

COUNTY COUNCIL

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 8 th December 2020
Report Subject	Capital Programme 2021/22 – 2023/24
Report Author	Chief Executive Chief Officer (Housing and Assets) Corporate Finance Manager

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the proposed Capital Programme for the period 2021/22 – 2023/24 for approval by 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, IT networks, and waste transfer stations) 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 21st Century Schools Band B 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 2021/22 - 2023/24.
2	To approve the schemes included in Table 4 (paragraph 1.27) for the Investment section of the Council Fund Capital Programme 2021/22 - 2023/24.
3	To note that the shortfall in funding of schemes in 2021/22 in Table 5 (paragraph 1.36) at this point in the approval process allows flexibility. Options including a combination of future capital receipts, alternative grants (if available), prudential borrowing or the re-phasing of schemes will be considered during 2021/22, and included in future Capital Programme reports.
4	To consider and approve the schemes included in Table 6 (paragraph 1.40) 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 2021/22 – 2023/24
1.01	<p>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, IT networks, and waste transfer stations), 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 separate and includes the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) work programme and Social Housing and Regeneration Programme (SHARP), supplement the Council funded Capital Programme.</p> <p>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 21st Century Schools Programme, delivered in partnership between the Council and WG.</p>
1.02	<p>General Capital Programme 2020/21 – 2022/23 Update</p> <p>The Council's Capital Strategy divides the Capital Programme into three parts as follows.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="368 1581 1374 1765">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.<li data-bbox="368 1805 1374 1989">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.<li data-bbox="368 2029 1374 2089">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 2020/21 – 2022/23 as reported at Month 6 2020/21:

Table 1

ESTIMATED FUNDING 2020/21 - 2022/23				
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Funding				
Un-hypothecated Supported Borrowing (USB) ¹	4.073	4.073	4.073	12.219
General Capital Grant (GCG) ¹	2.492	2.492	2.492	7.476
Additional General Capital Grant (GCG) 1	1.591	0.000	0.000	1.591
Surplus B/Fwd	2.667	0.000	0.000	2.667
Total Funding	10.823	6.565	6.565	23.953
Expenditure				
Total Capital Programme 2020/21 - 2022/23	10.206	7.138	6.207	23.551
	10.206	7.138	6.207	23.551
Surplus / (Shortfall)	0.617	(0.573)	0.358	0.402
1 As per 20/21 Final Settlement				

1.04 Table 1 shows the current position of the Capital Programme 2020/21 – 2022/23 as reported at Month 6 to Cabinet and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee an overall surplus in funding of £0.402m, with a surplus in 2020/21 of £0.617m.

When the budget was set in January 2020, there was a shortfall in funding of schemes in 2020/21, 2021/22 and surplus in 2022/23. 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 2020/21.

1.05 The Council is currently awaiting confirmation around the award of funding from various grants ranging from £0.700m to £0.900m. Should the Council be successful in receiving these grants this would replace the core funding currently allocated in the programme and reduce the deficit.

Given the current position in setting the Capital Programme for the next 3 years 2021/22 – 2023/24, careful consideration has been given to new schemes proposed for inclusion as, should other sources of funding not materialise, the Council will need to use prudential borrowing to finance the remainder of the programme going forward.

1.06	<p>Projected General Funding Available 2021/22 - 2023/24</p> <p>Table 2 below shows the general capital funding currently projected to be available to fund the Capital Programme over the next 3 years (2021/22 - 2023/24).</p> <p>Table 2</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="331 472 1374 920"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="5">ESTIMATED AVAILABLE FUNDING 2021/22 - 2023/24</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>2021/22</th> <th>2022/23</th> <th>2023/24</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>£m</th> <th>£m</th> <th>£m</th> <th>£m</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Funding (Excluding Specific Funding)</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Un-hypothecated Supported Borrowing (USB) ¹</td> <td>4.073</td> <td>4.073</td> <td>4.073</td> <td>12.219</td> </tr> <tr> <td>General Capital Grant (GCG) ¹</td> <td>2.492</td> <td>2.492</td> <td>2.492</td> <td>7.476</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>6.565</td> <td>6.565</td> <td>6.565</td> <td>19.695</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1 As per 20/21 Final Settlement</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	ESTIMATED AVAILABLE FUNDING 2021/22 - 2023/24						2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total		£m	£m	£m	£m	Funding (Excluding Specific Funding)					Un-hypothecated Supported Borrowing (USB) ¹	4.073	4.073	4.073	12.219	General Capital Grant (GCG) ¹	2.492	2.492	2.492	7.476	Total	6.565	6.565	6.565	19.695	1 As per 20/21 Final Settlement				
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1.07	<p>Table 2 assumes that the Un-hypothecated Supported Borrowing allocation and the General Capital Grant received from WG in the years 2021/22 to 2023/24 remains the same as included in the information provided in the 2020/21 final Financial Settlement for Welsh local government. The 2021/22 Provisional Settlement for Welsh local government announcement has been provisionally set for the 22nd December.</p> <p>The table includes the additional General Capital Grant agreed by WG in the 2020/21 Financial Settlement.</p>																																								
1.08	<p>The figures in Table 2 relate to the Council Fund (CF) only with the HRA Capital Programme being reported separately.</p>																																								
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1.09	<p>Statutory / Regulatory and Retained Asset Allocations – 2021/22 – 2023/24</p> <p>Table 3 shows the proposed allocations for the period 2021/22 - 2023/24 for the Statutory / Regulatory and Retained Asset sections of the Capital Programme.</p> <p>Table 3</p>																																								

