

To the Chair and Members of

Council

Capital Programme 2016/17 to 2019/20

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Mayor Ros Jones	All	Yes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Capital Programme Budget Proposal

1. Doncaster Council continues to invest in the future of the Borough despite the tough economic climate with an estimated £316m of capital investment over 2016/17 to 2019/20 that will continue to stimulate growth and prosperity, with £116m of spend estimated for 2016/17. Two prime examples of this investment are the National College for High Speed Rail, £18.3m, and FARRRS phase 2, £9.1m. The Council is investing in projects to further improve education, housing, infrastructure, leisure and culture, as well as attracting investors and visitors to the Borough.
2. Capital spending is something that is bought or built that generally lasts more than one year, such as a road or building. Most capital funding is allocated for spending on specific projects. Capital spending is different from revenue spending, which covers the day to day costs of running Council services, but capital investment can assist the revenue budget by helping to reduce running costs by providing more efficient facilities and equipment. The £2.2m investment in Streetscene equipment is an example of this.
3. The proposed capital programme for 2016/17 to 2019/20 will have wide-ranging benefits for Doncaster including:-

Regeneration and Environment projects:-

Development

- National College for High Speed Rail construction started (project managed by the Council), with estimated investment of £18.3m over 2016/17 and 2017/18;
- Using grants from the Sheffield City Region Investment Fund (SCRIF), the Council will deliver £54.4m of investment in a range of projects in the urban centre and transport projects;

- FARRRS phase 2 works will start (subject to funding applications) in 2016/17 to unlock 395,000 m² of commercial development at the airport, investing £9.1m over the four year programme (also from SCRIF to total £63.5m).

Environment

- A range of road safety, traffic management, re-surfacing and improvement works to roads, footpaths and bridges will be delivered in 2016/17 through the Local Transport Plan (LTP) at an estimated £6m;
- A further £3.8m invested to complete the Smartlight Street Lighting project, replacing the Council's street lights and installing a central management system to create a more efficient and flexible system.

Housing

- 126 new Council owned affordable units will be completed in 2016/17 through the Council's Affordable Housing building programme, with an additional 14 (140 in total) estimated over the four year programme, investing £10.9m in 2016/17 and £14.9m across the four years. In addition, £14m has been earmarked for the future development of the Wheatley Howard's project;
- In addition, Registered Social Landlords are expected to deliver 53 properties in 2016/17 and an additional 94 (147 in total) over the four year period;
- £5.2m will be invested in 2016/17 to complete the three year programme of thermal efficiency works to 1,660 council properties, through thermal cladding, roof, fascia and soffit replacements;
- A further £17m will be spent on improving and maintaining the existing housing stock, with the main 2016/17 focus on improvements to communal areas, heating conversions/upgrades, refurbishment of void properties and external insulation works at Silverwood House.

Trading

- Property Investment Fund – buy assets to increase Council income returns (£4m);
- Corn Exchange Roof – refurbishment works to the roof and façade £1m;
- Further investment of £3.7m in the Council's Street Scene Improvement Programme and vehicle fleet to deliver a more efficient and effective service.

Adult, Health and Well Being projects:-

- 1,200 housing adaptations for the disabled are estimated to be completed per year, with an estimated total funding package of £11.2m;
- Between 60 and 80 extra care places created for the elderly by working with housing partners and investing £2m;
- £2.1m is estimated to be spent on the Borough's public leisure centres over 2016/17 to 2018/9, with £0.9m estimated for 2016/17 for fabric maintenance and system replacement works mainly at Adwick, Dearne Valley and the Dome.

Finance and Corporate Services projects:-

- £4.5m of investment in IT projects, which includes:-
- £1.2m for further functions in the Council's financial system which is integrating a number of systems for more efficient services, improve management information, and improve customer access and service; and
- £0.3m of further investment in the Digital Council programme to facilitate more efficient services and savings across each Directorate, and £0.4m Electronic Document Records Management System;
- £30m of further investment is available through the Investment and Modernisation Fund over the four year programme to fund projects to deliver more efficient services and enable revenue savings to be made.

Learning and Opportunities – Children and Young People projects:-

- 330 new primary school places are estimated to be created in 2016/17, with investment of £3.7m (estimated to be £11m over the four year programme);
- Thirty two schools are estimated to have a range of improvements works completed in 2016/17 including roof replacement, electrical and lighting upgrades, window replacement and heating system improvements, investing £2.6m (further information is available in paragraphs 27 and 28).

