

Corporate Capital Strategy

2022/23 to 2031/32

Environment and
Infrastructure

Resources

Adult Social
Care and Health

Leisure, Tourism
and Sport

Children,
Education and
Skills

Climate Change,
Planning and
Housing

Stronger and
Safer
Communities



Solihull
METROPOLITAN
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The prudential code for capital finance in local authorities set out the requirement that authorities should have in place a capital strategy and governance procedures for the setting and revising of the strategy and prudential indicators. This will be done by the same body that approves the local authority's budget, which for Solihull will be Full Council.
- 1.2 The code was last update in December 2021, however government acknowledged that this launch date would mean reporting on for 2022/23 would be difficult, the code therefore allows for reporting to commence from the 2023/24 financial year. As a result this strategy is based on the 2017 version of the code.
- 1.3 The Director of Resources and Deputy Chief Executive will be responsible for ensuring that all matters required to be taken into account are reported to the decision making body for consideration and for establishing procedures to monitor performance.
- 1.4 Under the prudential code guidance a capital strategy needs to demonstrate that Solihull takes capital expenditure and investment decisions in line with service objectives and properly takes account of stewardship, value for money, prudence, sustainability and affordability.
- 1.5 The Council has a revised capital programme totalling £103.004 million in 2021/22 and an asset base valued at £1,215.242 million. This strategy is an overarching document which sets the policy framework for the development, management and monitoring of this investment and forms a key component of the Council's planning alongside the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), Treasury Management Strategy, Corporate Asset Strategy, Property Investment Strategy and the Council's Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy.
- 1.6 The Corporate Capital Strategy sits alongside the revenue budget strategy and feeds into the annual revenue budget by informing on the revenue implications of capital funding decisions. The ongoing implications for the revenue budget strategy are fully considered before any capital funding decisions are confirmed.
- 1.7 Equally, the availability of prudential borrowing means that capital and revenue solutions to service delivery can be considered, and ranked, alongside each other as part of an integrated revenue and capital financial strategy.
- 1.8 The Corporate Capital Strategy further sets out the Council's approach to the allocation of its capital resources and how this links to its strategic priorities and objectives at a corporate and service level. It describes how the Council has responded to the opportunities provided by prudential borrowing and other new sources of finance and finally outlines the links to other key Council policies. Specifically this document addresses the following points:
- How the Council's priorities and objectives inform the capital programme;
 - Outlines service priorities, objectives and major projects;

- Summarises the forecast 10 year capital programme;
 - Describes the links to the corporate Asset Strategy;
 - Outlines the Council’s capital resource allocation methodology;
 - Outlines the implications of capital investment decisions;
 - Reviews the relevant capital prudential indicators and limits; and
 - Sets out the links to other council strategies, plans and policies.
- 1.9 Notwithstanding the significant investment that will be delivered through capital projects, the projected programme recognises the diminishing capital resources and the need to respond to this position.
- 1.10 The Corporate Capital Strategy outlines a ten year capital programme up to 2031/32. It will be refreshed on an annual basis to ensure its continued relevance and to update it for any significant changes in legislation or Council policy, in line with the MTFS.
- 1.11 Within the short term (up to 3 years) the focus of the capital programme is on implementation and delivery of schemes. The programme is more fluid with the addition of new schemes to meet the service priorities that arise.

2. Service Priorities and Objectives

- 2.1 Individual service priorities flow from the objectives contained within the Council Plan. This ensures that all parts of the organisation are focused on meeting the priorities identified by the Council in conjunction with the local community and its strategic partners.
- 2.2 The main service priorities, objectives and projects, where applicable, are summarised below by cabinet portfolio.

Adult Social Care and Health

- 2.3 The principles set out in the Adult Care and Support Transformation Programme and the Adult Care and Support Offer outline the nature of the challenges we face, our vision for the future of care and support in Solihull and how we will go about making the changes and realising that vision.
- 2.4 The focus for the programme remains on supporting people to stay in their own homes, with equipment, adaptations and increased use of digital technology driving this change. The Housing Assistance Policy (HAP) has been developed and its aim is to support residents to improve their health and wellbeing by addressing problems with unsuitable homes that do not meet their needs. Assistance delivered through the HAP will also help us to achieve the aims and objectives of the Council as set out in several of its strategies and plans; helping to deliver actions and make improved living a reality for residents.
- 2.5 The Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) is the key funding source for the above initiatives and the service is delivered jointly between the Council and Solihull Community Housing and it falls within the framework of the Better Care Fund agreement between the Council and Health partners.