PROPOSED ALLOCATIONS 2021/22 - 2023/24				
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Statutory / Regulatory Section				
Equalities Act - Individual pupils	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.900
Disabled Facilities Grants	1.660	1.660	1.660	4.980
Private Sector Housing Renewal	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.120
School building works	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.300
Corporate property works	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.900
Upgrade of Kitchen Equipment in schools	0.100	0.050	0.050	0.200
Total Statutory / Regulatory	2.500	2.450	2.450	7.400
Retained Assets Section				
School building works	1.400	1.400	1.400	4.200
Corporate property works	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.900
Highways asset management plan	0.600	0.600	0.600	1.800
Playareas	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.600
ICT - Equipment at Datacentres	0.000	0.170	0.000	0.170
ICT - Server Technology	0.200	0.210	0.000	0.410
ICT - Laptop / PC Replacements	0.222	0.129	0.150	0.501
Works to the Greenfield Valley Reservoirs	0.038	0.038	0.000	0.076
Bridges in Wepre Park	0.040	0.000	0.000	0.040
Cemetery Extension	0.265	0.000	0.000	0.265
Base Provision for Leisure and Libraries Estate	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.600
All Weather Pitches	0.050	0.300	0.195	0.545
Public Space CCTV Upgrades	0.044	0.045	0.033	0.122
'Headroom'	0.350	0.350	0.350	1.050
Total Retained Assets Section	3.909	3.942	3.428	11.279
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 1.26 below.			
1.11	<p><u>Equalities Act – Individual pupils</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>The budget as it currently stands does not meet the demands for the physical adaptations required. It is proposed to increase the allocation by £0.050m, to £0.300m, for 2021/22 to 2023/24 to enable continued delivery of school adaptation works, to meet the needs of pupils with disabilities.</p>			
1.12	<u>Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG)</u>			

	<p>An annual allocation to improve and adapt private sector homes comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>No changes are proposed for 2021/22 to 2023/24.</p>
1.13	<p><u>Private Sector Housing Renewal</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>No changes are proposed for 2021/22 to 2023/24.</p>
1.14	<p><u>School building work</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No changes are proposed for 2021/22 to 2023/24.</p>
1.15	<p><u>Corporate property works</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>No changes are proposed for 2021/22 to 2023/24.</p>
1.16	<p><u>Upgrade of Kitchen Equipment in schools</u></p>

	<p>The equipment in many of the school kitchens is currently very old and inefficient. Investment in new equipment will produce efficiency savings and will also better ensure the health and safety of NEWydd catering staff.</p> <p>New scheme included in 2021/21 – 2023/24</p>
1.17	<p><u>Highways Asset Management Plan (HAMP)</u></p> <p>An annual allocation of £0.600m to fund the HAMP which includes resurfacing of the classified Highway Network, replacement programme for street lighting columns and structural maintenance.</p> <p>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 at present Flintshire is performing better than the target set as a result of significant additional investment from WG in recent years (£0.959m in 2018/19, £0.954m in 2019/20 and £0.950m in 2020/21).</p> <p>See paragraph 1.54 for more detail in regard to the position on the potential development of the HAMP, but no changes are proposed for 2021/22 to 2023/24 at this stage.</p>
1.18	<p><u>Play areas</u></p> <p>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. This will be delivered by Aura as the Council's management partner.</p> <p>No changes are proposed for 2021/22 to 2023/24.</p>
1.19	<p><u>IT Infrastructure</u></p> <p>Various schemes required to maintain service and business continuity;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICT Equipment at Datacentres - Replacement of equipment including High Volume Air Conditioning units, batteries that ensure the power supply to data centres is not interrupted, back up tape technologies, equipment that monitors the conditions in the datacentres and alerts if there are issues and networking equipment to the datacentres. Additions have been made to replace equipment in 2022/23 that has reached the end of its useable life. <p>No changes are proposed for 2021/22 – 2023/24.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICT Server Technologies (including Citrix and Business Systems) - £0.410m proposed in the programme for the provision of replacement server technologies to ensure adequate resources to provide the capacity required for the delivery of existing IT Business systems and services used across the whole of the Council. Funding is required over two years, 2021/22 (£0.200m) and 2022/23 (£0.210m).

	<p>The operating lives of server technology was extended from 3 to 5 years to maximise the length from investments. Reliable IT server hardware is key to enabling IT infrastructure that supports the delivery of IT business systems that can cope with the demands of an organisation highly reliant on IT systems to deliver effective and efficient services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICT - Laptop / PC Replacements - 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 estate. 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. <p>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.</p> <p>Capital funding is required over a five year programme, with the majority of spend in 2021/22 and 2022/23.</p>
1.20	<p><u>Works to the Greenfield Valley Reservoirs</u></p> <p>The Reservoirs Act 1975 allocates responsibility for reservoir safety and maintenance to Flintshire County Council as ‘undertaker’ to the series reservoirs located within Greenfield Valley Park.</p> <p>In recent years the annual inspections have identified works required across all six of the reservoirs within the park. There is increased public safety risk from failure to manage impounding raised reservoirs of water. The condition of the reservoirs infrastructure is likely to deteriorate further and the associated costs to remedy increase.</p> <p>Unlike Flood Alleviation schemes, Welsh Government Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA) is not available to fund works on reservoirs as this is considered to be a duty on the Council as a statutory ‘undertaker’.</p> <p>No changes are proposed for 2021/22 to 2022/23.</p>
1.21	<p><u>Bridges in Wepre Park</u></p> <p>The three main bridges over Wepre Brook at Wepre Country Park are in a very poor condition. They were installed in the 1980’s when Wepre Country Park was created, and they have now exceeded their life expectancy. Despite regular maintenance, the bridges are now no longer economical to repair and are a safety risk.</p> <p>This funding will replace the two worst bridges as they exhibit significant structural problems. The timber supports of the bridges have deteriorated, making the bridges unstable. The Ranger Team have undertaken temporary repairs, however, a long-term sustainable solution is required to make these bridges safe. The third bridge is a different construction and</p>