4. Doncaster Council has identified funding for all the proposals in the capital budget, but some are subject to confirmation of funding bids, and to keep the budget affordable the estimated asset sales need to be delivered before some projects can proceed.

EXEMPT REPORT

5. This report is not exempt.

RECOMMENDATIONS

6. Council is asked to approve the capital budget proposals for 2016/17 to 2019/20 as set out in this report. This includes:-
 - Approving the capital programme, noting the proposed investment over the next four years and note what that will deliver (paragraphs 13 to 30);
 - Supporting the ring-fencing of the first £2m of Asset Rationalisation Programme receipts to the Property Investment Fund, and the use of receipts above this figure are determined by the Director of Finance and Corporate Services (paragraph 39);
 - Supporting the release of £0.2m unused LEGL funding previously ring-fenced for markets work to Corporate Resources (paragraph 40);
 - Approving that Cabinet take responsibility for agreeing any significant changes to the Local Transport Plan funding (paragraph 17) and the Schools Condition Programme (paragraph 29) and that they are agreed in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder;

- Supporting that during 2016/17 Finance support Directorates to identify and develop revenue projects that could take advantage of recently announced flexibilities for use of capital receipts, and an Efficiency Statement is included in the 2017/18 capital budget setting report (paragraphs 34 to 35).

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

7. Doncaster citizens will benefit from the continued capital investment in public facilities such as schools, leisure centres, roads, markets, affordable housing and waste collection, and also from the Council facilitating growth by working with a range of partners to deliver affordable housing, a new cinema and restaurants units in the town centre, investment in Robin Hood airport and the National College for High Speed Rail for example. More outputs are included in the Executive Summary.

BACKGROUND

Doncaster's Capital Investment - Where the Council proposes to invest its capital funds and what that will achieve

8. Over the next four years Doncaster Council estimates it will invest £316m of capital funds in Doncaster, with £116m estimated for 2016/17. This will benefit the Borough and its residents by the delivery of effective and efficient services, stimulate growth and prosperity and encourage companies to create jobs in the Borough. This will be achieved in part by continuing to improve our roads and access to the Borough, and bringing forward housing and commercial sites for development.
9. The Council can afford all the proposals being made, subject to some funding bids – for the National College for High Speed Rail and SCRIF projects for example, and have considered the on-going costs to make sure the capital investment is not committing the Council to future revenue costs it cannot afford. Projects will not be committed to until their funding package is confirmed.
10. By having a four year programme the Council is setting out its long term strategic investment plans over a sensible timeframe. There is some estimating of resources and these will be confirmed as more information becomes available. These estimates and programmes of work are regularly reviewed to make sure that the investments remain affordable.
11. The capital programme is arranged by Directorate and the outcomes in this report have been listed in the same way so it is clear who is responsible for delivering them. A programme summary by Directorate is below. A summary by service area is shown on Appendix 1a of the appendix pack.

Summary of the Doncaster's Capital Investment by Directorate

Directorate	2016/17 £m	2017/18 £m	2018/19 £m	2019/20 £m	Total £m
Adults, Health and Well-Being	5.4	5.3	3.9	2.8	17.4
Finance and Corporate Services	10.4	7.6	8.8	9.6	36.4
Learning and Opportunities – Children and Young People	9.0	5.3	6.9	6.3	27.5
Regeneration and Environment	90.9	56.3	50.6	36.9	234.7
Total	115.7	74.5	70.2	55.6	316.0

12. In the following sections, unless stated otherwise, the value for 2016/17 is shown first and then the total for the four year programme is in brackets.

Regeneration and Environment

13. The programme managed by this Directorate is the largest individual programme in terms of project numbers and value at an estimated total investment of £234.7m, with £90.9m in 2016/17. The main areas of investment are SCRIF projects £19.6m (£63.5m) including FARRRS £7.1m (£9.1m), the transport block £6m (£21.8m) and housing projects £36.2m (£109.2m). A further analysis is provided in Appendix 1e of the appendix pack.
14. One additional allocation, Colonnades refurbishment £0.4m (CR 12), and seven new projects allocations in the Trading and Assets area of the programme have been added and are summarised on Appendix 2 of the appendix pack:-
- North Bridge Depot Modernisation (phase 2) – construction of storage facility for vehicles and equipment £0.9m (CR 01);
 - Cantley Depot Modernisation – improvements to staff facilities, drainage and waste disposal £0.4m in 2017/18 (CR 02);
 - Property Investment Fund - fund to buy assets to increase revenues into the Council £2m (£4m) (CR 04);
 - Market Café Ventilation and Extraction System – upgrade and extension to current system £0.2m (CR 05);
 - Corn Exchange Roof - refurbishment works to the roof and façade £1m (CR 06);
 - Mexborough Markets Public and Trader Toilets – refurbishment of existing facilities £0.1m (CR 07);
 - North Bridge Electrical Reinforcement – new 300 amp supply to increase capacity to 600 amp £0.2m (CR 08).

