditure				
Total Capital Programme 2024/25 - 2026/27	11.343	8.988	7.021	27.352
	11.343	**8.988**	**7.021**	**27.352**
Surplus / (Shortfall)	**2.315**	**(0.846)**	**1.121**	**2.590**

1 As per 2024/25 Final Settlement

1.04	Table 1 shows the current position of the Capital Programme 2024/25 – 2026/27 as reported at Month 6 to Cabinet and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee, an overall surplus in funding of £2.590m, with a surplus in 2024/25 of £2.315m. When the budget was set in December 2023, there was a shortfall in funding of schemes in 2024/25 and 2025/26 and surplus in 2026/27. At that point in the approval process the position was kept flexible and this was explained in the report to Council at that time. Options included a combination of future capital receipts, alternative grants, prudential borrowing, or scheme phasing over several years which would be considered during 2024/25.
1.05	Given the current position in setting the Capital Programme for the next three years 2025/26 – 2027/28, careful consideration has been given to new schemes proposed for inclusion.

1.06	**Projected General Funding Available 2025/26 - 2027/28** Table 2 below shows the general capital funding currently projected to be available to fund the Capital Programme over the next three years (2025/26 - 2027/28). **<u>Table 2</u>**

ESTIMATED AVAILABLE FUNDING 2025/26 - 2027/28

	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	Total £m
Funding (Excluding Specific Funding)				
Un-hypothecated Supported Borrowing (USB) [1]	4.017	4.017	4.017	12.051
General Capital Grant (GCG) [1]	4.125	4.125	4.125	12.375
Surplus B/Fwd from 2024/25	2.315	0.000	0.000	2.315
Total	**10.457**	**8.142**	**8.142**	**26.741**

1 As per 2024/25 Settlement

1.07	Table 2 assumes that the Un-hypothecated Supported Borrowing allocation and the General Capital Grant received from WG in the years 2025/26 to 2027/28 remains at the same level as 2024/25. The 2025/26 Welsh Local Government Provisional Settlement is expected to be announced on the 11th December 2024.
1.08	The figures in Table 2 relate to the Council Fund (CF) only, with the HRA Capital Programme being reported separately.
	General Capital Programme 2025/26 – 2027/28
1.09	**Statutory / Regulatory and Retained Asset Allocations – 2025/26 – 2027/28** Table 3 shows the proposed allocations for the period 2025/26 - 2027/28 for the Statutory / Regulatory and Retained Asset sections of the Capital Programme.

Table 3

PROPOSED ALLOCATIONS 2025/26 - 2027/28

	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	Total £m
Statutory / Regulatory Section				
Equalities Act - Individual pupils	0.500	0.500	0.500	1.500
Disabled Facilities Grants	1.500	1.500	1.500	4.500
Private Sector Housing Renewal	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.120
School building works	0.500	0.500	0.500	1.500
Corporate property works	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.900
School safeguarding works	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.300
Target Hardening	0.030	0.030	0.000	0.060
Total Statutory / Regulatory	**2.970**	**2.970**	**2.940**	**8.880**
Retained Assets Section				
School building works	1.000	1.000	1.000	3.000
Corporate property works	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.900
Highways Asset Management Plan	2.000	1.500	1.500	5.000
Play areas	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.600
ICT - Equipment at Datacentres	0.000	0.079	0.000	0.079
ICT - Server Technology Replacements	0.264	0.176	0.212	0.652
ICT - Laptop / PC Replacements	0.268	0.134	0.158	0.560
ICT - Storage Technology Replacement	0.850	0.031	0.000	0.881
ICT - Cyber Security	0.066	0.133	0.000	0.199
Schools WiFi and Networking Infrastructure	1.020	0.000	1.445	2.465
Base Provision for Leisure and Libraries Estate	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.600
Safety Improvements in Cemeteries	0.057	0.000	0.000	0.057
Office Rationalisation Programme - Phase 2	0.795	0.000	0.000	0.795
Terrig House Hutments Demolition	0.043	0.000	0.000	0.043
'Headroom'	0.350	0.350	0.350	1.050
Total Retained Assets Section	**7.413**	**4.103**	**5.365**	**16.881**

1.10 The information in Table 3 in relation to the new and previously approved schemes is explained in more detail in paragraphs 1.11 to 1.30 below.

1.11 Equalities Act – Individual pupils

An annual allocation to adapt and modify schools for children who have disabilities to support and create increasingly inclusive school environments. These works help the Council to meet its obligations under disability legislation, and reduce the potential costs and disruption associated with transporting pupils to alternative sites.

No changes are proposed for 2025/26 to 2027/28.

1.12 Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG)

An annual allocation to improve and adapt private sector homes comprising:

- Disabled Facilities Grants – adaptations enabling residents to continue to live independently in their own homes
- Partnership working with Care and Repair to support vulnerable residents

	No changes are proposed for 2025/26 to 2027/28.
1.13	<u>Private Sector Housing Renewal</u> An annual allocation for private sector housing renewal and improvement loan management and administration. This had previously been reported under the DFG section before the services were disaggregated across portfolios. No changes are proposed for 2025/26 to 2027/28.
1.14	<u>School building works</u> An annual allocation to fund the most urgent property works required at schools split across the regulatory / statutory and retained assets sections of the Capital Programme. A programme of toilet upgrades in both primary and secondary schools to ensure compliance with Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999 and Department for Education and Skills document "Toilets in Schools". There is currently a backlog of such works estimated to be in the region of £1.5m which is often reflected as a Health and Safety issue in Estyn inspections of schools, £0.100m per annum. When building new schools or extending current ones, the Council takes the approach to upgrade to the current standards at that time. Works to upgrade ventilation systems at school kitchens which are failing building regulations and gas safety legislation and are at risk of closure, £0.200m per annum. Fire Inspection Works at schools which are the responsibility of the Local Authority and have been identified during statutory fire risk assessments, £0.200m per annum. A £1m per annum allocation has been included within the retained assets section of the programme to cover all other urgent works required, such as roofing works. No changes are proposed for 2025/26 to 2027/28.
1.15	<u>Corporate property works</u> An annual allocation to fund the most urgent property works required at non-school premises split across the regulatory / statutory and retained assets sections of the Capital Programme, including managing risks from legionella, fire safety, asbestos, accessibility and health and safety. No changes are proposed for 2025/26 to 2027/28.