	<p>the supports are in a satisfactory condition, however the wooden treads are of poor quality and need replacing. The Countryside staff will work with volunteers to install the new bridge tread boards.</p> <p>No changes are proposed for 2021/22</p>
1.22	<p><u>Cemetery Extensions</u></p> <p>A number of Council owned cemeteries will approach capacity in the next ten years. A programme of cemetery extensions is required to extend / create new cemeteries to ensure residents can be buried in their locality.</p> <p>Local Churchyard provision throughout the county is also extremely limited, again meaning that residents may not be able to be buried in their locality. Once the Churchyards reach their existing maximum capacity there will be an increased demand for burials within Flintshire Cemeteries impacting on remaining capacity levels.</p> <p>No changes are proposed for 2021/22.</p>
1.23	<p><u>Base Provision for Leisure and Libraries Estate</u></p> <p>An annual allocation to fund the most urgent property works required across the Leisure and Libraries estate. The Council recognises its landlord responsibilities, it has retained ownership of all buildings from which Aura, its strategic Leisure and Libraries partner, delivers its business plan and operates these facilities in accordance with the service contract.</p> <p>No changes are proposed for 2021/22 to 2023/24.</p>
1.24	<p><u>All Weather Pitches</u></p> <p>Replace the playing surface of all weather sport pitches which are in poor condition and have reached the end of their useful lives.</p> <p>A forward work plan has been put together of pitches the Council are responsible for maintaining, to ensure that their life cycle costs are captured and to put a replacement programme into place.</p> <p>The multi-use games area at Holywell Leisure Centre will require resurfacing in 2021/22. Pitches at Holywell High School and Deeside Leisure Centre will require resurfacing in 2022/23 and 2023/24 respectively, based on the outcome of condition surveys that will be completed.</p>
1.25	<p><u>Public Space CCTV Upgrades</u></p> <p>The upgrade of the public space CCTV cameras and associated control equipment has come through necessity, due to its age and a strong desire to reduce the increasing annual operational costs. Most of the existing analogue cameras have been declared obsolete “end of life”, meaning they are no longer supported by manufacturer(s) which makes it increasingly difficult to carry out repairs as faults arise. The provision of a</p>

	<p>public space CCTV scheme forms part of the Councils commitment to the Community Safety Partnership initiative.</p> <p>This project will provide the opportunity to upgrade the existing CCTV cameras to state of the art and “future proofed” technologies.</p> <p>Investment in the upgrade of an outdated CCTV system, the infrastructure and camera stock will reduce annual operational costs through projected savings on annual transmission costs and maintenance charges.</p>
1.26	<p><u>Funding ‘Headroom’</u></p> <p>‘Headroom’ has been built in to 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.</p> <p>No changes are proposed for 2021/22 to 2023/24.</p>
1.27	<p>Investment Section of the Capital Programme 2021/22 – 2023/24</p> <p>Table 4 below shows the proposed schemes for the period 2021/22 - 2023/24 for the Investment section of the Capital Programme. Details are provided in paragraphs 1.28 to 1.35.</p> <p><u>Table 4</u></p>

PROPOSED INVESTMENT SCHEMES 2021/22 - 2023/24

	2021/22 £m	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m	Total £m
Investment Section				
<u>Previously Approved</u>				
Castell Alun High School - Hope	0.207	0.000	0.000	0.207
Marleyfield Residential Home - Buckley	0.656	0.000	0.000	0.656
Historic Building Conservation	0.050	0.050	0.000	0.100
Foster carers home adaptations	0.060	0.060	0.000	0.120
Joint Archive Facility, FCC and DCC	0.245	1.419	1.364	3.028
	1.218	1.529	1.364	4.111
<u>New Schemes for Approval</u>				
Theatr Clwyd Redevelopment	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100
Improvements to Standard Yard Waste Transfer Station	0.700	0.000	0.000	0.700
Greenfield Waste Management Infrastructure	0.450	0.000	0.000	0.450
	1.250	0.000	0.000	1.250
Total Investment Section	2.468	1.529	1.364	5.361

1.28

Castell Alun High School - Hope

This scheme brings the school building up to current standards providing facilities that are fit for purpose and suitable for delivering the future curriculum. The school is being extended with the provision of a new three storey Art and Design Technology block and remodelled in other areas. This will remove the need for mobile classrooms currently on site which are nearing the end of their economic working life (and will need replacing at significant cost), help increase capacity to meet current and future demand and create specialist teaching accommodation.

The Council have entered into a contract for the construction phase of the capital improvement project at the school. Cost certainty for the project has been achieved and full planning permission has been granted. Works started on the school site in October 2020.

There is a shortfall in funding of £0.600m to complete all required aspects of the scheme. To protect the integrity of the new build extension, and also deal with urgent infrastructure issues, the following elements have been removed from the project to bring it within the budget available:

- All Terrain Pitch works
- Existing toilet refurbishment
- Music Classroom Refurbishment

These items will remain as options in the contract, should additional funding become available during the contract period.