Children, Education and Skills

- 2.6 The Children's Education and Skills Capital Strategy is reflected in the Solihull Schools Asset Management Plan (AMP). It comprises the investment programmes that fall within the remit of the Council's Children, Education and Skills Portfolio and within that, provision for (1) children's services and (2) the schools estate capital works. Consultation with schools and key stakeholders on the AMP continues through various collaborative processes.
- 2.7 A dedicated Property Project Manager has now been appointed to take forward development schemes following the ongoing restructure of the Schools Asset Support Team (SAST) provision.
- 2.8 The AMP, updated and approved in 2019, is developed and managed for, essentially, the benefit of the schools estate. The purpose of the AMP is to develop a strategic approach to capital investment with the aim of providing appropriate facilities that assist in raising education standards within a quality built environment. The plan is focused upon a three year rolling programme of capital works, reviewable annually, and has six aims:
- To ensure sufficient physical provision for pupil places;
 - To support the effective delivery of teaching and learning;
 - To support the raising of education standards;
 - To support inclusion and make provision for the most vulnerable pupils;
 - To identify investment priorities which will both inform, and be influenced by priorities within, the Council Plan and;
 - To improve the building condition of the maintained schools estate through planned maintenance, long term refurbishments or renewal to achieve these aims.
- 2.9 The Children, Education and Skills Capital Programme is comprised of subordinate programmes essentially focused upon the:
- Northern Primary estate
 - Schools Improvement and Expansion
 - School Improvements for High Needs Block provision
 - Schools Maintenance
 - Schools Managed Projects

The Northern Primary Programme

- 2.10 This is a programme of activity aimed at the improvement of the North Solihull primary estate which is now in its latter phase. The final planned project at Kingshurst Primary School, to achieve the original target for school places, was completed December 2020.

The Schools Improvement and Expansion Programme

- 2.11 This incorporates the priorities highlighted within the School Organisation Plan (Places) and on-going support for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and provision for Early Years.
- 2.12 Valley – The previously proposed amalgamation of junior and infant schools, releasing a site for housing development has been frustrated by Sport England requirements to retain provision, the sites are now being reviewed to consider the proposed amalgamation in conjunction with the development of special needs provision in the released site rather than a release for housing development.
- 2.13 Summerfield PRU – The building condition of the existing facility has necessitated a review of the appropriate estates provision for this service going forward, feasibility is in progress with stakeholders to transfer the service to a new facility at Daylesford Primary School site.
- 2.14 In support of the evolving SEND strategy funding to support projects within the Special Needs Commissioning Plan is now included within the Capital Programme and will specifically facilitate the new Free School (Autism) planned for the Bosworth Campus in North Solihull.

The Schools Maintenance Programme

- 2.15 This aspect of the programme continues to cover the planned maintenance element of the AMP delivered by Property Services with the principal focus on the maintained primary sector. The programme is based upon an annual review of the maintenance priorities for the Council's maintained schools.
- 2.16 Additionally, the Voluntary Aided estate benefits from a separate programme of investment which goes directly to the Diocesan Authorities. This is deployed annually in much the same manner as our maintenance programme, and where we, presently, serve as programme coordinators.

The Schools Managed Programme

- 2.17 Schools also implement their own schemes of work utilising Devolved Formula Capital, revenue or reserves. Considered as a collective sum within the capital programme, these works are reviewed against the aims of the AMP via the landlord approval process.

Climate Change, Planning and Housing

- 2.18 The only approved scheme within this portfolio currently is a programme of landscaping works across parks and open spaces within the north of the borough.
- 2.19 Climate change is an issue affecting us all. Recognising this, we're committed to adapting to its effects, reducing our emissions, and helping our population make positive changes at home and at work. The overarching MTFs provides more information on the Council's approach to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030. The revenue budget has been increased to allow for additional staff resources to progress agendas on climate change and economic development. It

is likely that over the forthcoming years there will be further capital schemes which will be identified to enable the Council to achieve this ambition.