15. The outcomes for this Directorate have been split into service area due to their number and are listed in the Executive Summary.
16. A breakdown of the investment in Transport summarised in the Executive Summary is below:-
 - Fifteen carriageway sections totalling 4.5 miles will be resurfaced and improved in 2016/17 to make them safer and more serviceable, investing £2m;
 - £0.7m invested to complete a Borough wide permanent patching programme to a facilitate a safer, more serviceable and sustainable network;
 - £0.3m used to deliver ten footway reconstruction projects;
 - Around 12 miles of classified and residential roads will be surfaced dressed at 25 locations at an estimated £0.8m;
 - Four bridges and culverts will have improvement works completed at an estimated £0.6m.
17. The block budgets for the 2016/17 Local Transport Plan programme have started to be allocated to projects, based on assessment of need through surveys and investigations, and these can be seen on Appendix 1e of the appendix pack. It should be noted that these are estimates at this time and are subject to change. The balance of the budgets will be agreed with the relevant Portfolio Holder / Cabinet before being committed to. Planned structural schemes are selected for inclusion the programme on a priority basis reflective of condition, usage, risk and affordability in order to ensure the Council meets its statutory duty and obligations in safely maintaining the highway network and in providing safe passage for highway users. The preventative maintenance programme for patching and surface dressing projects are selected based on the need to preserve the road network from extensive degradation thereby providing and supporting a sustainable highway network asset. The overall programme of work is approved by the Highways Portfolio Holder.
18. The outcomes for the Housing and Trading Services elements of the programme are included in the Executive Summary.
19. Four bids have been included in SCRIF following a prioritisation process and if successful could result in around £64m of investment being available over the four year programme. The final business cases for FARRRS Phase 2 (£9.1m of SCRIF) and the DN7 project (£15.9m) at Hatfield have been approved. The outline business case for the Urban Centre programme of works (£25.9m) has been approved and from that programme, the first stage of final business case approval has been secured for the Colonnades, CCQ cinema and Waterfront East (Network Rail) in January 2016. All the projects with final business case approval are working towards the funding agreement and draw down stages. The outline business case for the A630 West Moor Link dualling project (£10.6m) is estimated to be submitted later in 2016.

Adults, Health and Well-Being Capital Programme

20. The total investment managed by this Directorate is estimated to be £17.4m over the four year programme, with £5.4m in 2016/17. The three largest areas are Housing Adaptations £2.8m (£11.2m), Extra Care housing for the elderly £0.5m (£2m) and Social Care Better Care Fund £0.9m (£1.7m). A further analysis is shown in Appendix 1b of the appendix pack.
21. Five new additions have been included in the proposed programme and are listed below and summarised in Appendix 2 of the appendix pack:-
- Museum and Art Gallery, and Cusworth Hall – upgrades to fire detection system and electrical sockets £29k (two separate projects, CR 09 and 11);
 - Cusworth Park – security improvements £34k (CR 10);
 - Extra Care Housing Projects – Council contribution for additional extra care facility for the elderly £2m over 2016/17 to 2018/19 (CR 13);
 - Bentley Community Library – essential works to frontage and glazing £100k (CR 15).
22. This is a relatively small programme but the outputs are wide ranging and will benefit a high number of Doncaster residents and some notable outcomes have been detailed in the Executive Summary.

Finance and Corporate Services

23. Finance and Corporate Services are estimated to manage £36.4m of funds over the four year programme, with £10.4m in 2016/17. The major areas of spend are investment in ICT £2.9m (£3.3m) through the approved ICT Strategy, additional capabilities for the ERP system £0.5m (£1.2m), the Investment and Modernisation Fund £7m (£30m) (though approved amounts are moved to the Directorates that are managing the projects). A further analysis is shown in Appendix 1c of the appendix pack.
24. One new project has been included in the proposed programme for refitting of the IT disaster recovery centre at the Colonnades £45k, summarised in Appendix 2 of the appendix pack (CR 03).
25. The notable outcomes for this Directorate are listed in the Executive Summary.