	<p>The costs and benefits of the scheme are:</p> <p>Direct Costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital investment of £7.646m required with £4.807m core Council funding, £0.989m Section 106 developer contributions and £1.850m WG grant. <p>Direct Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addresses a sustained shortfall in the number of pupil places over a number of years. The school is the most oversubscribed secondary school in the County. • Enables the removal of mobile classrooms. The shortfall in pupil places is partly being met by the provision of mobile classrooms. • Addresses shortfalls in size, provision, location and standards of unsuitable specialist and general teaching accommodation, and address deficiencies identified by the school's suitability survey. • Modernisation of specialist provision to support a suitable school environment for national curriculum delivery. <p>Indirect Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in backlog maintenance costs. • Reduction in fixed costs associated with buildings and mobile classrooms and leadership focuses investment on learners. • Address non-compliance issues with the Equalities Act.
1.29	<p><u>Extension to Residential Care Home, Marleyfield – Buckley</u></p> <p>Following a comprehensive review of the residential care market in Flintshire, the Council approved a capital scheme to extend Marleyfield House in Buckley by an additional 32 beds to bring total provision up to 64 beds. The new facility is being developed through the joint Integrated Care Fund (ICF) budget arrangement with Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) to provide additional services, beds and multidisciplinary support in a community setting. This provides permanent residential beds, as well as beds which prevent hospital admissions, expedites hospital discharges and allows appropriate assessment to reduce care packages to support people in the long term.</p> <p>The Council is working with WG as the scheme is partly funded by ICF grant, which has gained formal approval. Along with the ICF grant, the Council has been granted additional funding for the scheme from the Innovation Housing Programme (IHP).</p> <p>The Council entered into a contract in March 2020. Following a period of preparation work on site, works commenced in April 2020. The construction has been delivered at pace and there have been no delays as a result of the pandemic. The construction work is on schedule for completion in May 2021, with a view to welcoming residents in June 2021.</p> <p>The costs and benefits of the scheme are:</p> <p>Direct Costs:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital investment of £8.62m required with £2.382m core Council funding, and the remainder funded by WG grant. • There is a revenue pressure being developed associated with this project which will result in the year the facility becomes operational, currently estimated at £0.529m per year. This pressure would have occurred in any case as demand grows and residential beds from the private sector would need to be funded. <p>Direct Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional provision of residential care beds and through release of beds in other locations across Flintshire currently using step-up/step-down beds. • Additional provision of short term beds in a community setting to allow for more appropriate assessment of need for individual and as a viable alternative to a hospital admission/delayed discharge. • Purpose built accommodation and bespoke service provision to maximise independence and support reablement. <p>Indirect Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated provision of multi-professional support needed to reduce organisational boundaries and improve outcomes for individuals. • Discharge to Assess ethos/environment to support improved longer term planning within an enabling environment. • Free up bed space within independent sector care homes, where existing fragilities and lack of capacity are a significant factor and ongoing risk. • At a population level, the equivalent number of beds are available within the care sector to promote choice when long term care is the most appropriate option. • Reduction in risks associated with long term hospital stay. • Potential avoidance of people entering into long term care where this may be unnecessary.
1.30	<p><u>Historic Building Conservation</u></p> <p>This allocation grants funding to the owners of historical buildings on a match funding basis to preserve buildings in need of capital works across the County for future generations.</p> <p>Direct Cost:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £0.050m per annum is utilised from the Council's capital programme budget. <p>Direct Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourages listed building owners to seek advice and guidance in relation to the repair of their listed buildings. • Provides a simple incentive for the owners to seek advice on the right process for repair as well as providing the means to prompt them to invest in essential repairs to their buildings, hence improving and enhancing the long term conservation status of the buildings. • Supports the policy intentions within the Local Built Heritage Strategy and allow the team to work more on a proactive basis, rather than, as is more the case at present, a reactive service.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential to attract funding from other sources (e.g. Cadw) which would further enhance the remit of the service and the ability to reach as many listed buildings as possible that are in need of repair. It would also facilitate the opportunity to carry out repairs at an earlier stage, which may be less of an impact on the original fabric of the listed building, thereby reducing scope for more complex and costly repairs if left to a later stage of deterioration. • Provides the opportunity for the service to step in in exceptional circumstances to secure the structure of a building to prevent imminent damage or collapse, and place a charge on the building that is recoverable on resale. • There has been no funding available in the Built Conservation Budget for 10 years or more, and the number of listed buildings at risk on the Council's register is as high as ever. The funding will help reduce the number of buildings on the risk register. <p>Indirect Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lessens the need to take negative enforcement action where unauthorised works are found, or neglect of a building has taken place. This allows a more proactive dialogue to take place between the Council and owners. • Reduction in officer time spent on enforcement matters relating to historic buildings. <p>No changes are proposed for 2021/22 to 2022/23.</p>
1.31	<p><u>Adaptations to Foster Carers' Homes</u></p> <p>This will enable foster carers to carry out adaptations or improvements to their homes to provide a suitable environment to support a child. This will help the increase placements across the County and reduce the annual burden on the Out of County revenue budget.</p> <p>Payments made to foster carers will subject to 'clawback' should they cease being a foster carer within a set period of time.</p> <p>Direct Costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £0.060m per annum is utilised from the Council's capital programme budget. Capital funding will be used for individual projects costing over £0.020m. Funding for projects below £0.020m will be sought from other funding streams including the Integrated Care Fund (ICF), and other grant opportunities. Funding for projects under £0.020m would be the responsibility of Social Services. • No direct revenue or human resource implications for the approved revenue budget/workforce structures or roles for this service for the current financial year. Any grant applied for will have its own business case considering the individual circumstance and context and may have an impact on future revenue budgets. <p>Direct Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the range and choice of available placements for children who require a home outside of their birth family, locally.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable skilled and able foster carers to extend the number of places they are able to offer, or to maintain existing placements as circumstances or needs change. • Seek best value for money from the range of placements available by using them in the most efficient and effective way. • Any placements made are first and foremost in the best interests of the children. • Secure stability or permanence for a children. <p>Indirect Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enables the Council to seek better value for money in comparison to alternative Out of County or high cost placement options. • Offers the Councils more cost effective options for placements for children in its care as well as having a robust and transparent process for doing so. <p>No changes are proposed for 2021/22 to 2022/23.</p>
1.32	<p><u>Joint Archive Facility, Flintshire and Denbighshire Councils</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the application submission date for Round 1 has been pushed back from November 2020 to February 2021. Feedback on whether the submission has been successful or not, will not be until June 2021. If successful, below are indicative key milestones for the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 2021 to December 2022 – Development Phase of project. • January 2023 – Application submission date for Round 2. • March 2023 – Round 2 sign off by National Lottery Heritage Fund. • April 2023 to January 2025 – Delivery Phase of Construction Project. • January 2025 – New building to be opened. <p>Direct Costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimated cost of delivering this project is £16.651m, with £11.588m from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) (70%), £3.028m from Flintshire County Council (18%) and £2.035m from Denbighshire County Council (12%). • It has been assumed that borrowing will be required to fund this project. The estimated revenue costs associated with borrowing £3.028m over 50 years (@ 3.5%) totals £8.327m. In year 1 revenue debt costs are estimated to be £0.142m, rising to £0.200m in year 50, with an average of £0.167m over 50 years. <p>Direct Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable and improved archive service for Denbighshire and Flintshire via the creation of a single shared service.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The construction of a new purpose built Passivhaus 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. • An associated 3-year activity plan which will deliver a revolutionary and radical archive offer to the public. • The overall revenue impact is an estimated saving of £11,647 per annum once the new building is open (2025/26) with a potential further revenue saving once the joint service is running. <p>Indirect Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 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	<p><u>Theatr Clwyd Redevelopment</u></p> <p>The Theatr Clwyd building is nearing the end of its life and needs updating to ensure it is safe for public and employment use. The scope of the project has been reduced in line with agreed key business plan objectives, with estimated construction costs of £33m excluding fees and contingencies.</p> <p>In September 2020, the Council received confirmation of award of funding for the project of £3m. This funding will support the completion of the design phase of the scheme in readiness for the project to reach 'shovel ready' status. With award of this funding, the Council are required to make a contribution towards the costs of £0.100m. The Council are awaiting final confirmation from WG in relation to the total grant funding to be awarded for the scheme for the construction work, with discussions remaining positive.</p> <p>Following the completion of the design development stage and clarity on funding, all partners will need to make a decision on next steps. There may be a need to consider low and sustainable levels of long term borrowing to ensure the scheme is delivered, but options will need to be outlined for revenue when WG confirm their level of support.</p> <p>The planned construction start date for the project is April 2022.</p>

Current financial commitments from Council will be carried forward. Should the project not go ahead then the Council's share of the design development costs cannot be capitalised and would be a charge to the Council's revenue account.

