

FUNDING STRATEGY

The capital funding strategy is part of the overall capital strategy.

Cabinet may make changes to the funding strategy where necessary to deliver capital schemes that are key to delivering the Council's agreed priorities.

Funding streams are allocated in the following ways:

- General Fund capital receipts are not allocated or committed prior to receipt, unless inextricably linked to a specific project.
- Usable capital receipts from the sale of council housing stock under right to buy legislation are directed at the HRA capital programme to meet the requirements of decent homes targets.
- Usable capital receipts from other asset sales other than RTB, whether HRA or General Fund, can be used towards General Fund capital projects. This reflects the fact that the Council is not currently in a financial position to be able to direct all HRA receipts towards the HRA programme. However this policy may be reviewed in future years
- General fund capital receipts received during the year will be added to the un-earmarked general fund capital receipts reserve (see below) and taken into account as a potential funding source for new schemes or variations in the relevant financial year or the following financial year, subject to revenue budget considerations e.g. debt financing budget implications.
- General Fund capital receipts received from the capital portion of finance lease income on Council owned GF and HRA properties under new IFRS rules will be earmarked for capital expenditure on the Council's property assets.
- Capital Reserves – Capital receipts generated by asset sales will be partly set aside in a capital reserve fund. This reserve provides a funding source for future priority schemes and emergencies.
- The only call on the earmarked general fund capital reserve during the year would be for unforeseen high priority emergency capital works that cannot be financed from alternative sources. Agreement will be through the normal channels – that is the submission of a project appraisal or variation to Cabinet.
- Hypothecated funding – i.e. funding linked directly to a specific scheme or service area, such as grants, third part contributions, revenue contributions and supported borrowing – is allocated 100% to the relevant scheme or service.
- Major Repairs Reserve - In line with the statutory requirement, the Major Repairs Reserve is entirely earmarked for HRA capital expenditure on the Council's housing stock
- Supported Borrowing will be used if the unsupported element is affordable.
- Unsupported Borrowing will be used to fund capital investment if the cost of the borrowing is affordable. Ideally the capital investment itself will produce revenue savings, which will cover the cost of borrowing to invest.

- Underspends on GF schemes may not be automatically diverted to other schemes. This will be considered against the demands of the programme as a whole, the Reserve Project list and funding requirements for the following year.

The funding strategy is used to determine the allocation of funding to the programme at the start of the year and throughout the year. Depending on the timing and restrictions of the funding streams, the most appropriate funding will be used at the year end. The Capital Team, under the direction of the Chief Finance Officer, will apply the available funding to the outturn expenditure in line with the best interests of the Council.