Learning and Opportunities – Children and Young People

26. The total investment via this Directorate is estimated to be £27.5m over the four year programme, with £9m in 2016/17. The major areas of investment are creating additional School Places £3.7m (£11m), the Schools Condition Programme £1.8m (£7.8m) and the School Roofs Programme £0.8m (£3m). It is important to note that these programmes are in development and so are subject to change, if for example cost estimates change or schools leave the Council's control. A further analysis is shown in Appendix 1d of the appendix pack.

27. Eight new projects have been added to this programme, below, and a summary of these is provided in Appendix 2 of the appendix pack:-
- Early Help Hubs – improved facilities at five sites to support early help offer £0.5m (CR 19);
 - Stirling Primary School – four classroom extension, investing £0.7m of new funds to total £1.3m (LOCYP 01);
 - Hayfield Lane Primary School – two classroom expansion with £0.5m of new funds to total £1.4m (LOCYP 02);
 - Lakeside Primary School – two classroom expansion (£0.2m in 17/18 to add to £0.2m in 16/17) (LOCYP 03);
 - Armthorpe pyramid – new classrooms in Armthorpe area £0.5m (LOCYP 04);
 - School Safeguarding and Security – works to improve these areas (£0.1m to extend the programme to 18/19) (LOCYP 05);
 - Aiming High – short break facilities for those caring for the disabled £0.1m (£0.4m continuation of existing programme (LOCYP 08);
 - Children’s Trust Children’s Home Development – improvements to existing children’s homes (managed by Doncaster Children’s Services Trust) £0.5m (CR 20).
28. Considerable amounts of effort and investment are being made to improve the condition of our schools and create new school places. The Executive Summary outlined the main outcomes for this Directorate and more detail on the school building improvements is below, investing £2.6m in 2016/17 (£10.8m over the four year programme) and the 2016/17 estimated works include:-
- Six schools having their main electrics upgraded and eight will have their lighting upgraded investing £0.8m;
 - Eight schools will having a range of heating, boiler and pipework improvements completed at an estimated £0.6m;
 - Five schools will have their windows replaced and two will have drainage and surface improvements, investing £0.4m;
 - Three schools will have their roofs replaced, with another two having their roofs significantly improved at estimated investment of £0.8m.
29. The Schools Condition Programme will be refined and the values and locations are subject to change once detailed design has been completed. Significant amendments will be agreed with the Portfolio Holder / Cabinet for this area and updates will be available through the quarterly Finance and Performance Improvement report to Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.
30. The projects listed on appendix 1d of the appendix pack, have estimated values attached to them but the level of work leaves very little contingency compared to the overall programme of works. Should unexpected and urgent works be required or the estimated value of works increase, some projects will have to be delayed or cancelled to manage within the resources available.

Asset Sales

31. So that the Council can deliver its priorities, it needs some funds without external constraints. The income generated by selling assets is one of the most flexible examples of this funding type and are called Capital Receipts but are more commonly known as Corporate Resources.
32. Over the next four years the Council has estimated £14.3m will be received from new sales of land via the Disposal Programme. This will be added to an estimated £3.7m of receipts brought forward, along with £0.2m of grant carried forward, to total £18.2m. After funding existing commitments of £10m (appendix 3a and b of the appendix pack), there is an estimated £8.2m of unallocated Corporate Resources available to fund new projects over the four year programme (appendix 3c of the appendix pack). These will use all the unallocated Corporate Resources.
33. There are a low number of high value sites and to prevent delays to the Capital programme, it is vital that the sales are delivered at the times and amounts estimated. The full sale prices (at market value) are expected, although for budget setting purposes the estimated sale values have been reduced by 40% in 2016/17 and 2017/18 and 75% in 2018/19 and 2019/20. It is harder to estimate what will happen in 2018/19 than in 2016/17 and so the risk adjustment is higher in 2018/19 and 2019/20. This approach of setting the budget on the risk adjusted estimates is prudent as it helps to minimise the effect of any delayed sales and helps the Council to ensure Corporate Resources do not become over committed.