Direct Costs:

- Capital investment of £33m+ required with funding commitments shared between the Council, Arts Council of Wales and WG as detailed above.

Direct Benefits:

- Development to improve and increase the biggest and a highly regarded Welsh theatre.
- A better facility for Flintshire communities, a base for increased community engagement, and multi-use spaces to be used for community needs.
- Improved facilities to increase secondary revenue generation restaurant, bars, event spaces, etc.
- Reduced revenue and capital maintenance costs.

Indirect Benefits:

- A base for young people to gather, learn and develop (currently 30,000 young people per year engaged with).
- Specific spaces for Health and Wellbeing user groups.
- More facilities for work placed training in building (woodwork, carpentry) and other transferable theatre making crafts as well as hospitality, marketing, IT, arts management.
- Increase local footfall and marketing of Flintshire across the UK (In 2016 over 200,000 people visited work at Theatr Clwyd and another 220,000 people saw a Theatr Clwyd production elsewhere in the UK).
- Improvement of working conditions for employees and protection, and growth, of work for local people (In 2016 nearly 200 local people were directly employed by TC, not including impact of trade with other local suppliers).
- Development of economic contribution (currently 46% of Theatr Clwyd's audiences visit Flintshire from elsewhere in the UK).

The Council will retain ownership of the theatre and is responsible for all of its infrastructure, external envelope and grounds. These assets are specialised and expensive to replace, which is one of the reasons why such major investment is required. However, on the lead up to the major refurbishment scheme and post refurbishment, there will be a need to fund landlord retained service and equipment proportionally, and in line with agreed responsibilities that may be set out in any future management agreement. This is no different than those that exist for the libraries and leisure centres.

1.34

Improvements to Standard Yard Waste Transfer Station

Infrastructure improvements, renewal and upgrade of large plant, equipment and welfare facilities at Standard Yard Waste Transfer Station (WTS) in Buckley to accommodate growth in recycling rates and an increase in resilience and processing capacity for future waste streams.

Approval for capital funding of £1.230m was given in the 2020/21 – 2022/23 Capital Programme, however, this was subject to receipt of WG 'Invest to Save' funding which is, unfortunately, no longer available due to COVID-19.

Given that replacing Standard is a critical element of the Streetscene Service, it was necessary for the service to submit a bid for a second element of funding of £0.700m.

The total cost of the scheme is estimated to be £3.2m. The remaining funds are being applied for from WG grants.

Direct Benefits:

- Proposals are part of the Council's Plan under the theme 'Green Council' for sustainable development and environmental management, which has a sub-priority of affordable and sustainable collection and treatment services for recyclable, compostable and residual waste. The scheme will increase the rates and quality of recyclable and compostable waste whilst reducing residual waste.
- The proposed improvements would ensure that the site, plant and equipment are more efficient and cost effective to operate, and it would enable the service to increase its resilience and capacity for processing more recyclable materials on site, which in turn would ensure that the recovery and rates of recyclable, re-usable and compostable waste are maximised, and reduce landfilled waste.
- Renewal and upgrade of plant and equipment to increase productivity and reduce downtime.
- Improved welfare facilities for operatives – increased job satisfaction, value of employees, which contributes to their well-being.
- Separate access for hauliers from the processing operations, to reduce downtime when haulage companies collect baled materials and increase productivity for processing operators.
- Reduced revenue costs for repairs and maintenance at Standard Yard WTS, increased capacity and resilience resulting in increased productivity and reduced downtime plus increased rates and quality of recyclable and compostable waste whilst reducing residual waste, thereby reducing costs.
- It is proposed that an Educational Visitor Centre would be incorporated into the design of the new site, which would enable schools and other groups to conduct educational visits to the site to learn about recycling and waste management.

1.35

Greenfield Waste Management Infrastructure

The site requires modifications and improved safety works to the entrance, a new weighbridge and welfare facilities. The service will also be re-housing and refurbishing the balers from Standard Yard WTS, to provide service resilience.

	<p>Direct Costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital investment of £0.450m in 2021/22. <p>Direct Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved welfare facilities arrangements for staff – The existing arrangements have been condemned and are un-usable. Improved welfare facilities for the workforce on site, would lead to increased job satisfaction, reduced sickness absence levels and staff retentions. • Replacement weighbridge and software system – The existing system is unreliable and creates increased workloads for staff, and income levels from third parties are at risk. • Improvements to the current exit from the Household Recycling Centre (HRC) site – To provide separation from large waste vehicles accessing the site. This will improve the safety for both the HRC users and staff entering the new facility. <p>The expected spend period for the work is July to September 2021.</p>
1.36	<p>Summary (Generally funded) Capital Programme 2021/22 – 2023/24</p> <p>Table 5 below summarises the generally funded Capital Programme and available funding.</p> <p><u>Table 5</u></p>

SUMMARY (GENERALLY FUNDED) CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2021/22 - 2023/24

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Statutory / Regulatory Section	2.500	2.450	2.450	7.400
Retained Assets Section	3.909	3.942	3.428	11.279
Investment Section	2.468	1.529	1.364	5.361
Total (All Sections)	8.877	7.921	7.242	24.040
Estimated available general funding ¹	6.565	6.565	6.565	19.695
Total	6.565	6.565	6.565	19.695
Surplus / (Shortfall) - no borrowing	(2.312)	(1.356)	(0.677)	(4.345)
Schemes requiring funding by borrowing:				
Joint Archive Facility, FCC and DCC	0.245	1.419	1.364	3.028
Total	0.245	1.419	1.364	3.028
Surplus / (Shortfall) - with borrowing	(2.067)	0.063	0.687	(1.317)

¹ As per 20/21 Final Settlement

1.37

Table 5 shows that after prudential borrowing is considered there is an overall shortfall in projected funding of £1.317m over the 3 year period, with an estimated shortfall of £2.067m in 2021/22.

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.