1.16	School safeguarding works There is a requirement to carry out works/adaptations at schools, to address safeguarding concerns raised about access at main entrances and site. These works are required to ensure both children and adults can attend schools in a safe and secure environment. No changes are proposed for 2025/26 to 2027/28.
1.17	Target Hardening The target hardening budget requires replenishment over the next two year period to prevent unauthorised use of land or buildings within the County. No changes are proposed for 2025/26 to 2026/27.
1.18	Highways Asset Management Plan (HAMP) An annual allocation of £1.5m to fund the HAMP which includes resurfacing of the classified Highway Network, replacement programme for street lighting columns and structural maintenance, with £0.100m to be top sliced for 'streetscape' improvements. Whilst the Council has a statutory duty to maintain the Highways Network in a safe condition for travel, how the Council does this is not defined. WG set targets for road condition indices and invested a significant amount of grant funding in the network, however this funding ceased after the 2021/22 financial year. The condition of the highway network will naturally continue to deteriorate each year and without sufficient annual investment the overall condition of the network will decline. See paragraph 1.51 for more detail in regard to the position on the potential development of the HAMP. One off increase of £0.500m proposed in 2025/26 and no changes for 2026/27 to 2027/28.
1.19	Play areas An annual allocation of £0.200m to fund the most urgent requirements to replace play equipment that has reached the end of its useful life at play areas, as well as upgrades to play areas. No changes are proposed for 2025/26 to 2027/28.
1.20	ICT - Equipment at Datacentres Allocations have previously been approved for the replacement of networking technologies to provide segregation of online systems from internal systems,£0.045m and networking technologies at remote sites replacements, £0.034m. Both allocations have been included in 2026/27.

1.21	<u>ICT - Server Technology Replacement</u> In 2025/26 and 2026/27 the server infrastructures currently used to deliver business systems through Citrix, will come to the end of their useable life and could lead to a degradation of service if not replaced, at a cost of £0.264m and £0.124m. This has previously been approved in the programme. Further bids have been received for replacement equipment to deliver virtual desktop solutions in 2026/27, £0.052m along with the replacement technologies to ensure there is adequate capacity for the delivery of existing business systems and services used across the whole of the Council in 2027/28, £0.212m.
1.22	<u>ICT - Laptop / PC Replacements</u> The project will deliver a programme of device replacement based on the "just in time" principle of replacement to ensure the Council maximises the useable life of its laptop assets. It will ensure that the devices used by members of staff are fit for purpose and can deliver the required level of service and can support the latest operating systems and security software. The absence of a replacement budget for replacement devices will result in devices that perform poorly and will not be able to accommodate the operating system and security software require to ensure the required level of performance. The inability to operate up to date security software poses a significant cyber security risk. Capital funding of £0.560m is required over a three year programme.
1.23	<u>ICT - Storage Technology Replacement</u> The Council uses storage technologies that allow the allocation of storage to systems as and when they need it. It prevents unused storage sitting against systems and is the most efficient and cost-effective way of allocating storage against all systems used by the Council, from business applications to the general file share. Previously approved was the Councils corporate storage technology that requires replacing in 2025/26, £0.850m and the storage system specifically allocated to the Council's Graphic Designers in 2026/27, £0.031m.
1.24	<u>ICT – Cyber Security</u> £0.066m has previously been approved in the programme in 2025/26 for the replacement of firewall and email scanning technologies. Another scheme previously approved was for £0.133m in 2026/27 relating to the Council's main firewalls which are the main and first line of defence from cyber-attack. This ensures the Council's technology is up to date and current, in order to provide the required level of protection.

1.25	<u>Schools WiFi and Networking Infrastructure</u> Flintshire, along with all other authorities in Wales were awarded a significant amount of money by WG to replace old and outdated networking infrastructures within all schools. This has provided schools with a sound digital platform to deliver the curriculum for a number of years. The school infrastructures formed part of the Hwb programme (WG programme), and subsequent funding has been directed towards end user devices. A condition of the grant was that Local Authorities put in place sustainability plans to fund replacement infrastructures when they are needed. Funding previously approved was for the wireless equipment whichwill reach the end of its usable life in 2025/26. £1.445m has been added to the programme for networking equipment replacement in 2027/28. No change is proposed for 2025/26.
1.26	<u>Base Provision for Leisure and Libraries Estate</u> An annual allocation to fund the most urgent property works required across the Leisure and Libraries estate. The Council recognises its landlord responsibilities for the assets that remain in its ownership, having retained ownership of all buildings. No changes are proposed for 2025/26 to 2027/28.
1.27	<u>Safety Improvements in Cemeteries</u> Funding is required to undertake urgent health & safety improvements within Flintshire cemeteries which will also assist with environmental improvements on the sites. This includes a memorial safety programme to address a backlog of unsafe memorials and kerb-sets within cemeteries. This is along with a transition to battery operated small plant to replace outdated equipment, to be more energy efficient as well as the associated health & safety improvements for the operatives. New schemes included in 2025/26.
1.28	<u>Office Rationalisation Programme and County Hall Campus</u> The ambitions of the Corporate Asset Management Plan, alongside the shift towards more hybrid working arrangements and the unprecedented financial challenge currently facing the Council, have combined to create factors that now make it desirable to pursue the next stage of the office rationalisation programme and County Hall Campus redevelopment. Phase one of the project has already commenced with the objective to move as many people as possible out of County Hall by the end of February 2025. To enable this to happen, works are required at both Ty Dewi Sant and Flint