Capital Receipt Flexibility

34. As part of the latest Comprehensive Spending Review in December, the Government announced that the capital receipts generated in a year can be used to fund the up-front revenue costs of transformation projects i.e. projects that generate savings or redesign services. This is a significant flexibility as under normal circumstances capital receipts can only be used on capital spend. It should be noted that if capital receipts are used for revenue, they will not be available for use of capital projects.
35. Although the Council now has the flexibility, all the estimated receipts are proposed to be allocated to projects and therefore during 2016/17 Finance will work with Directorates to identify if there are available capital receipts and any suitable projects can be funded by the receipts.

Corporate Resources

36. A number of projects funded by Corporate Resources have already been approved and shown on Appendix 3a and b of the appendix pack, and include:-
 - £2.1m for further investment in public leisure centres;
 - £3.8m in total for IT development and improvements, including the ERP;
 - £1.5m for the Council's contribution to SCRIF projects.

37. Sixteen new proposals using Corporate Resources have been put forward as part of the proposed capital programme and are shown on Appendix 3c of the appendix pack.

38. The table below shows the existing Corporate Resources, and both commitments and new proposals for 2016/17 to 2019/20:-

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Brought Forward from previous year	3.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.9
Delivered In Year	5.5	5.0	3.2	0.6	14.3
Cumulative Total Resources available	9.4	5.0	3.2	0.6	18.2

Approved Committed Projects – App 3a	1.8	0.6	0.6	0.0	3.0
Approved Uncommitted Projects – App 3b	3.3	1.0	2.1	0.6	7.0
New Proposals – App 3c	4.3	3.4	0.5	0.0	8.2
Total	9.4	5.0	3.2	0.6	18.2

Cumulative Balance (to carry forward)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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Asset Rationalisation Programme (ARP) Receipts

39. The Council is continuing its review of buildings and is estimated to result in a significant reduction in the number of buildings that are currently owned. This will generate capital receipts and it is recommended that the first £2m of these receipts will be used by the Property Investment Fund, and that the use of receipts above this level will be determined by the Director of Finance and Corporate Services. Capital receipts from land sales and payments such as easements continue to be ring-fenced for use by the capital programme.

Release of Unused LEGI Grant Funding

40. In December 2012 Council approved the ring-fencing of £1.3m of LEGI for improvements to markets with specific amounts for specific projects, leaving £0.2m of possible funding unallocated. As a result this allocation could not be used for projects. The Council has the freedom to apply this funding as it chooses and so Council is asked to support the recommendation that this allocation is released to Corporate Resources, which does fund a number of market related projects. The allocation has already been included in the above table.

Future Capital Allocations and Funding

41. Funding allocations will continue to be used in line with the relevant legislation or funding guidance. For funding that allows the Council discretion on how it is used and any new funding allocations made during the year, the Director of Finance and Corporate Services will confirm to which part of the capital programme it will be applied.
42. The Director of Finance and Corporate Services will also approve requests to amend the use of Corporate Resources during the year after consultation with the Mayor, and these will be reported quarterly to Cabinet and OSMC as part of the Finance and Performance Improvement report.

Investment and Modernisation Fund

43. Some projects can generate savings but need capital investment up front. Without the initial capital investment these projects quite often do not develop. This Fund was set up in 2013/14 with £50m of funding available to help address this, and allows the Council to deliver better and more efficient services whilst generating savings.
44. The Fund is financed using borrowing and the borrowing costs are paid for from the savings or income generated by the projects and so rather than put pressure on the revenue budget, they help to meet the budget reduction targets.
45. There is an estimated £7m of funding available in 2016/17, and £30m showing in the four year programme, although borrowing will only be taken out when projects have been approved. The Council will think creatively about how services could be improved but also need to develop a robust business plan so that the project is realistic and deliverable. Examples of projects funded through the Fund include:-
 - £9.2m in total for the Smartlight project (in the Environment outcomes in the Executive Summary);
 - £3.6m for the fleet replacement programme, as buying vehicles is cheaper than leasing;
 - £0.2m for solar panel installations to generate income and create green energy.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

46. Option 1 – Do not invite any new capital proposals for the 2016/17 to 2019/20 Capital budget process.
47. Option 2 – Ask Directorates to submit Director supported capital proposals that are considered essential to both their service and the Council's priorities.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

48. Option 2 has been adopted, allowing the Council to make informed recommendations on the allocation of capital resources.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

