

**Blaby District Council
Council**

Date of Meeting	16 September 2025
Title of Report	Recommendations of the Cabinet Executive - Quarter 1 Capital Programme Review 2025/26 This is not a Key Decision and is on the Forward Plan
Lead Member	Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore – Finance, People & Performance
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 first quarter of 2025/26.

2. Recommendation(s) to Council

- 2.1 That the report is accepted.
- 2.2 That the latest Capital Programme for 2025/26, totalling £7,438,038, 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 since it was approved by Council on 25th February 2025, including the carry forward of unspent budget from 2024/25.

4. Matters to consider

4.1 Background

The original Capital Programme for 2025/26 was approved by Council on 25th February 2025 and totalled £1,422,512, including a borrowing requirement of £680,012.

After allowing for unspent budget carried forward from 2024/25 and other movements, the Capital Programme now stands at £7,438,038. The movements between the original value and the latest value are shown in the following table, Appendix A gives a scheme-by-scheme breakdown of the planned expenditure for 2025/26.

	£
Original Capital Programme – approved February 2025	1,422,512
<u>New Additions</u>	
1. Incomplete schemes brought forward from 2024/25	5,884,382
2. ICT Infrastructure Improvements	75,000
3. Installation of PV Panels at Enderby Leisure Centre	70,000
4. Affordable Housing - Grove Rd	57,835
5. Open Space at rear of Huncote Leisure Centre	50,000
6. Food Waste Vehicles and Receptacles	30,000
7. ICT: Development and Refresh	25,000
8. Section 106 backed schemes	9,098
9. Capital Grants Programme	616
<u>Reductions</u>	
10. Replacement CRM/Granicus solutions	(186,405)
Revised Capital Programme 2025/26	7,438,038

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

New Additions

1. Reflects schemes that were not finalised at 31st March 2025. Budget provision, along with associated resources, was carried over into the new financial year to allow for the projects be completed. This includes:
 - £970k for the purchase of new food waste vehicles and caddies in preparation for the rollout of weekly food waste collections from March 2026.
 - £805k for the Council's fleet vehicle replacement programme. Orders have been placed for three new refuse collection vehicles and are due to be delivered in 25/26.

- £683k for strategic property investment which is subject to the identification of appropriate opportunities.
 - £591k provision for the installation of electric vehicle infrastructure at the Council Depot, with works due to commence when plans are finalised.
2. ICT Infrastructure Improvements – This is part of the Council’s ongoing commitment to transitioning IT services in-house. The 2025/26 additional budget was approved by Council on 27th February 2024.
 3. Installation of PV Panels at Enderby Leisure Centre – In the 2024/25 Q2 Capital Programme Review presented to Council on 19th November 2024 the report detailed the external grant funding being removed due to unfavourable grant conditions. In the 2024/25 Q3 Capital Programme Review presented to Council on 25th February highlighted that UKSPF funds were used towards the project in 2024/25. To successfully meet the original scope of the project an additional £70k is being added back to the project which is to be financed by the Council.
 4. Affordable Housing - Grove Rd – This decision was approved by Council on 24th September 2024 to support the Norton Housing Mental Health scheme in Blaby.
 5. Open Space at rear of Huncote Leisure Centre – Repurposing of land at the former Huncote BMX track as public open space funded by general reserves. This decision was approved by Council on 21st May 2024.
 6. Food Waste Vehicles and Receptacles – Increase parking capacity at Whetstone Depot to accommodate the new food waste vehicles. This budget addition is to be funded by prudential borrowing.
 7. ICT: Development and Refresh – see note 2.
 8. Section 106 – Monies received are only 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.
 9. Capital Grants Programme – Repayment of unused grant that has been returned by the grant recipient.
 10. Replacement CRM/Granicus solutions – Due to the proposed local government reorganisation it been decided that a new CRM would not be required at this time.
- 4.2 At the end of June 2025, the Council had spent £385,182 against its planned Capital Programme.