	offices. These works are essential to be undertaken as soon as possible under phase one of the project as they are necessary to provide alternative office accommodation for employees moving out of County Hall. Phase two of the project will have three key areas of focus: 1. An alternative heating system and utilities supply for the other organisations/assets that remain on the County Hall Campus. (This is currently uncosted). 2. Moving the NEWydd central production kitchen out of County Hall. 3. Complete clear out of County Hall. Phase three of the project will focus on the longer-term redevelopment of the County Hall Campus. New scheme included in 2025/26.
1.29	<u>Terrig House Hutments Demolition</u> The Terrig House Hutments are currently vacant and in an unlettable condition. The state of repair can only be described as very poor. The walls and windows being constructed of timber and are rotten, exposing the building to the elements and requiring periodical maintenance to remain secure from unauthorised entry. Annual costs each year in business rate and repair and maintenance costs upwards of £0.010m. This proposal would pay back in four years, return a parcel of land and make the site as a whole more attractive for redevelopment. New scheme included in 2025/26.
1.30	<u>Funding ‘Headroom’</u> ‘Headroom’ has been built into the Capital Programme to enable the programme to be more flexible so that funding can be allocated to small schemes as they present in year either as a result of opportunities or unforeseen circumstances (£0.350m per annum). An example would be the need to complete further highways works as a result of an exceptionally severe winter over and above any planned works funded from the annual allocation. No changes are proposed for 2025/26 to 2027/28.
1.31	**Investment Section of the Capital Programme 2025/26 – 2027/28** Table 4 below shows the proposed schemes for the period 2025/26 - 2027/28 for the Investment section of the Capital Programme. Details are provided in paragraphs 1.32 to 1.34.

Table 4

PROPOSED INVESTMENT SCHEMES 2025/26 - 2027/28

	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	Total £m
Investment Section				
Previously Approved				
Joint Archive Facility, FCC and DCC	0.000	1.031	1.606	2.637
Re-Fit Framework	0.500	0.000	0.000	0.500
Development of Children's Residential Care	0.600	0.400	0.000	1.000
	1.100	**1.431**	**1.606**	**4.137**
New Schemes for Approval				
Development of Children's Residential Care	0.400	0.600	0.000	1.000
	0.400	**0.600**	**0.000**	**1.000**
Total Investment Section	**1.500**	**2.031**	**1.606**	**5.137**

1.32 Joint Archive Facility, Flintshire and Denbighshire Councils

This scheme recognises and responds to the need and demand of the two Councils' archive services. Both services occupy old buildings, unfit for purpose. They lack suitable public spaces and appropriate storage, are too full to accept new collections and are listed buildings lacking scope for adaptation, requiring expensive maintenance. The proposal is to construct a new building adjacent to Theatr Clwyd, Mold, to house both the physical archives and the new service operations.

In October 2023, Cabinet approved a joint bid with Denbighshire County Council (DCC) to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, seeking a grant of £7.4m towards the construction of a new archive centre in Mold, to house the joint service and the delivery of an engagement programme. This is along with £0.300m from a WG Culture and Leisure grant.

In March this year, the Council was notified that it had been awarded funding for the development phase of the project, which is Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) 1-3. Both Councils are funding RIBA 4 the technical design phase, to progress the project whilst the delivery phase submission is reviewed by NLHF. If the development phase submission is satisfactory and the project is progressing as planned, the NLHF delivery phase grant funding is offered for RIBA 5-7 which is construction, handover and the defects period.

Direct Costs:

- Estimated funding available for the project is £12.9m, with £7.7m from grant funding, £3.079m from FCC and £2.052m from DCC. £0.442m included in a previous programme, which included core funding of £0.197m.
- It has been assumed that borrowing will be required to fund this project. The estimated revenue costs associated with borrowing

	£2.882m over 50 years totals £9.654m. In year 1 revenue debt costs are estimated to be £0.170m, rising to £0.225m in year 50, with an average of £0.193m over 50 years. Direct Benefits: • Sustainable and improved archive service for Denbighshire and Flintshire via the creation of a single shared service. • The construction of a new purpose built environmentally friendly building adjacent to Theatr Clwyd, Mold, to house both the physical archives and the new service operations. Provide a sustainable archive repository for the region for the foreseeable future from the perspective of storage space and building maintenance and management. • The overall revenue impact is an estimated saving of £11,647 per annum once the new building is open, with a potential further revenue saving once the joint service is running. Indirect Benefits: • Share knowledge and skills between the workforce of both Councils • Sphere of health, education and wellbeing (connectivity, involvement, identity) can be achieved. • The transferrable skills of our volunteers will develop and will contribute to increasing their employability. • Deliver the long-term development of a resilient, relevant service: inspiring communities in North East Wales and enacting the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act; securing historic collections, diversifying audiences, volunteers and depositors. • Cost avoidance of £10,000 per annum additional revenue storage costs, and in excess of £0.718m to address the need for environmental management equipment, compliant storage areas and upgrading public facilities and access.
1.33	<u>Re-Fit Framework</u> The Re-fit framework is part of Local Partnerships - a joint venture between the Local Government Association, HM Treasury and WG. The partnership works solely for the benefit of the public sector and brings public and private sector experience that provides confidence, capacity, and capability, helping councils achieve and maintain financial resilience. The framework provides a guaranteed 100% of the energy saving or generation (kWh) via a contractual agreement for the payback period of the project. This key feature is helping to remove risk of failure with new developments, plus protecting the client and their investment. Re-fit uses a competitively tendered and OJEU-compliant framework which can be utilised by any public sector organisation in England and Wales and covers the retrofit of buildings and assets to save energy and carbon. This includes a large range of technologies and measures such as: heat networks, lighting, and controls, BMS controls, heat recovery, solar thermal, heat pumps, solar PV, insulation, draught proofing, street

