

**Blaby District Council
Council**

Date of Meeting	18 November 2025
Title of Report	Quarter 2 Capital Programme Review 2025/26 This is not a Key Decision and is on the Forward Plan
Lead Member	Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore - Finance, People and Transformation (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 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 £7,627,666, 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 2nd quarter of the year.

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.

The revised Capital Programme following the 1st quarter of 2025/26 was approved in September 2025 and amounted to £7,438,038. The following table shows the latest Capital Programme which now amounts to £7,627,666. Appendix A gives a scheme-by-scheme breakdown of the planned expenditure for 2025/26.

	£
Approved Capital Programme 2025/26	7,438,038
<u>Additions</u>	
1. Net Zero at the Depot	379,000
2. EV Charging Hub at Enderby Leisure Centre	32,800
3. Open Space at rear of Huncote Leisure Centre	13,303
4. Section 106 backed schemes	1,686
<u>Reductions</u>	
5. Strategic Asset Review	(223,858)
6. Works to Landfill Gas Monitoring System, Huncote	(13,303)
Revised Capital Programme 2025/26	7,627,666

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

Additions

1. Net Zero at the Depot – to enable the installation of the electric vehicle infrastructure at the Council's depot. The decision was approved at full Council on 16th September 2025.
2. EV Charging Hub at Enderby Leisure Centre – this project is being led by Harborough District Council. The original budget was an estimate and based on an even split between participating Councils. Site surveys have now taken place and costs updated, additional budget requirement has been identified. The budget addition is to be funded by the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) grant.
3. Open Space at rear of Huncote Leisure Centre – additional demolition works were required at the larger BMX track. Existing budget has been

transferred from the Works to Landfill Gas Monitoring System, Huncote project.

4. Section 106 backed schemes - 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.

Reductions

5. Strategic Asset Review – as a result of LGR, the Council has decided not to continue with the Strategic Asset Review of the Council offices.

6. Works to Landfill Gas Monitoring System, Huncote – refer to point 3.

- 4.2 At the end of September 2025, the Council had spent £1,470,926 against its planned Capital Programme.

Appendix B of this report shows the forecast timeline to completion of projects and schemes in the Council's current capital programme along with, the forecast capital spends, savings and slippages into the next financial year.

As can be seen various projects are expected to continue into the 2026/27 financial year so these will show as a variance against the project budget.

At the end of the financial year any outstanding budget for these projects will be carried over into 2026/27 to enable the project to continue as planned. Timing of expenditure is also dependent on individual contract terms.

The reasons behind the main variances are as follows:

- Food Waste Vehicles and Receptacles - £987,330 planned spend not yet utilised: The vehicles, which will use Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) have been ordered. One has been delivered, one is due imminently, while the remaining vehicles will not be delivered until 2026 due to high demand. Vehicles not received by March 2026 will be leased in the short-term to meet service needs.
- Net Zero at the Depot - £970,000 planned spend not yet utilised: Design works for the electric vehicle infrastructure at the Council's depot have now been finalised and contractor procured. Contracts are due to be signed, with works due to begin in December 2025 to complete by March 2026. An application for a government grant has been submitted by the Council. If successful, the central government contribution will reduce the Council's own financing of the project.
- Fleet Vehicle Replacement Programme - £818,507 planned spend not yet utilised: Two new waste collection vehicles have been received and paid for in October 2025. Two new vans will be ordered in the next

quarter, and remaining orders will be placed once the electric vehicle infrastructure project has commenced.

- 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.
- Disabled Facilities Grants - £642,977 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 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 - £343,197 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 - £273,877 planned spend not yet utilised: The IT transition completed on 1st July 2025. Final invoices are being chased and will be expensed to the project in the next quarter when it is expected that savings will be realised.
- EV Charging Hub at Enderby Leisure Centre - £180,000 planned spend not yet utilised: Design works for 12 electric vehicle charging points is ongoing and once finalised a planning application will be submitted. It is anticipated that works will commence in January 2026 and complete by the end of the financial year.
- 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 received, any savings will be released.
- 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 is currently in early stages with procurement ongoing. The

upgrade will commence later in the year and is forecast to complete by August 2026.

- Replacement of gym equipment at Enderby Leisure Centre - £125,292 planned spend not yet utilised: It is forecast that the new gym equipment will be purchased by the end of November 2025.
- Installation of PV Panels at Enderby Leisure Centre – £109,260 planned spend not yet utilised: The installation of PV panels at Enderby Leisure Centre was completed during September 2025. Final invoice to be received in which savings will be realised.

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 September 2025

9.2 Appendix B – Capital Forecasting Statement to 30th September 2025

10. Background paper(s)

10.1 None.

11. Report author's contact details

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