The current projection for capital receipts is expected to cover the shortfall of the three year programme. There is risk relating to these due to their size and complexity. The timing of these receipts are also subject to market forces outside of the Council's control. In line with current policy no allowance can be made for these receipts in funding the deficit above.

Options to fund the shortfall 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 the shortfall. This could be short term during 2021/22 as there is a potential surplus in 2022/23 of £0.063m and 2023/24 of £0.687m, or, if necessary, long term to fund the overall shortfall.

1.38

Specific Grants and Borrowing

21st Century Schools Band B

WG has approved the Council's in principle submission for 21st Century Schools Band B. 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 21st Century Band B programme has increased from 50% to 65% for schools, 75% for Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) and 81% for Mutual Investment Models (MIM).

At this present time, the current revised financial forecast for the Band B programme is projecting a total cost of £103m against the approved funding envelope from WG of £85m. Initial discussions have taken place with WG and the national picture is that other Councils are in the same position. WG's position is that they cannot commit to individual requests for funding currently, but wish to remain flexible with Councils as they work through their programmes.

Each of the projects is 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.

During 2018/19 and 2019/20 Cabinet approved three 21st Century Band B schemes for inclusion within the Capital Programme, those being at Connah's Quay High School, Queensferry CP/Plas Derwen PRU, and Ysgol Croes Atti, Shotton.

In recent months the Council have been reviewing the next batch of individual projects and/or area reviews for inclusion in the Band B tranche of funding. These include Ysgol Croes Atti, Flint, Saltney / Broughton Area and Mynydd Isa Area (MIM project).

Council have approved consultation to take place in these areas, however this has been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

Band B	Total Cost	WG funded	Council funded
	£m	£m	£m

Connah's Quay HS	4.300	2.795	1.505
Queensferry CP / Plas Derwen PRU	8.000	5.700	2.300
Ysgol Croes Atti, Shotton	0.750	0.488	0.262
Ysgol Croes Atti, Flint	5.5	3.575	1.925
Saltney / Broughton Area	25	16.250	8.750
Mynydd Isa Area*	2.462	1.503	0.959
Total	46.012	30.311	15.701

* ICT & Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment funded through traditional capital.

WG have confirmed that proposed 3-16 campus project at Mynydd Isa is a national Pathfinder project. This provides the benefit of a WG funded technical team to support Officers with Flintshire through the MIM process. Councils who have nominated MIM within their strategic programme projects have recently signed the Strategic Partnering Agreements. The WEPco (Welsh Education Partnership Company), which is the vehicle being used by WG to deliver MIM projects will be available to LA's and FEI's on the 1st October 2020.

MIM enables WG to deliver infrastructure projects beyond that set by present UK Government borrowing limits. If WG do not use MIM, £500 million pounds of investment in the education estate will not be available to Councils within Wales and this would have implications on the Council's proposed programme locally.

A private sector contractor is appointed via a new WG framework and the contractor finances, constructs and provides a 25 year life-cycled building product. Responsibility for funding and constructing the building, and then repairing and maintaining the building for 25 years once built, remains with the contractor. This results in buildings funded by MIM being maintained at a consistently high level for 25 years.

The Council pays an annual charge which is funded from revenue, similar to a rental payment, called the 'service payment'. Through this programme Councils will receive intervention rate funding at 81% from WG for a period of 25 years, thereafter the building is handed over to the Council. The funding from WG will be received in the form of a specific grant.

The capital works in MIM are managed and funded by the contractor so the Council won't borrow to fund the capital works and the associated risks are transferred to the contractor. Revenue payments will not start until the facilities have been built and become available for use, and will be paid for via a monthly revenue charge over a period of 25-years (the Service Payment).

The required accounting is that the asset remains on the LA balance sheet matched with the total liability to pay the unitary charge over 25 years. Revenue pressures relating to this scheme will need to be considered at the time of approval.

The Connah's Quay High School scheme has been completed. Queensferry CP/Plas Derwen PRU will commence in November 2020, with an anticipated completion date in 2022/23. Croes Atti, Shotton will commence in 2020/21 and is anticipated to be completed in 2021/22.

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.
- Reduction in split site arrangements in provision of PRU to improve efficiency, and reduce risk by increasing options to improve pupil outcomes.
- For Ysgol Croes Atti, Flint, Flintshire's first new build Welsh Medium primary school and is strategically linked to the Council's Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP).
- For Ysgol Croes Atti, Shotton, this supports the Council's WESP and enables continued support and potential growth for Welsh Medium provision.

Direct Costs:

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

Band B	Year 1	Year 50	Average over 50 years
	£m	£m	£m
Connah's Quay HS	0.063	0.092	0.075
Queensferry CP / Plas Derwen PRU	0.096	0.141	0.115
Ysgol Croes Atti, Shotton	0.011	0.016	0.013
Ysgol Croes Atti, Flint	0.093	0.130	0.109
Saltney / Broughton Area	0.423	0.592	0.494
Mynydd Isa Area	0.046	0.065	0.054
Total	0.732	1.036	0.860

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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of appropriate capacity of school network.
1.39	<p>Mockingbird Family Model</p> <p>The aim of the project is to transform the Fostering Service to meet the placement needs of looked after children and avoid the escalating costs of external care provision.</p> <p>The Mockingbird Family Model (MFM) replicates an extended family and groups foster carers of 6-10 fostering households supported by a central foster carer (Hub Home Carer).</p> <p>The number of looked after children has been increasing year on year with greater demand for suitable placements for our children and young people. Overall demand is not being met from in-house provision and reliance is being placed on the use of independent fostering agencies and residential placements which are costly.</p> <p>Children and young people who are provided consistent and stable placements have better outcomes than those who move from placement to placement. Each change of placement, often further away from a child's home, brings a greater sense of detachment and loss and it is common for children's emotional investment in subsequent placements to reduce, perpetuating the cycle of placement breakdown and disconnection. The MFM creates an 'extended family' around our children and young people, promoting their sense of belonging.</p> <p>A detailed business plan has been submitted to WG for an 'Innovate to Save' interest free loan. The intention is to set up the new service gradually over 3 years funded from the interest free loan totalling £1.150m. The loan will be repaid from savings made in years 4 to 7 which are estimated to be £0.530 per annum, which after repaying the loan will be reduced to £0.243m. The project costs are revenue costs, and therefore ordinarily cannot be funded by loans or borrowing. The Welsh Government's 'Innovate to Save' programme requires the revenue costs to be treated as capital, and the only way to achieve this is to gain a Capitalisation Direction from WG Ministers as each year of the project passes. An indication will be given by WG officials if the Capitalisation Direction will be granted when the business plan is approved.</p>
1.40	<p>Details of schemes specifically funded by specific grant and borrowing is shown in Table 6 below:</p> <p><u>Table 6</u></p>