	lighting, etc. Re-fit would also aid in addressing capacity issues, as officers can only procure and implement a given number of projects per year. Through Refit, an energy services company (ESCo) is appointed in order to review the built estate, identify energy and carbon saving opportunities and implement on a wider scale than would likely be possible 'in-house' Direct Costs: • Capital investment required is £1.5m. Based on preliminary data potential savings have been calculated at £0.230m per annum, with an estimated payback period of 7 years. £1m included in the previous programme. Direct Benefits: • Allow the Council to accelerate the push towards achieving NZC by 2030 • Provide external support and expertise, supplementing and expanding the works that the Council are currently undertaking • Achieve potential annual CO_2 savings of 892 tonnes • Meeting the priorities and objectives set within the Council Plan under 'Green Society and Environment' theme • Contributing towards the achievement of WG targets and obligations under the Climate Change Act, Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and Environment Act • Implementing this project will provide mitigation against future utility price increases
1.34	<u>Development of Children's Residential Care</u> There is a need to expand our in-house residential care for children. There is a statutory duty to ensure that we have sufficient registered placements to meet the placement needs of looked after children. Traditionally we have commissioned 'out of county' placements for looked after children requiring residential care. However, WG's strategy to 'eliminate profit' from the children's residential care market is likely to lead to a reduction in placement availability and requires local authorities to proactively expand in-house provision at pace to avoid us having to set up services that operate without registration and risk prosecution against the local authority. WG's strategy is to rebalance the market so that the duties on local authorities in relation to looked after children are not contracted out to for-profit companies and remain with public sector or not-for-profit providers. Under the strategy new legislation will require: • independent providers to demonstrate a not-for-profit status, based on a new pre-defined definition of non-profit, by 1 April 2026 • any current "for profit" providers will need to transition to, and register with Care Inspectorate Wales, as not-for-profit by 1 April 2027

	If we do not have sufficient placements, we will breach our duty to secure sufficient accommodation for looked after children (Section 75) and increase the risk of needing to set up bespoke unregistered services to support looked after children. The out of county placement revenue budgets continue to have significant pressures, with ongoing high demand for placements where children and young people cannot be supported within in-house provision. Market supply limitation factors and inflationary pressures are leading to higher costs, with current in year projected overspends of £1.372m. Services continue to do everything to manage these risks, with this development of in-house provision helping to mitigate against these pressures. Direct Costs: • Capital funding required is £2m, split over two financial years. It has been assumed that borrowing will be required to fund this project. The estimated revenue costs associated with borrowing £2m over 50 years totals £4.7m. In year 1 revenue debt costs are estimated to be £0.118m, rising to £0.156m in year 50, with an average of £0.134m over 50 years. • A £1m was approved in the previous capital programme, however an additional £1m is required to continue to develop an expansion model. The service is developing a WG bid for revenue and capital funding to reduce the requirement where possible. • WG have allocated £0.561m in year to support their strategic intent. This money can contribute to the initial phase in the design, consultancy, and support of developments in the financial year. • Pressures of £0.450m and £0.250m for the associated revenue costs for service provision have been included within the 2025/26 and 2026/27 MTFS position. Direct Benefits: • Opportunity for children to maintain local links with appropriate friends, family and support networks • Opportunity to maintain local education provision and be able to access local partnership support services • Reunification and step-down plans for children can be managed more effectively • Significant reduction in out-of-county placement costs, which is a huge pressure on the revenue budget. • Improved efficiency and control over the quality and availability of care placements • Local Job Creation: New residential homes will create local employment opportunities • Aligns to WG’s not for profit agenda • Demonstrate that we have met our duty to ensure market sufficiency enable us to meet the current placement needs of our looked after children Indirect Benefits: • Improved Outcomes for Children: Children will benefit from stable, locally-based placements that support their education, health, and social development

- Enhanced community integration for children, maintaining connections with local support networks, schools, and family
- Community Integration: Children in care will remain connected to their communities, fostering better long-term outcomes
- Strategic Flexibility: Enhanced capacity to meet future demand for residential placements, reducing the risk of being unable to fulfil statutory duties

1.35 **Summary (Generally funded) Capital Programme 2025/26 – 2027/28**

Table 5 below summarises the generally funded Capital Programme and available funding.

Table 5

SUMMARY (GENERALLY FUNDED) CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2025/26 - 2027/28

	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	Total £m
Statutory / Regulatory Section	2.970	2.970	2.940	8.880
Retained Assets Section	7.413	4.103	5.365	16.881
Investment Section	1.500	2.031	1.606	5.137
Total (All Sections)	**11.883**	**9.104**	**9.911**	**30.898**
Estimated available general funding [1]	10.457	8.142	8.142	26.741
Total	**10.457**	**8.142**	**8.142**	**26.741**
Surplus / (Shortfall) - no borrowing	**(1.426)**	**(0.962)**	**(1.769)**	**(4.157)**
Schemes requiring funding by borrowing:				
Joint Archive Facility, FCC and DCC	0.000	1.031	1.606	2.637
Re-Fit Framework	0.500	0.000	0.000	0.500
Development of Children's Residential Care	1.000	1.000	0.000	2.000
Total	**1.500**	**2.031**	**1.606**	**5.137**
Surplus / (Shortfall) - with borrowing	**0.074**	**1.069**	**(0.163)**	**0.980**

1 As per 2024/25 Settlement

1.36 Table 5 shows that before any prudential borrowing is considered there is an overall shortfall in projected funding of £4.157m over the three year period, with an estimated shortfall of £1.426m in 2025/26.

It has previously been approved that the schemes for the Joint Archive Facility, Re-Fit Framework and £1m of the development of Childrens Residential Care be funded from borrowing with the associated costs of borrowing included as revenue pressures within the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

1.37	Table 5 shows that after prudential borrowing is considered, there is an overall surplus in projected funding of £0.980m over the three year period, with an estimated surplus of £0.074m in 2025/26. The Council has developed a prudent policy of allocating its own capital receipts to fund capital projects only when receipts are actually received rather than when it is anticipated the receipt will be received, and this position continues to be the case. In recent years, much of the Council's programme has been funded from capital receipts. However, the Council's ability to generate significant capital receipts is getting harder and is almost exhausted. Although the Council will, wherever possible, seek to identify assets for sale (as appropriate) to fund the Capital Programme. Options to fund shortfalls include a combination of future capital receipts, alternative grants, and scheme phasing as the expenditure profile of large complex projects such as those included in the investment section of the programme could change. Every effort will be made to ensure that other sources of funding are utilised to fund the programme. Ultimately, should other sources of funding not materialise the Council will need to use prudential borrowing to finance any shortfalls.
1.38	**Specific Grants and Borrowing** **Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B Programme** WG has approved the Council's in principle submission for Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B, with a funding envelope of £85.4m. The programme is to be funded from specific grant from WG at an agreed intervention rate, with the Council's contribution to be funded by prudential borrowing. The WG intervention rate for funding the Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B programme has increased from 50% to 65% for schools, 75% for Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) and Additional Learning Needs (ALN) provision, and 81% for Mutual Investment Models (MIM). Each of the schemes are subject to individual approval to ensure that each meets the Council's continuing priorities and is affordable in the context of the Council's MTFS. Schemes currently in progress are Ysgol Croes Atti, Flint and Drury Primary School. The next scheme for consideration is the Saltney/Broughton area review. For the primary sector, it is recommended to amalgamate Saltney Ferry CP and Saltney Wood Memorial CP to create a new 3-11 primary school for the area. In relation to the secondary sector, there is a significant risk that the Council will not be successful through the business case process to secure the funding from WG to build a new 11-16 secondary school. To maintain a secondary school in the area, it is therefore proposed to seek a local

