

**Blaby District Council
Council**

Date of Meeting	25 February 2025
Title of Report	Recommendations of the Cabinet Executive: Quarter 3 Capital Programme Review 2024/25
	This is not a Key Decision and is on the Forward Plan
Lead Member	Cllr. Maggie Wright - Finance, People & Performance (Deputy Leader)
Report Author	Accountancy Services Manager
Strategic Themes	All Themes: Enabling communities and supporting vulnerable residents; Enhancing and maintaining our natural and built environment; Growing and supporting our economy; Keeping you safe and healthy; Ambitious and well managed Council, valuing our people

1. What is this report about?

- 1.1 This report provides Members an update on expenditure against the Capital Programme for the second quarter of 2024/25.

2. Recommendation(s) to Council

- 2.1 That the report is accepted.
- 2.2 That the latest Capital Programme for 2024/25, totalling £9,898,960, is accepted.

3. Reason for Decisions Recommended

- 3.1 To ensure that the Council has adequate resources in place to meet its capital expenditure commitments.
- 3.2 To reflect additions or other changes to the Capital Programme that have occurred in the 3rd quarter of the year.

4. Matters to consider

4.1 Background

The original Capital Programme for 2024/25 was approved by Council on 27th February 2024 and amounted to £3,826,900, including a borrowing requirement of £1,665,938.

The revised Capital Programme following the 2nd quarter of 2024/25 was approved in November 2024 and amounted to £8,435,559. The following table shows the latest Capital Programme which now amounts to £9,898,960. This includes £4,528,430 of unspent budget brought forward from 2023/24. Appendix A gives a scheme-by-scheme breakdown of the planned expenditure for 2024/25.

	£
Approved Capital Programme 2024/25	8,435,559
<u>New Additions</u>	
1. Food Waste Vehicles and Receptacles	970,000
2. EV Charging Hub at Enderby Leisure Centre	147,200
3. Public Realm Works - Parks & Open Spaces	133,000
4. Laptop Replacement Programme Phase 1	102,091
5. Section 106-backed Schemes	91,799
6. Mobile Working Software Upgrade	50,412
7. CCTV Upgrade at Council Offices	30,000
8. Regeneration Property	20,990
9. Replacement AV System for Council Chamber	20,000
10. Installation of PV Panels at Holt Way	13,493
<u>Reductions</u>	
11. ICT Security Upgrades	(61,130)
12. Network Upgrades - Phase 2	(24,961)
13. Office 365 Consultancy	(16,000)
14. Installation of PV Panels at Enderby Leisure Centre	(13,493)
Revised Capital Programme 2024/25	9,898,960

The reasons behind the additions and reductions highlighted in the table above are as follows:

Additions

1. Food Waste Vehicles and Receptacles – Approval was given at Council on 19th November 2024 to use budget set aside in preparation for service delivery commencing 1st April 2026.
2. EV Charging Hub at Enderby Leisure Centre – As part of the Green Living Leicestershire partnership external funding has been sourced from the Local EV Infrastructure Fund to install an electric vehicle charging hub at Enderby Leisure Centre. This project is being led by Harborough District council.
3. Public Realm Works – Parks & Open Spaces – This addition is funded by the Council's UKSPF capital allocation for footpath improvements and flood resistance works at various open spaces across the district.
4. Laptop Replacement Programme Phase 1 – As part of the decision to bring IT services in-house, replacement laptops are required to support the Council's new IT infrastructure. It is proposed that the LICTP capital budget (reductions listed under 11,12 and 13) is repurposed for this project.
5. Section 106-backed schemes – Monies received are released and added to the Capital Programme as and when suitable schemes are identified by the Planning Obligations Monitoring Group, following receipt of bids from Parish Councils or other community groups.
6. Mobile Working Software Update – This upgrade and implementation of mobile working software is required to ensure that the service demands across district cleaning and parks & open spaces are managed efficiently. This is to be funded from prudential borrowing.
7. CCTV Upgrade at Council Offices – Budget is required to upgrade the existing CCTV system at the Council's main office to safeguard council staff and assets.
8. Regeneration Property – The additional budget has been received by LAHF and is to assist in the purchase of properties to ease homelessness accommodation pressures within the district.
9. Replacement Audio/Visual System for Council Chamber – This is required to cover inflationary increases and specification changes following the increased requirement to facilitate hybrid meetings.
10. Installation of PV Panels at Holt Way – Budget has been transferred from the Installation of PV Panels at Enderby Leisure Centre project to make the three homelessness properties on Holt Way more energy efficient.

11. ICT Security Upgrades – Refer to point 4.

12. Network Upgrades - Phase 2 – Refer to point 4.

13. Office 365 Consultancy – Refer to point 4.

14. Installation of PV Panels at Enderby Leisure Centre – Refer to point 10.

4.2 At the end of December 2024, the Council had spent £1,861,068 against its planned Capital Programme.

The reasons behind the main variances are as follows:

- Fleet Vehicle Replacement Programme - £1,204,415 planned spend not yet utilised: Orders for three new waste collection vehicles have been placed with delivery expected by October 2025 and expenditure to be realised in 25/26. The retrofitting of an existing refuse collection vehicle is expected to be completed this financial year.
- Net Zero at the Depot - £1,100,394 planned spend not yet utilised: At the time of writing this report the works to install the solar panels on the depot roof had just been completed and power generation had commenced. Expenditure will be recognised in the 4th Quarter. Work is continuing to investigate appropriate infrastructure solutions for the Electric Vehicle infrastructure at the Council's depot which are being proposed by consultants/specialists in this field.
- Food Waste Vehicles and Receptacles - £970,000 planned spend not yet utilised: The vehicles, which will use Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO), are currently being procured. A decision is to be made on how to best to accommodate these vehicles at the depot due to limited capacity.
- IT Infrastructure Improvements - £752,044 planned spend not yet utilised: Works to move IT to an in-house service are well under way, expenditure is due to increase during the final phase, with the service going live at the end of March 2025.
- Strategic Regeneration Property Investment - £682,707 planned spend not yet utilised: Surveys are currently being completed on a suitable property located in Narborough. It is anticipated that following successful completion of the relevant surveys the purchase will complete by the end of March 2025.
- Disabled Facilities Grants - £596,499 planned spend not yet utilised: The DFG allocation has been increased by central government over recent years. Lightbulb have seen a permanent rise in the complexity of cases coming through due to an increase in residents' health complications. We have also experienced an increase in child cases where the needs can

be complex resulting in cases taking longer to complete. Lightbulb is currently going through a service review and streamlining ways of working which will increase the number of DFG's completed throughout the year.

- Strategic Review: Land Rear of Enderby Leisure Centre - £394,648 planned spend not yet utilised: Consultants are engaging with the Council's Local Plan team to provide information for the site to be assessed for inclusion in the new Local Plan.
- Strategic Asset Review - £250,000 planned spend not yet utilised: Viable options are being compiled for consideration and a small proportion of expenditure is expected to be spent in this financial year.
- Replacement CRM/Granicus solutions - £186,405 planned spend not yet utilised: The procurement of a new CRM solution is currently on hold and will be revisited once the Council's IT infrastructure project is complete. It is proposed to move the project budget to the Capital Programme for 2025/26.
- Income Management System – £180,625 planned spend not yet utilised: Final testing is being completed to ensure the new system is fully integrated with other essential Council finance systems. The new system go live has been delayed and is now expected early 2025/26.
- Installation of PV Panels at Enderby Leisure Centre - £179,260 planned spend not yet utilised: UKSPF funding has been sourced for the installation of the PV panels on the roof of the gym and bowls hall. Contracts are currently being reviewed with works planned to commence in February 2025.
- Car Park, Bouskell Park, Blaby - £177,659 planned spend not yet utilised: The majority of works have been completed and the car park reopened to the public at the end of January. Final costs will be recognised in the final quarter. There are some minor works ongoing which are forecast to be completed by the end of March 2025.
- Section 106-backed schemes - £176,491 planned spend not yet utilised: The Planning Obligation Monitoring Group approved a large S106 project at Ellis Park (Glenfield) in November 2024 which is currently being undertaken.
- EV Charging Hub at Enderby Leisure Centre - £147,200 planned spend not yet utilised: A planning application is being submitted to install 12 electric vehicle charging points at Enderby Leisure Centre. It's forecast that the charging points will be installed by August 2025.
- Walk & Ride, Blaby - £140,000 planned spend not yet utilised: Substantial parts of the new walk and cycle route between Lubbethorpe and the City are complete. There is a delay at the Meridian roundabout

due to required amendments to the existing highways by Leicester County Council. It is expected these works are to complete this year.

- Public Realm Works - Parks & Open Spaces – £133,000 planned spend not yet utilised: Path improvements to the district's open spaces (Crow Mills, The Osiers and Whistle Way) is due to commence in February 2025 and are anticipated to complete by the end of March 2025.
- Resurfacing of Main & Overflow Car Parks, Fosse Meadows - £130,000 planned spend not yet utilised: Following the agreement earlier this year with Green Circle to manage Fosse Meadows, Green Circle will look to access external funding opportunities to progress with the project.
- End User Device Replacement – Phase 1 – £104,804 planned spend not yet utilised. As a result of the Council's ongoing project to move IT services in-house, the first phase of replacing end of life laptops will be complete by the end of March 2025.
- HR & Payroll System - £100,000 planned spend not yet utilised: plans for phase 2 are to be revisited to assess priorities as to where we would like to focus our efforts in terms of the system and its functionality to best support BDC moving forward. The inclusion of backfilling posts where officers are working on this project, and any additional project management support costs remain within the scope of this budget allocation.

4.3 Significant Issues

In preparing this report, the author has considered issues related to Human Rights, Legal Matters, Human Resources, Equalities, Public Health Inequalities and there are no areas of concern.

5. Environmental impact

- 5.1 No Net Zero and Climate Impact Assessment (NZCIA) is required for this report although officers are required to consider environmental impacts of the capital projects brought forward in the capital programme.

6. What will it cost and are there opportunities for savings?

- 6.1 Details are set out in the preceding paragraphs

7. What are the risks and how can they be reduced?

7.1

Current Risk	Actions to reduce the risks
Net expenditure may exceed the approved budget due to a shortfall in income or overspending.	Ongoing budget monitoring to highlight variances at an early stage.
Rising inflation costs may cause project costs to exceed the approved budgets.	Regular monitoring of the project costs by the project managers together with support from Finance to address any concerns at an early stage. Any price rise that cannot be accommodated within normal tolerances will be reported back to Council before proceeding with the planned works. The overall affordability of the Capital Programme will be considered in terms of its impact on the Revenue Budget and projects will be deferred or removed from the programme as necessary

8. Other options considered

8.1 None

9. Appendix

9.1 Appendix A – Capital Monitoring Statement to 31st December 2024

10. Background paper(s)

10.1 None

11. Report author's contact details

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