	Priority	Implications
	<p>All people in Doncaster benefit from a thriving and resilient economy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Be a strong voice for our veterans</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i> 	<p>All priorities are relevant and are considered against the available resources during budget setting.</p>
	<p>People live safe, healthy, active and independent lives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i> 	
	<p>People in Doncaster benefit from a high quality built and natural environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i> 	
	<p>We will support all families to thrive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i> 	
	<p>Council services are modern and value for money.</p>	
	<p>Working with our partners we will provide strong leadership and governance.</p>	

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

49. Specific risks and assumptions have been detailed in the report. Two to note in this section relate to the risk of asset sales being delayed or being delivered at a lower value than estimated, and this is discussed in paragraph 33. The second is that the estimated funding for Transport and Education are lower than estimated and would mean that programmes of work would have to be reviewed.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

50. In accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2003, a local authority may borrow money – (a) for any purpose relevant to its functions under any enactment, or (b) for the purposes of the prudent management of its financial affairs.

51. Each individual drawdown of Capital funds of one million pounds or more will require further approval by the Director of Finance and Corporate Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Services in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules.
52. Further, specific legal advice will be required as each project progresses. Each individual project should be procured in accordance with Contract Procedure Rules and EU Procurement Regulations as appropriate.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

53. Financial implications are contained within the body of the report. Specific project approval will be required for each project as they are developed as per the Financial Procedure Rules. These will help to ensure that the capital programme remains affordable as projects will not start until the required funding has been identified.
54. The use of prudential borrowing to fund projects such as the Investment and Modernisation Fund will be managed within the prudential indicators as approved in the Council's Treasury Management Policy. The Director of Finance and Corporate Services has delegated powers through this policy to make the most appropriate form of borrowing from approved sources. The borrowing will therefore be incorporated within the Council's four year capital programme for 2016/17 to 2019/20.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

55. There are no human resource implications arising from this report.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS

56. The report covers many areas and activity of work for the Council. For the majority of the items listed in the report there are no ICT implications. Delivering the projects highlighted will require initiating several projects and as part of the implementation of the individual projects any requirements for new, enhanced or replacement technology to support the delivery of proposals outlined in the report will need to be considered and prioritised by the ICT Governance Board.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

57. The Council must consider and have due regard to the three aims of the general equality duty, outlined below when developing and implementing the projects in the Council's capital programme.
58. The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) created by the Equality Act 2010 came into force in April 2011. The new Equality Duty requires public bodies to have "due regard" to the need to:-
 - a. Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010;
 - b. Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
 - c. Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

59. The protected groups are age, civil partnership and marriage, disability, gender, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, and sexual orientation.
60. The Council will ensure it makes fair and informed financial decisions, demonstrating its commitment to improving outcomes for the most vulnerable groups of people living in Doncaster. The weight given to the general duty will depend on how that area of work affects discrimination, equality of opportunity and good relations. For example, projects involving social care or community safety are likely to be more relevant and have greater impact on equality than those on waste disposal. The Council uses a simple due regard process to ensure due regard is considered and to support a transparent, effective process that is accountable to users and residents. Amongst others, the “due regard” will be informed by:
- a. Establishing the key equality issues across Doncaster (Equality Analysis) – Our Equality and Inclusion Plan 2014-2017 has been developed alongside our financial planning process and includes a significant analysis of equality information to identify the key equality issues across Doncaster. We will use the equality information to inform the developments of individual projects;
 - b. Consultation - Individual projects require specific approval before committing and incurring spend. Through these approvals the project specific equality implications will be assessed and consultation completed as required;
 - c. Prioritisation and Planning – the projects in the Capital programme have been assessed as priorities for Doncaster’s residents and the Council. Due to the number and range of projects it is not possible to discuss the individual equality considerations in this report, but the Council is committed to assessing a project’s impact to ensure fairness and equality.
61. Whilst no due regard statement has been completed as part of this report, all projects and programmes agreed during the programme will be subject to an individual due regard statement being prepared and actioned by the relevant project manager.

CONSULTATION

62. Directors have confirmed that the new proposals are priorities for their services and Executive Board have reviewed the existing programme and all the new proposals.
63. If required, each project will complete specific consultation before implementation.

This report has significant implications in terms of the following:

Procurement	X	Crime & Disorder	
Human Resources		Human Rights & Equalities	
Buildings, Land and Occupiers	X	Environment & Sustainability	
ICT		Capital Programme	X

BACKGROUND PAPERS

64. Cabinet Report – Finance and Performance Improvement Report – Quarter 1
2015/16
Cabinet Report – Finance and Performance Improvement Report – Quarter 2
2015/16

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