capital solution for St David's High School to reduce its current capacity by remodelling and refurbishing the existing accommodation.

There is also a growing pressure on the ALN section relating to increased capacity across the special school's network which will need to be monitored and considered within the programme moving forward.

The estimated costs of these schemes are outlined in the table below:

Saltney & Broughton Area	Total Cost	WG funded	Council funded
	£m	£m	£m
Primary Sector	12.00	7.800	4.200
Secondary Sector	7.000	0.000	7.000
Total	19.000	7.800	11.200

The benefits and costs of the school improvement programme scheme are:

Direct Benefits:

- Enabling 65%-81% external investment in schools
- Continuing to raise educational standards
- Reduction in backlog maintenance costs
- Reduction in fixed costs associated with buildings and leadership focuses investment on learners
- Removal of mobile classrooms and increase in permanent capacity to meet local demand
- New build Welsh Medium primary school strategically linked to the Council's Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP)
- Energy efficiency improvements

Direct Costs:

- Part of bigger development programme in Band B, £85.4m.
- Estimated revenue borrowing costs associated with each scheme (interest and minimum revenue provision) are as follows and are built into the current MTFS:

Saltney & Broughton Area	Year 1	Year 50	Average over 50 years
	£m	£m	£m
Primary Sector	0.243	0.324	0.277
Secondary Sector	0.405	0.540	0.462
Total	0.648	0.864	0.739

Indirect Benefits:

- Improving learner outcomes by ensuring that school buildings are effective in creating the conditions for learners to succeed
- Alignment with the Council's School Modernisation Strategy to ensure schools are fit for purpose
- A more secure school estate
- A school estate with reduced vandalism
- Upgrading ICT provision and enabling new methods of curriculum delivery

	• Provision of appropriate capacity of school network • Economic benefits of local contractor and sub-contractor spend • Supports with the Councils net zero carbon aims
1.39	Details of schemes funded by specific grant and borrowing is shown in Table 6 below: **<u>Table 6</u>**

SPECIFICALLY FUNDED SCHEMES 2025/26 - 2027/28

	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	Total £m
Specifically Funded Schemes				
Sustainable Communities for Learning	6.952	9.014	5.514	21.480
Total Schemes	**6.952**	**9.014**	**5.514**	**21.480**
Funding				
Specific Capital Grants	2.243	3.585	3.585	9.413
Unsupported (Prudential) Borrowing	4.709	5.429	1.929	12.067
Total Schemes	**6.952**	**9.014**	**5.514**	**21.480**

1.40	At the time of setting the budget, the details of many capital grants have not been released by WG, and so are not included in Table 6 above. As details become available they will be reported to Members via the quarterly 2025/26 Capital Programme monitoring reports.
1.41	All schemes proposed for inclusion within the Capital Programme invest in assets and / or reconfigure models of service provision. They are pivotal to support the delivery of the Council's strategic priorities outlined in portfolio business plans and the Council Plan.
1.42	**Summary Total Council Fund Capital Programme 2025/26 - 2027/28** Table 7 summarises the total proposals for the 2025/26 - 2027/28 Capital Programme.

Table 7

SUMMARY CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2025/26 - 2027/28

	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	Total £m
Expenditure				
Statutory / Regulatory Section	2.970	2.970	2.940	8.880
Retained Assets Section	7.413	4.103	5.365	16.881
Investment Section	1.500	2.031	1.606	5.137
Specific Section	6.952	9.014	5.514	21.480
Total Programme (All Sections)	**18.835**	**18.118**	**15.425**	**52.378**
Funding				
General Funding [1]	10.457	8.142	8.142	26.741
Grant Funding	2.243	3.585	3.585	9.413
Unsupported (Prudential) Borrowing	6.209	7.460	3.535	17.204
Total Projected Funding	**18.909**	**19.187**	**15.262**	**53.358**
Surplus / (Shortfall)	**0.074**	**1.069**	**(0.163)**	**0.980**

1 As per 2024/25 Provisional Settlement

	Potential future schemes
1.43	All capital schemes need to be considered in the context of the position of the Council's MTFS. All schemes which require prudential borrowing to fund them add revenue pressures in the form of interest charges and charges to the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP).
1.44	**Sustainable Communities for Learning** The WG schools investment programme is expected to continue into a more fluid rolling 'Band C' programme over a longer period up to ten years with the indications from WG officials that intervention rates will remain at the current rates. The Council's Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) was submitted to WG at the end of March 2024 for consideration in accordance with their timetable. This is essentially the Council's 'statement of intent' for the Band C investment programme. Schemes will be subject to individual approval to ensure that each meets the Council's continuing priorities and is affordable in the context of the Council's MTFS. WG have introduced additional criteria for Net Zero Carbon (NZC) requirements for schools. Buildings will be required to be NZC in operation, which means producing zero or negative carbon emissions as part of their operational energy. The first generation of schools and colleges under the new rules will also be required to demonstrate a 20% reduction on the amount of embodied carbon, which is the carbon emitted through construction materials and the construction process, with further