Environment and Infrastructure

- 2.20 The 'Vision for Transport in Solihull' is the strategy to deliver local transport objectives to the transport and road networks across Solihull borough in line with the key objectives for the West Midlands over the next 5 years as detailed in the new City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) which replaces the previous Local Transport Plan (LTP).
- 2.21 The CRSTS will retain funding equivalent to average annual funding to date for the Integrated Transport Block (ITB) and Highways Maintenance funding, including the Potholes Action Fund but will also incorporate additional wider investment to commence transformational change in local transport networks as part of an overall West Midlands region wide programme of projects that will be taken forward over the next 5 years.
- 2.22 The CRSTS key objectives are considered to be relevant 'Strategic Aims' for transport within Solihull and are therefore the basis against which Solihull's local transport objectives are considered, which are to:
- Support economic growth;
 - Tackle climate change;
 - Contribute to better safety, security and health; and
 - Improve quality of life and a healthy natural environment.
- 2.23 The Solihull Connected transport strategy objectives are reflected in the main priorities above which also recognises supporting regional road safety programmes and delivering local improvements. The Solihull Connected Delivery Plan identifies specific transport priorities for development to an investment ready state. Key highlights of our Delivery Plan include:
- Community Liveability programme;
 - Further enhancements to cycle routes;
 - Public Transport Improvements; and
 - Maintenance and improvement of the road network and structures infrastructure.
- 2.24 The Council delivers economic growth, opportunities and regeneration for Solihull, by maximising external funding available to the borough and through our local and regional partnerships.
- 2.25 Through the vision and investment programme of UK Central (UKC) which includes both the Infrastructure Programme being delivered by the Council directly, and the Interchange Programme being delivered by the Council's Urban Growth Company (UGC), the Council is committed to creating jobs and delivering inclusive economic growth. The unique concentration of strategic economic assets in Solihull that includes Jaguar Land Rover, Birmingham Airport and the NEC offers an opportunity on a scale that is of national significance.
- 2.26 The UKC Programme and development plans for the borough will support investment in transport, development, clusters of emerging sectors, and the

green infrastructure which will play such a vital role in the borough's success. It shows that careful planning; detailed design and ambitious strategies will ensure an exciting and sustainable future.

Leisure, Tourism and Sport

- 2.27 The portfolio will be working to deliver significant priorities around the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, the Velo Birmingham Cycle event, Sport England Active Communities Pilot and the Coventry 2021 City of Culture.
- 2.28 The Council will deliver these priorities with key partners such as, but not limited to:
- The West Midlands Combined Authority
 - Birmingham City Council
 - Coventry City Council
- 2.29 The Council has not identified the need for any capital funding as yet to support these priorities but will work closely with the above stakeholders to secure external funding that fit our strategic objectives.

Resources

- 2.30 The portfolio is responsible for delivering the Council's Property Investment Strategy whose primary objective is to invest in property through a balanced strategy of acquisition, retention and management in order to support the delivery of the Council's service, regeneration and economic development priorities.
- 2.31 Other significant capital projects within the Resources Cabinet Portfolio include the Corporate Property Management Programme for the enhancement of Council properties, excluding schools and housing dwellings. This programme currently relies on funding through prudential borrowing.
- 2.32 The Digital Strategy continues to recognise the important role digital plays in delivering the Council's objectives and will be refreshed in 2022 to set the Digital direction for the following five years. This will ensure that both technical and financial resources are aligned to the Council Plan.
- 2.33 The corporate ICT programme supports the central equipment refresh programme and the ICT capital projects. During 2022/23 the migration of the Oracle E Business Suite to Oracle Cloud will continue with a go live in summer 2022 of core system elements. The ICT capital programme will also continue to support the exploitation of Microsoft 365.
- 2.34 The ICT division seeks opportunities to innovate services using digital technology. This includes identifying technical solutions to known business problems and also bringing new technology opportunities to the business. In this way the division both contributes to the Council Plan and helps to shape it.

Where funds are sought from the ICT capital programme, a clear link on how the project will support the Digital Strategy will be required.

Stronger and Safer Communities

- 2.35 Bereavement Service's 30 year Business Strategy sets out how the Council will meet future demand for service provision over this period. In the context of the period of the Corporate Capital Strategy the most significant project is the acquisition of land at Woodlands Cemetery and Crematorium.
- 2.36 The Library and Information Service's mission is to provide libraries that inspire, enrich, improve quality of life for all, help individuals and communities achieve their full potential and create a sense of place. Priorities include transforming services within libraries to meet the changing needs of customers. These improvements to the service will be achieved by using partnerships and engaging with the local community. A further priority is to explore the feasibility of co-location/relocation of existing libraries when opportunities arise.
- 2.37 The portfolio also includes a budget for minor works carried out in private sector homes to assist vulnerable occupiers which do not meet the criteria of the Disabled Facilities Grant.

Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme

- 2.38 The proposed council housing capital programme for 2022/23 is £29.318 million. This will continue with the approach set out in the Solihull Community Housing Asset Management Strategy. The focus of the programme has been reviewed and additional funding identified in order to prioritise investment into building safety, in addition to the regular programmes of cyclical maintenance and improvements of the housing stock; the following are the key investments included:

- The prioritisation of Health and Safety and legislative requirements; primarily on the continuation of the programmes to retro-fit sprinkler systems within, and replace Spandrel Panels on the exterior of, our high rise blocks, in addition to the continuation of programmes of works covering gas safety and electrical integrity;
- Improving energy efficiency for tenants and contributing to lowering carbon emissions within the Borough by investing in more efficient heating systems and exploring the utilisation of new technologies;
- The Envelope programme to improve security, energy efficiency and aesthetics of low rise communal areas;
- Planned maintenance works to roofs and kitchen and bathroom replacements to maintain decent homes standards;
- The adaptations for disabled residents will continue where identified on a needs basis; and
- New build developments and appropriate property acquisitions where opportunities identified.

3. Summary of Current and Forecast Ten Year Capital Programme

- 3.1 The Council's current and proposed capital programme for the period 2021/22 to 2031/32 is summarised below. This is based on the current approved programme and a forecast for future years based on actual funding allocations where known and estimates based on current allocations where a long term allocation has not been provided by central government.

Summary of Corporate Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2031/32												
Cabinet Portfolio	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Adult Social Care and Health	4.421	2.970	2.190	2.190	2.190	2.190	2.190	2.190	2.190	2.190	2.190	27.101
Children, Education and Skills	8.388	9.925	4.916	2.900	2.900	2.900	2.900	2.900	2.900	2.900	2.900	46.429
Climate Change, Planning and Housing	0.091	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.091
Environment and Infrastructure	19.120	31.421	30.476	35.706	33.850	5.100	5.100	5.100	5.100	5.100	5.100	181.173
Leisure, Tourism and Sport	0.279	0.296	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.575
Resources	46.140	4.160	23.400	23.400	2.400	2.400	2.400	2.400	2.400	2.400	2.400	113.900
Stronger and Safer Communities	0.731	5.337	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	6.068
Total Cabinet Portfolios (Projection)	79.170	54.109	60.982	64.196	41.340	12.590	12.590	12.590	12.590	12.590	12.590	375.337
Housing Revenue Account	23.834	29.318	19.098	15.324	16.407	17.922	18.968	20.24	21.367	22.542	23.681	228.701
Total Council Capital Programme	103.004	83.427	80.080	79.520	57.747	30.512	31.558	32.830	33.957	35.132	36.271	604.038

4. Asset Management

- 4.1 Asset management and its planning forms an integral part of the Council's business management arrangements and is crucial to the delivery of efficient and effective services.
- 4.2 The Council's corporate Asset Management Strategy, along with the Schools, Housing and Transportation service plans, sets out the medium to long term land, property and accommodation strategies that have been drawn up in support of the Council's existing strategic priorities and key objectives and other potential service developments.
- 4.3 The Council's asset management policy is articulated within the strategy and a description of the organisational arrangements for implementing and developing the policy is also included. The strategy provides detailed information about the Council's existing asset base and a range of performance measures and indicators that are intended to inform future decisions about the suitability, sufficiency, and sustainability of the Council's land and property resources.
- 4.4 The Council works to manage assets creatively, responsibly, efficiently and effectively towards achieving the Council's and community ambitions.
- 4.5 The table below provides a summary of the values of the assets owned by Solihull Council as at 31 March 2021.

