



Item No.
[

NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET REPORT

Report Title	GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2007-08 – ADDITIONS AND AMENDMENTS
---------------------	--

AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC

Cabinet Meeting Date:	1 October 2007
Key Decision:	YES
Listed on Forward Plan:	YES
Within Policy:	YES
Policy Document:	NO
Directorate:	Governance and Improvement
Accountable Cabinet Member:	Malcolm Mildren
Ward(s)	Not Applicable

1 Purpose

1.1 The purpose of the report is to request approval for an addition to the Council’s General Fund Capital Programme for 2007-08.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the proposed addition to the General Fund Capital Programme listed at paragraph 3.2.2 be approved.
- 2.2 That the funding source for the proposed addition to the General Fund Capital Programme listed at paragraph 3.2.2 be approved.
- 2.3 That the approval of the Midsummer Meadow and Becketts Park Waterside Enhancement scheme be subject to the NEL grant funding being awarded.
- 2.4 That in the event of partial grant funding being awarded, the Section 151 Officer be given delegated approval, in consultation with the Member with Portfolio for Regeneration and the Member with Portfolio for Finance, to consider and agree match funding from internal resources, to enable the scheme to proceed.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

- 3.1.1 The General Fund Capital Programme for 2007-08 was submitted to the Cabinet meeting of 4 December 2006, and approved at the Cabinet meeting of 19 December 2006.
- 3.1.2 Amendments to the General Fund Capital Programme for 2007-08 were subsequently agreed by Cabinet on 29th January 2007.
- 3.1.3 The approved General Fund Capital Programme for 2007-08 is fully funded.

3.2 Issues

3.2.1 An additional capital scheme has been put forward to be approved by Cabinet for inclusion in the 2007-08 General Fund Capital Programme. This proposal has been submitted on a capital project appraisal form, which has been signed off by, amongst others, the relevant Corporate Director, the Section 151 Officer and the appropriate Member with Portfolio. A copy of the capital project appraisal is available on request.

3.2.2 The proposed addition to the programme is as follows:

Midsummer Meadow and Becketts Park Waterside Enhancement. The proposal is for a project that will implement part of the Development and Framework Master Plan produced in 2005 for the Nene Valley River Corridor from Duston Mill Reservoir on the west of town to Barnes Meadow on the east. The capital works will provide a gateway from the town centre to the river corridor, the crucial link to existing routes along the river frontage and into the town centre, primarily through the introduction of hard and soft landscaping works.

The value of the capital bid is £377k. Grant for the full amount of funding required has been sought from Northamptonshire Enterprise Ltd (NEL), and a decision on the grant award is expected within the next month. Once approved the works will need to start immediately in order to access the funding, which is time-limited to 2007-08 financial year. In the event of full grant funding being awarded there will be no call on the Council's own internal capital resources.

That in the event of partial grant funding being awarded, it is proposed that the Section 151 Officer be given delegated approval, in consultation with the Member with Portfolio for Regeneration and the Member with Portfolio for Finance, to consider and agree match funding from internal resources, to enable the scheme to proceed.

The revenue maintenance costs created as a result of the scheme are estimated to be minor in the short term (1-3 years), and can be absorbed into existing budgets. It is possible that some elements of the scheme such as the demolition of toilets may reduce pressure on the existing repairs & maintenance budget. Any increase in medium to long terms costs that are identified as a result of the construction of infrastructure will be built into the Councils Medium Term Plan (MTP).

3.3 Choices (options)

- 3.3.1 Cabinet are asked to approve the inclusion of the proposed scheme into the Council's 2007-08 General Fund Capital Programme.

4. Implications (including Financial Implications)

4.1 Policy

- 4.1.1 The proposed capital scheme is within existing policy.

4.2 Resources and Risk

- 4.2.1 The Midsummer Meadow and Becketts Park Waterside Enhancements scheme is to be funded from external resources, in the form of grant from Northamptonshire Enterprise Ltd (NEL). The Cabinet approval is subject to the award of the grant funding, and there will be no call on the Council's own internal capital resources.

- 4.2.2 The revenue maintenance costs created as a result of the scheme are estimated to be minor in the short term (1-3 years), and can be absorbed into existing budgets. It is possible that some elements of the scheme such as the demolition of toilets may reduce pressure on the existing repairs & maintenance budget. Any increase in medium to long terms costs that are identified as a result of the construction of infrastructure will be built into the Councils Medium Term Plan (MTP).

- 4.2.3 Financial and non-financial risks related to the capital projects are addressed in the capital project appraisals.

4.3 Legal

- 4.3.1 Legal implications related to the capital projects are addressed in the capital project appraisals.

- 4.3.2 There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

4.4 Equality

4.4.1 Equalities implications related to the capital projects are addressed in the capital project appraisals.

4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)

4.5.1 The capital project appraisals have been put together by the Project Manager, in consultation with:

- The Budget Manager
- The relevant Finance Manager
- The relevant Corporate Director (or the Chief Executive)
- The appropriate Member with Portfolio,
- The Section 151 Officer.

4.5.2 Specific consultations with stakeholders are described within the capital project appraisals.

4.6 How Proposals deliver Priority Outcomes

4.6.1 The extent to which the project meets the Council's objectives and priorities is described within the capital project appraisals.

4.6.2 The use of capital project appraisals to determine and agree capital schemes in accordance with the objectives and priorities of the authority contributes to improving the CPA Use of Resources score. This, in turn, contributes to the priorities of:

- Continuing to improve our weakest services, and
- Continuing to strengthen our financial management.

4.6 Other Implications

4.6.1 There are no other specific implications arising from this report.

5. Background Papers

5.1 Cabinet Report – 4 December 2006 – General Fund Capital Programme 2006-07 and onwards

5.2 Cabinet Report – 29 January 2007 – General Fund Capital Programme 2006-07 and onwards

Rebecca Thomas, Assistant Head of Finance – Financial Management and Planning, ext 8046

Bev Dixon, Finance Manager – Capital & Treasury, ext 7401