	reductions required in future, in line with the WG's broader NZC plans. Industry indications have confirmed this will increase construction costs by up to 20%.
1.45	**Llys Gwenffrwd, Holywell – Residential Care Home Review** Llys Gwenffrwd is a 31 bed, three storey care home built in the 1970s which was refurbished in early 2000. There are challenges associated with the current building as it is built on a sloping site, as a result there are a number of levels requiring the need for ramps to access many areas both inside and outside. It includes the provision of a single undersized lift to reach the three stories which does not meet DDA requirements and there are a number of living and day spaces which are some distance from the bedroom areas. Outside space is difficult to access because of the site levels and parking can be difficult. The Holywell locality has the fewest number of care home placements available and would benefit from a new build facility on a different more accessible site which requires further consideration. A relocated new build meets the needs of an ageing population in alignment with the strategic service priorities. High level feasibility work has been undertaken to review potential options to develop a business case for the project.
1.46	**Residential Care Home Provision – North East Flintshire** Consideration has been made as to whether the Council can introduce in-house residential care to the North East region of Flintshire, to support with capacity and future proofing the care market in the area. Currently, a site mapping exercise is being undertaken to understand if there is a site with sufficient space to house a sufficiently sized facility.
1.47	**Additional Learning Needs Reform** In previous Cabinet reports, the need for specialist Autism and Moderate Learning Difficulties facilities had been highlight as short/medium term ambition. In reviewing the impact of Additional Learning Needs (ALN) transformation, extending existing ALN provision would also be a requirement along with consideration for a Secondary Phase Behaviour, Emotional & Social Difficulties (BESD) Resourced Unit, the County only has primary provision currently. A technical feasibility is currently being undertaken to provide a range of options with high level cost estimates around effective building solutions. For larger value cost options it would be prudent to consider the next phase of the WG Sustainable Communities for Learning Band rolling investment programme, given that the current intervention rate in this programme for ALN provision is 75% WG funded, with the Councils contribution being 25%.
1.48	**County Hall Campus** The requirement to take forward the redevelopment of the site so to address the future needs of the Council and other public sector partners; to provide a range of options and an integrated approach around the Courts, Theatr Clwyd and joint Archive service together with a wider site

	development. The first phase of relocating staff to Ty Dewi Sant from County Hall is underway and is required by the end of February 2025.
1.49	**Register Office, Llwynegrin Hall** The long-term proposal is to develop Llwynegrin Hall as a venue for civil marriages/partnerships in Flintshire to include the ceremony and celebrations thereafter. The internal accommodation at Llwynegrin Hall would require an upgrade, to include catering facilities and areas to celebrate. The building has potential to be available as a complete wedding venue package, like that of approved premises e.g. hotels, and has the potential to generate new income. This proposal requires a feasibility study in the first instance.
1.50	**Review of Industrial Estates** The Council's industrial estates are widely dispersed throughout the County and provide much needed commercial accommodation to many local businesses, preventing them from leaving the County and maintaining local sources of employment. They also bring into the Council significant revenue through rental income but are of an age where they are now likely to require investment. The legislation which was due to increase the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards has not been enacted. It is not known when or if this will be introduced or whether it will be modified. Until this is confirmed we cannot assess any investment that may be required. Work is being undertaken to build on the initial reviews that took place on two of our estates as part of the Levelling Up bid. This work will assess our estates against criteria including regeneration, employment opportunities, sustainability and economic viability, alternative use and land values. Some of this work may determine that existing vacant buildings are demolished which will require funding.
1.51	**Highways Asset Management Plan** The core Capital Programme includes £1.5m per annum for the HAMP. It has been estimated that the investment required to maintain current network performance is £3.9m per annum, an increase of £2.4m per annum.
1.52	**Digital Strategy** A planned programme of projects required to increase the number and range of services available digitally are under consideration. The projects have an impact across a range of services, rather than in a single specific service e.g., web payment portal that will be used for all payments to the Council. These will be used to enhance the ability of customers to interact with the Council on line. The capital costs of purchasing new software will be calculated on a project by project basis at the time each project is ready to proceed in order to

	accurately capture not only the technical requirements for the software but also the costs prevailing at the time. The range of cross cutting projects under consideration include: • A generic web booking system to allow customers to make appointments for services online • Integration of webchat and email into the Customer Relationship Manager application • A generic facility for customers to upload and store commonly needed documents e.g., proof of entitlement to benefits • Software to link information held in separate databases so that we can update them all at once in a single contact with the customer
1.53	**Deeside Leisure Centre** Deeside Leisure Centre (DLC) is 50+ years old and reaching the end of its economic useful life. It is the largest sports facility in the County at 15,000m2 and is of strategic importance in terms of sports participation and health and wellbeing. It is an ageing building occupying too large a footprint with inefficient energy systems. The building is not sustainable beyond the medium term. The Council has undertaken a feasibility study and business case of options for the leisure centre going forward and will review the impact this may have on the Capital Programme and any future potential revenue savings.
1.54	**Homelessness – Young Persons Hub** Responding to the needs of young people and particularly those who may be at a risk of homelessness is a key focus for the Council. Consideration needs to be given to not only accommodation needs but also support to assist young people with the key life skills needed to live independently and reduce risks of homelessness. When looking at best practice in this area of work, there are a number of examples of positive practice which seek to not only provide accommodation, but also co-ordinate support and service delivery. The Housing & Communities Portfolio is considering opportunities for the development of a Young Persons Hub which will seek to provide a number of units of self-contained accommodation with support onsite. This could potentially extend to provision of housing and homelessness advice and support and facilities for co-location of young person focussed services within a “housing hub”. A feasibility study will be considered to inform this approach once a site is identified, which may consider the provision of office and community space to ensure a joined-up approach within a multi-disciplinary team model. Subject to the outcome of feasibility works, capital funding may be required to deliver on this agenda. External funding streams will also be considered in order to maximise opportunities to develop the Young Persons Hub. This activity is referenced within the Councils Housing Prospectus.