SPECIFICALLY FUNDED SCHEMES 2021/22 - 2023/24

	2021/22 £m	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m	Total £m
Specifically Funded Schemes				
21st Century Schools - Band B	3.525	6.489	24.975	34.989
Mockingbird Family Model	0.304	0.384	0.000	0.688
Total Schemes	3.829	6.873	24.975	35.677
Funding				
Specific Capital Grants	2.163	4.219	16.234	22.616
Unsupported (Prudential) Borrowing	1.362	2.271	8.741	12.374
Innovate to Save Loan	0.304	0.384	0.000	0.688
Total Schemes	3.829	6.873	24.975	35.677

1.41 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 2021/22 Capital Programme monitoring reports.

1.42 All of the 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.

1.43 **Summary Total Council Fund Capital Programme 2021/22 - 2023/24**

Table 7 summarises the total proposals for the 2021/22 - 2023/24 Capital Programme.

Table 7

SUMMARY CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2021/22 - 2023/24

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Expenditure				
Statutory / Regulatory Section	2.500	2.450	2.450	7.400
Retained Assets Section	3.909	3.942	3.428	11.279
Investment Section	2.468	1.529	1.364	5.361
Specific Section	3.829	6.873	24.975	35.677
Total Programme (All Sections)	12.706	14.794	32.217	59.717
Funding				
General Funding ¹	6.565	6.565	6.565	19.695
Grant Funding	2.163	4.219	16.234	22.616
Unsupported (Prudential) Borrowing	1.607	3.690	10.105	15.402
Innovate to Save Loan	0.304	0.384	0.000	0.688
Total Projected Funding	10.639	14.857	32.904	58.400
Surplus / (Shortfall)	(2.067)	0.063	0.687	(1.317)
1 As per 20/21 Provisional Settlement				

Potential future schemes

1.44 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).

1.45 21st Century Schools Band B

Paragraph 1.38 includes details of projects from the overall submission to WG for 21st Century Schools Band B.

The 21st Century Schools Band B programme is due to end by 2024/25. As each of the remaining schemes is proposed for approval, a decision will need to be made taking into account its affordability in the context of the position on the MTFs. The Flintshire element of the remaining 21st Century Schools Band B programme will need to be funded from prudential borrowing.

It is a complex investment programme over a long period of time and will always require a degree of flexibility around the size of projects, funding and time scales.

High level work is to begin on a potential Band C programme, which could start post 2025.

1.46 Growth Deal

	<p>Cabinet adopted the <i>Growth Vision for the Economy of North Wales</i> in September 2016. The vision set out a collective and strategic ambition for North Wales for infrastructure development, skills and employment, and business growth. The cabinets of the five partner councils in the region similarly adopted the strategy at that time.</p> <p>Cabinet was then advised in a further report in February 2017 that North Wales had been formally invited to open negotiations for a Growth Deal with both the UK and Welsh Governments: - for additional resources and powers to pursue the priorities set out in the <i>Growth Vision</i>. A number of City Deals and regional Growth Deals have been adopted across the UK.</p> <p>In June 2018 Cabinet and Council adopted a Governance Agreement for the planning and development phase of a Growth Deal. The Governance Agreement empowers and regulates the regional partnership between the six local authorities, the two universities, the two further education colleges and the North Wales Mersey Dee Business Council. The partnership operates through a joint committee called the North Wales Economic Ambition Board. All partners have similarly adopted the Governance Agreement.</p> <p>Heads of Terms are being finalised with Governments and it is anticipated that capital allocations will be drawn down in the final quarter of the 2020/21 financial year. A <i>Proposition Document</i>, which sets out the priority programmes of activity for the region and for which national funding is being sought through the Growth Deal, and has been approved by the North Wales Economic Ambition Board. The Growth Deal will fund selected programmes and projects from within the <i>Proposition Document</i>; ones that meet shared governmental objectives for economic growth. The document constitutes the regional bid which will lead to a deal.</p> <p>Some capital borrowing costs will be incurred by the partnership for advance capital access to ‘front-load’ investment for priority projects, noting that the Government grant is paid over to the partnership on an annualised bases over fifteen years. The detail of the Growth Deal is being finalised and the partnership aim to keep capital borrowing costs to the lowest possible level. Final cost estimates, and how they are to be shared, will be reported when available.</p>
1.47	<p>Croes Atti, Flint Residential Care Home Review / Expansion</p> <p>The care sector in Flintshire is working within an increasingly challenging environment as a result of a range of factors, including the complexity of need, an ageing population, rising costs, increasing expectations and regulation and difficulties with recruitment and retention of high quality staff. As a result of these pressures there is limited resilience and Flintshire is particularly challenged with only a small number of independent providers who are part of a reducing and fragile market. As a Council we are taking a positive approach to rebalancing the care home provision, taking a lead as a local authority to develop care homes that value older people and provide good quality support that would place the Council in a good position for the future.</p>

	<p>Croes Atti is a single storey 31 bed care home purpose built for older people, which was refurbished in 2005. The 31 bedrooms are small and less than 12 square metres which makes it increasing difficult to support people with complex physical care needs and there are only 3 bedrooms with an en-suite facility. The living and day time spaces are well used and whilst we have a number of assisted bathing / shower rooms they are not all DDA compliant. The existing accommodation does not meet new RISCA regulations in relation to bedrooms and living space and any capital investing into refurbishment or new build must take into account of the new regulatory requirements. The care home is popular locally, is always at capacity and often with a waiting list for support. The home is regulated by the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) and achieves good inspection reports. A feasibility report in relation to options for increasing capacity at Croes Atti to 55 beds has been undertaken, the options for a refurbishment and new build on the current site are also being considered.</p>
1.48	<p>Llys Gwenffrwd, Holywell Care Home Review</p> <p>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.</p>
1.49	<p>Children's in-house Residential Care Home</p> <p>Work is underway to develop the business case for an in house Residential Care Home for Children. The facility will provide short term assessment and support to children and young people with a view to supporting them to return to their family/carers where appropriate. The provision would form part of our strategy to reduce reliance on Residential care. Options are being considered to support the procurement of an appropriate building which include seeking capital funding from WG, leasing a property from a Registered Social Landlord or make a direct purchase using our capital. A bid for funding has been submitted to WG, which the Council is awaiting feedback on.</p>
1.50	<p>Additional Learning Needs Reform</p> <p>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 study would be recommended to explore the most efficient building solutions. As an option</p>