The reasons behind the main variances are as follows:

- Fleet Vehicle Replacement Programme - £1,109,047 planned spend not yet utilised. The majority of budget is allocated for three new waste collection vehicles. One of the vehicles was delivered in July 2025 and the other two are due to be delivered later in the year.
- Food Waste Vehicles and Receptacles - £1,000,000 planned spend not yet utilised: The vehicles, which will use Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) have been ordered, of which two are the being delivered imminently while the remaining vehicles will be delivered in 2026 due to high demand. Vehicles not received by March 2026 will be leased in the short-term to meet service needs. This report seeks to approve additional capital budget for the new layout of the depot to accommodate the food waste vehicles.
- Disabled Facilities Grants - £895,327 planned spend not yet utilised: 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 Regeneration Property Investment - £682,056 planned spend not yet utilised: Due to the high demand of homelessness accommodation in the District the Council is investigating a larger portfolio of property purchases in which unspent budget on this project will contribute towards.
- Net Zero at the Depot - £591,000 planned spend not yet utilised: The project is progressing after a pause while the installation of solar panels at the depot was being completed. We are awaiting designs and tendered costs from the consultants/specialists for the electric vehicle infrastructure at the depot. Any difference in costs will be taken to Council in a separate report. Once this is complete a timeframe can be determined.
- Strategic Review: Land Rear Of Enderby Leisure Centre - £364,398 planned spend not yet utilised: Consultants are engaging with the Council's Local Plan team; providing information for the site to be assessed for inclusion in the new Local Plan.
- IT Infrastructure Improvements - £323,927 planned spend not yet utilised: The majority of capital spend has been expedited leading up to the launch of in-house IT services on 1st July 2025. There will be additional expenditure on IT infrastructure in the next few months.

- Section 106-backed Schemes - £268,975 planned spend not yet utilised: The Planning Obligation Monitoring Group approved a large S106 project at Trinity Road Park and Warwick Road Recreation Ground (Whetstone) in March 2025 which is currently being undertaken.
- Strategic Asset Review - £223,858 planned spend not yet utilised: Following the Local Government Reorganisation planned, priorities have been reviewed and work on this project has been paused.
- Income Management System – £163,211 planned spend not yet utilised: The new system is live; we are awaiting final billing for the completed project. Once final costs have been determined it is thought there will be a saving on budget to be returned to the Council.
- EV Charging Hub at Enderby Leisure Centre - £147,200 planned spend not yet utilised: The tender process for 12 electric vehicle charging points has completed and contract awarded. The installer has carried out the first site visit and final drawings and designs are being produced. It is anticipated that works will complete by the end of the year.
- Walk & Ride, Blaby - £140,000 planned spend not yet utilised: The new walk and cycle route in the district will be complete by March 2026. Leicester City Council are leading this project along with Leicestershire County Council. The budget allocated in the capital programme is contingency for any unforeseen costs to Blaby District Council. Once the project is complete any savings will be determined and returned to the Council.
- Finance System Upgrade - £127,320 planned spend not yet utilised: The project will commence later in the year when it's anticipated that resources will be available.
- Replacement of gym equipment at Enderby Leisure Centre - £125,292 planned spend not yet utilised: The condition of existing gym equipment is being evaluated and suitable replacements sourced. It's forecast that the new gym equipment will be purchased by the end of October 2025.
- End User Device Replacement - £110,648 planned spend not yet utilised: Phase one of IT devices rollout has been completed with phase two to be rolled out during 2025/26.
- Installation of PV Panels at Enderby Leisure Centre – £109,260 planned spend not yet utilised: Installation is on track for completion by September 2025. Grid connection will be finalised following the National Grid inspection. The energy generated will be sold to the leisure centre's operator (SLM), creating a revenue stream for the council alongside significant carbon savings.

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 In preparing this report the author has considered the impact on the environment and there are no areas of concern.

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 30th June 2025

10. Background paper(s)

10.1 None.

11. Report author's contact details

Jo Davis

Accountancy Services Manager

Joanne.davis@blaby.gov.uk