	The service is currently revisiting and refining the details of the brief and developing a revised specification with youth justice, homelessness, youth services and social services colleague for a “Hub” and arranging visits to existing hubs in other authorities to understand the best designs and service configurations.
1.55	**Homelessness – Emergency Bed Provision** In late 2019, the Council undertook work to develop an Emergency Bed provision for people who are homeless and may otherwise face the prospect of sleeping rough. Significant works were completed within the Glanrafon Resource Centre in Queensferry to transform the building into a Night Shelter offering up to 12 Emergency Beds. The Council, as the owner of the building, completed refurbishment works and then partnered with The Wallich, to deliver the support required to safely operate the Night Shelter. At present there are 23 individual accommodation units on site offering self-contained accommodation but this is not of a standard we wish to sustain and need to develop a purpose built provision offering high quality self-contained accommodation. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, further guidance has been issued by WG regarding the future direction of homelessness service. In the guidance there is a clear steer towards offering high quality self-contained accommodation for people experiencing homelessness. The Glanrafon Homeless Hub was always considered a short to medium term solution for rough sleeping in Flintshire but the pandemic prolonged the need for the provision and the model has developed significantly since then. The next iteration of the Homeless Hub is identified as a priority activity within the Councils Housing Prospectus and Social Housing Grant can be prioritised in order to deliver on this activity. Sites are presently being considered and feasibility work for supported homeless provision underway. We are currently in discission with the WG technical and social housing grant teams over a potential provision of homeless supported provision for between 10-14 unit scheme.
1.56	**Greenfield Business Park** Most of the remaining units in the Council ownership at Greenfield Business Park are at the end of their serviceable life and can’t, in most cases, be upgraded further. Their size and condition would make them very unlikely to be lettable in the future as they no longer meet modern business needs. There will be a need to consider the future of the site with options including a) demolition with no further units being constructed, b) demolition for future Council development or private sale, c) wholesale redevelopment and construction of new business units. Capital funds may be required to cover some of these costs including acting as match funding should external capital funding become available.

1.57	**Connah's Quay Docks** There is an externally funded programme of improvement underway to the security and appearance at Connah's Quay Docks to help address anti-social behaviour, fly-tipping and crime in this locality. This programme does not extend to major capital investment however. The two Council-owned docks in Connah's Quay are expected to require significant investment in the medium-term to prevent further deterioration in their condition and risks thereby arising to the public, businesses, wildlife, and heritage assets.
1.58	**Town Centre Regeneration** The strategic approach to town centre regeneration approved by Cabinet includes the following priorities: • identify potential future development sites and develop options for their future assembly and redevelopment; • diversify land uses to maintain the vitality and viability of town centres including the acquisition of properties; • develop potential projects for future capital funding opportunities; • start, subject to the availability of capital resources and detailed investigation into commercial viability, to acquire key sites for redevelopment; Limited capital funds are available from WG to support these priorities but they require either repayment loans or a minimum of 30% match funding to be available from grants. Both would represent a future call on the capital programme if projects are to be proposed to WG for funding. The Council is developing Place Plans to steer investment in each town and capital projects are expected to arise from this process.
1.59	**Net Zero Carbon Aims** WG has set out its legal commitment to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 and work towards a net zero public sector in Wales by 2030. One of the Council's key priorities within the Council Plan is to become a NZC Council by 2030 and to support wider decarbonisation actions across the County. The capital works programme plays a vital role in accelerating the shift towards achieving the NZC target. The Council has been investing in low carbon and renewable energy systems and energy efficiency for over 10 years which has led to a 51% reduction in scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions against a 2007/08 baseline year. Inclusion of this priority within the programme reinforces our commitment to tackling climate change and acknowledges that we have a significant role to play in further reducing our own greenhouse gas emissions. This commitment values energy efficiency, low carbon and smart technologies as a fundamental requirement of reaching net zero for across a multitude of Council services, acting as an important contributing factor towards decarbonisation.

	In most cases carbon action is integrated within specific projects – for example, school modernisation programme designed and built to NZCio. These projects are not explicitly labelled 'Carbon' or 'Climate Change' but are part of the Council wide programme to decarbonise its assets and services. Work continues to further understand the cost implications of carbon action for inclusion in the MTFS, in line with the Council's Net Zero Carbon by 2030 goal.
1.60	**Investment Zone** Following the announcement by UK Government of a potential Investment Zone for Flintshire and Wrexham in 2023 the Council, Wrexham County Borough Council, the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee and a wide range of stakeholders are developing proposals to grow the advanced manufacturing sector. Flintshire and Wrexham are home to a nationally important cluster of businesses in the sector, employing an estimated 31,000 people, and the Investment Zone would increase the scale of this sector, support the transition to advanced digital technologies and low carbon and improve skill levels and wages. On top of the £160m of investment from UK and Welsh Governments, the Investment Zone could also secure up to £1bn in private sector investment and create 5-6,000 new jobs. The Investment Zone funding also provides an opportunity for the Council to invest in projects that support the advanced manufacturing sector and improve the Council's commercial estate and infrastructure. It is too early in the Investment Zone development process to quantify this. The Investment Zone is expected to operate from 2025 until 2035 and is therefore highlighted in the Capital Programme as future Council projects may need to demonstrate the availability of capital match funding.
1.61	**Re-Fit 2** Following the completion for the first phase of the Re-Fit programme, there could be further opportunity to invest in a second phase of energy efficiency and renewable schemes on more of the Councils building including public buildings, schools and visitor centres.

2.00	**RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**
2.01	Financial consequences for capital resources are as set out within the report.
2.02	As previously stated, there are revenue consequences of borrowing in interest costs and revenue provision for debt repayment which will bear on the MTFS as pressures. The borrowing costs of previously approved schemes are reflected in the MTFS

	An additional £1m for development of children's residential care has been included in this programme, the costs of which are broken down as follows:

	Pressure in Year 1	Pressure in Year 50	Average Annual Pressure
	£m	£m	£m
Development of Children's Residential Care	0.059	0.078	0.067
Total	0.059	0.078	0.067

These costs are reflected in the current MTFS forecast.