	<p>to a Council funded solution, it would be prudent to consider whether ALN transformation could be included as a project (or series of projects) in the next phase of the WG 21st Century schools (Band C) investment programme, given that the current intervention rate in this programme for ALN provision is 75% WG funded, with the Councils contribution being 25%.</p>
1.51	<p>Penyffordd CP School</p> <p>The Education & Youth Portfolio are monitoring and reviewing pupil numbers at Penyffordd CP School. Should pupil numbers and local need continue to rise based on the current trend, an extension would be required to the school in future years and a business case would be submitted for two storey extension at the appropriate time. There are Section 106 contributions due for Penyffordd to the value of £0.300m, should the full housing development/s be undertaken, and this would offset some of the Council's costs.</p>
1.52	<p>County Hall Campus</p> <p>The redevelopment of the County Hall campus site needs to be progressed through the formulation of a comprehensive and visionary masterplan which addresses the future needs to the Council and other public sector partners; linking this with an integrated approach around the Courts and theatre, together with a wider site development. This work has started with the demolition of phase 3 and 4 of County Hall which is due for completion in November 2020. The site has huge potential being framed within a mature semi-rural landscape; work on a comprehensive plan will need to commence in 2021/22.</p>
1.53	<p>Review of Industrial Estates</p> <p>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. This creates an opportunity to review the mix, size and type of our units and consider the potential of our portfolio. Work will therefore be undertaken to review our estates, on a site by site basis, to formulate a detailed strategy which considers each site's viability, whether to invest or dispose or seek an alternative use.</p>
1.54	<p>Highways Asset Management Plan</p> <p>The core Capital Programme includes £0.600m per annum for the HAMP. In 2020/21, as in previous years, this has been supplemented by additional WG grant. It has been estimated that the investment required to maintain current network performance is £2.7m per annum, an increase of £2.1m per annum. The Council are awaiting an announcement from WG on the level of funding from the Public Highways Refurbishment Grant for the 2021/22 financial year.</p>
1.55	<p>Digital Strategy</p>

	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The range of cross cutting projects under consideration include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Software that can automate answering simple telephone calls or email enquiries (so called "chat bots"). • A generic web booking system to allow customers to make appointments for services on line. • 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.
1.56	<p>Deeside Leisure Centre</p> <p>Deeside Leisure Centre (DLC) is 45 years old and is 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 regionally and locally 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.</p> <p>DLC is currently acting as a temporary field hospital, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Once the emergency situation is over, it will be returned to full use. The Council is approaching WG for financial support to reinstate the facilities at DLC.</p> <p>In the medium term, the Council and its strategic partner Aura are looking at undertaking 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</p>
1.57	<p>Homelessness – Young Persons Hub</p> <p>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.</p>

	<p>Over the next 12 months the Housing & Prevention Service is to consider 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 offered local facilities for co-location of services within a “housing hub”. A feasibility study will be considered to inform this approach which may provide office and community space to ensure a joined up approach within a multi-disciplinary team model.</p> <p>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.</p>
1.58	<p>Homelessness – Emergency Bed Provision</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 particular focus on “night shelters” and “bed spaces” with a clear steer on moving away from shared housing models with communal spaces and offering self-contained accommodation for people experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>The Glanrafon Night Shelter was always a medium term solution for rough sleeping in Flintshire with other approaches to be developed in future years with a commitment to develop more support to prevent rough sleeping and ensuring a self-contained accommodation offer. Funding has been secured through WG (Phase 2 Homelessness Funding) which will assist with the immediate pressures on our homeless cohort, but additional capacity and revised models of emergency accommodation will need to be explored and may require capital funding in future years.</p>

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 new pressures.

Assuming the shortfall is as estimated (£1.317m), and that the asset life of schemes is 50 years the pressures on the revenue budget are shown in the table below. The pressures for previously approved school building works and Joint Archive Facility have been built into the current MTFs. Pressures for the shortfall in Council Funding and new school schemes will be built into future MTFs calculations as necessary.

	Pressure in Year 1	Pressure in Year 50	Average Annual Pressure
	£m	£m	£m
Shortfall in Council Funding (£1.317m)	0.064	0.089	0.074
Joint Archive Facility	0.142	0.200	0.167
Connah's Quay HS	0.063	0.092	0.075
Queensferry CP / Plas Derwen	0.096	0.141	0.115
Ysgol Croes Atti, Shotton	0.011	0.016	0.013
Ysgol Croes Atti, Flint	0.093	0.130	0.109
Saltney / Broughton Area	0.423	0.592	0.494
Mynydd Isa Area	0.046	0.065	0.054
Total	0.938	1.325	1.101

The table does not include the Mockingbird Family Model as the loan will be repaid from revenue savings generated as a result.

3.00 CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT

3.01 The proposed Capital Programme was reviewed by Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee for comment at its meeting on 12th November 2020, with their comments being fed back to Cabinet at its meeting on 17th November 2020.

4.00 RISK MANAGEMENT

4.01 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 also included on this agenda.

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	<p>Contact Officer: Chris Taylor, Principal Accountant Telephone: 01352 703309 E-mail: christopher.taylor@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	<p>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</p> <p>Capital Expenditure - Expenditure on the acquisition of Non-current Assets or expenditure that extends the life or value of an existing asset</p> <p>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</p> <p>Capital Receipt - Receipts (in excess of £10,000) from the disposal of an asset</p> <p>Capital Scheme - An individual capital project which is monitored and managed in isolation. The aggregate of all schemes comprises the Capital Programme</p> <p>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</p> <p>Council Fund - The fund to which all the Council's revenue and capital expenditure is charged</p> <p>Disposal - The decommissioning or transfer of an asset to another party</p> <p>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.</p>

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.