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	Any decisions made which involve the Council's assets and its Capital Programme often have very large and long-term financial implications. As it seeks approval for its Capital Programme, the Council is required to produce indicators assessing the affordability, prudence and sustainability of the capital plans. These are called the Prudential Indicators and are included in the Capital Strategy report.
3.02	**Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles Impact**

Long-term	The development a new facility Joint Archive Facility will provide a sustainable archive repository for the region along with providing annual revenue savings once the service is running. Improve the current carbon footprint of existing cemeteries and the associated interments within those sites. Capital funding assists in securing the future of schools in their local communities.
Prevention	Target Hardening budget prevents unauthorised use of land or buildings within the County. Significant reduction in out-of-county placements. Memorial Safety Programme will prevent future accidents associated with dilapidated infrastructure and existing practices from occurring.
Integration	The investment on the Highway Network is required to enable maintenance of good

	transportation infrastructure to support the local economy and public transport links for commuters. This includes school pupils attending schools where the Council is also investing in order to improve the quality of education being delivered. Investment in IT infrastructure supports the Council to deliver these changes along with school digital connectivity and broadband improvements.
Collaboration	The Joint Archive Facility identifies collaboration between both Flintshire County Council and Denbighshire County Council to meet the need and demand of the two local Councils archive services. This will allow a sustainable and improved service via the creation of a single shared service and it will improve knowledge and skill sharing between both. The highway asset management plan helps with collaboration by enabling the local authority to working with other public bodies, private contractors, community groups and stakeholders to deliver highway maintenance services in a coordinated and efficient way. Engaging with users, customers and residents to understand their needs, expectations and feedback on the highway services.
Involvement	The Joint Archive Facility will deliver a revolutionary archive offer to the public, which will deliver long-term development of a resilient, relevant service, inspiring communities in North East Wales. The facility will secure historic collections, diversify audiences, volunteers and depositors. The proposed schools projects will help promote greater community integration/use/involvement.

Well-being Goals Impact

Prosperous Wales	Investment in schools will improve learner outcomes by ensuring that school buildings are effective in creating the

	conditions for learners to succeed which develops a skilled and well-educated population in the economy. Capital investment directly benefits local supply chain/economy. A percentage of local expenditure is a requirement of the grant funding for school investment.
Resilient Wales	Use of sustainable and recycled materials during construction, more energy efficient, potential reduction in carbon emissions.
Healthier Wales	Improved physical infrastructure and facilities at schools will positively impact on the wellbeing of the school and its community.
More equal Wales	Educational opportunities will enabling people to develop the skills and knowledge to be fulfilled. Reduces social inequalities by ensuring that the highway assets are maintained to a safe and serviceable condition, that the needs and preferences of different user groups are considered, and that the benefits and costs of highway maintenance are distributed fairly.
Cohesive Wales	Allocation to the Highways Network includes resurfacing, street lighting improvements and structural maintenance which allows residents in the County to travel in safe conditions. Placing our looked after children locally will provide increased opportunity for children to maintain local links.
Vibrant Wales	Investment in Welsh Medium schools that supports the Council's Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and enables continued support and potential growth for Welsh Medium provision. Target Hardening will ensure that facilities are available for Community. Enhancing the historic and natural features of the highway network and promoting the use of Welsh language in the

		communication and signage of highway maintenance.
	Globally responsible Wales	Construction of net zero carbon schools to support WG commitment to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. Schools capital investment, delivers a more sustainable product, local spend and added benefits for apprenticeships, work experience in construction. Retrofit of buildings and assets to save energy and carbon.

The impacts above include a range across several of the schemes the Council are looking at investing in over the next three years. The main body of the report breaks down the benefit for each scheme separately.

3.03	**Integrated Impact Assessments** An integrated impact assessment is not required for statutory / regulatory and retained assets elements of the capital programme, as this investment is required to meet specific obligations (for example improvements and adaptations to private sector homes (Disabled Facilities Grants), adaptations to schools for children with disabilities and works required to keep buildings open by meeting Health and Safety standards) and to ensure business continuity. Individual integrated impact assessments have not been completed for each investment scheme as these programmes of works will be brought back to Cabinet for approval and the integrated impact assessments will be completed as part of the scheme specific reports.

4.00	**CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT**
4.01	The proposed Capital Programme will be referred to the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee for comment at its meeting on 14th November 2024, with their comments being fed back to Cabinet verbally before being discussed at County Council in December 2024.

5.00	**APPENDICES**
5.01	None.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Business Case forms completed by Portfolios.

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	**Contact Officer:** Chris Taylor, Strategic Finance Manager **Telephone:** 01352 703309 **E-mail:** christopher.taylor@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	**Asset Management Plan** - A plan maintained by an authority of the condition and suitability of its assets, updated regularly and utilised to assess future capital needs **Capital Expenditure** - Expenditure on the acquisition of **Non-current Assets** or expenditure that extends the life or value of an existing asset **Capital Programme** - The Council's financial plan covering capital schemes and expenditure proposals for the current year and a number of future years. It also includes estimates of the capital resources available to finance the programme **Capital Receipt** - Receipts (in excess of £10,000) from the disposal of an asset **Capital Scheme** - An individual capital project which is monitored and managed in isolation. The aggregate of all schemes comprises the **Capital Programme** **Capital Strategy** - A corporate document providing clear strategic guidance about an authority's objectives, priorities and spending plans, demonstrating the link to key corporate and service objectives. May be combined with the **Asset Management Plan (AMP)** to form a single document **Council Fund** - The fund to which all the Council's revenue and capital expenditure is charged **Disposal** - The decommissioning or transfer of an asset to another party **Non-current Asset** - A resource controlled (but not necessarily owned) by the Council, from which economic benefits or service potential are expected to flow to the Council for more than 12 months **Prudential Code** - The Code of Practice drawn up by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) to underpin the requirements of the Local Government Act 2003 in respect of an authority's duty to determine the affordability, prudence and sustainability of its capital investment needs

	Prudential Indicators - Required by the **Prudential Code**, these take the form of limits, estimates or actual figures used to support the local decision making process for capital investment **Unsupported Prudential Borrowing** - Borrowing administered under the **Prudential Code**, whereby authorities can set their own policies on acceptable levels and types of borrowing. The Prudential Framework allows authorities to take out loans in response to overall cash flow forecasts and other factors provided they can show that the borrowing is to meet planned capital expenditure in the current year or the next three years