Value of Non-current Assets as at 31 March 2021:	
Council Owned Assets	£m
Council Dwellings	466.192
Other Land & Buildings	548.476
Vehicles Plant & Equipment	8.053
Infrastructure	133.606
Community Assets	13.951
Assets Under Construction	20.456
Heritage Assets	0.950
Investment Property	17.450
Intangible Assets	6.108
Total Council Owned Assets	1,215.242

5. Prudential Borrowing

- 5.1 Capital expenditure incurred by the Council is financed by a variety of sources including, capital receipts, capital grants, external contributions from third parties such as s106 planning agreements and Community Infrastructure Levy and the use of reserves or from revenue budget contributions. Any capital expenditure not financed by the above will need to be funded by borrowing. Existing Council debt is the consequence of historical capital expenditure funded from borrowing.
- 5.2 Since 1st April 2004 local authority borrowing for the purpose of capital expenditure has been governed by the CIPFA Prudential Code. The Code replaces the previous borrowing regime and the Council is able to undertake further borrowing as long as it complies with the Code and can demonstrate that it is affordable, sustainable and prudent. Each year, Full Council is asked to approve parameters for borrowing as part of the Code.
- 5.3 The funding of any project from prudential borrowing is subject to there being sufficient headroom within the Council's prudential indicators. A number of broad principles have been developed which have been approved by Full Cabinet:
- i. Prudential borrowing could be used (in part or potentially in full) to finance the capital cost of the scheme.
 - ii. The borrowing would be based on a maximum repayment period of 50 years (or the estimated lifespan of the asset, whichever was the shorter). *(Note that a period of 60 years may be considered in specific circumstances where appropriate.)*
 - iii. This would be subject to:
 - a. The assets being maintained over that period to an agreed lifecycle standard,
 - b. Sufficient provision to cover these costs in the financial model presented as part of any business case.

6. Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy

Background and approval requirements

- 6.1 The 2015 Autumn Statement announced a new flexibility for local authorities to use capital receipts from the sale of property, plant and equipment assets to fund the costs of service reform. The Communities Secretary as part of the provisional settlement announced in December 2017 that this flexibility would be extended until March 2022. Councils can only use sale proceeds realised over that period, and not existing receipts. Indications are that the flexibility may be extended further.
- 6.2 Local authorities can use capital receipts from the sale of property, plant and equipment in years that the flexibility is offered for expenditure on any project that is designed to generate ongoing revenue savings in the delivery of public

services and/or transform service delivery to reduce costs or to improve the quality of service delivery in future years.

- 6.3 Local authorities are required to publish their plans for the flexible use of capital receipts in a strategy which must be approved by Full Council.
- 6.4 Since 2019/20 the flexible use of capital receipts strategy has been prepared as part of the Corporate Capital Strategy as permitted by the guidance.
- 6.5 The strategy should be approved before the beginning of each financial year by Full Council. If changes are proposed to the strategy during the course of the financial year, for example if a project is identified which can be funded using this flexibility, then the revised strategy will require the approval of Full Council. Furthermore, any revisions to the strategy in-year will need to be reported to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).

Capital receipts forecast

- 6.6 The capital receipts projected during the qualifying period are shown in the table below. However, the majority of this funding is already committed to the capital programme and if it was put to an alternative use it would need to be replaced by other funding.

	2021/22 £m	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	Total £m
Projected Capital Receipts	0.509	0.114	0.314	10.614	11.551

- 6.7 The capital receipts forecast in the table above are taken into consideration in the Council's Corporate Capital Strategy in identifying the surplus/deficit between available capital funding and the proposed capital programme. For the remainder of the period covered by this ten year Corporate Capital Strategy, additional capital receipts of £8.598 million are projected to 2031/32.

Qualifying projects

- 6.8 Qualifying expenditure is that which is forecast to generate on-going savings to an authority's and/or to another public sector body's net service expenditure. Examples provided in the guidance include service sharing, reform feasibility work, freeing up land, digital investment, procurement aggregation, systems to tackle fraud and setting up alternative delivery models. Capital receipts can only be applied to fund set up and implementation costs and must not be used for on-going revenue costs.
- 6.9 To aid accountability and transparency the strategy is required to list each project that plans to make use of the capital receipts flexibility. However, at this stage this strategy describes the process that the Council will go through to identify projects, rather than the projects themselves.

- 6.10 When the Council considers that it has a proposal that would be suitable for making use of the capital receipts flexibility it will present the following information in a business case to Full Cabinet:
- The specific details of the project, timelines and what service outcomes it will achieve;
 - The costs of the project and the benefits that are expected to be delivered;
 - Details of what alternative funding will be used to replace the capital receipts that are now going to be used for this purpose, with the implications on the Council's Prudential Indicators including any additional approvals required;
 - A recommendation that clearly evidences that by using the capital receipts flexibility the Council will achieve greater savings than would be possible using alternative sources of funding.
- 6.11 In December 2017, Full Council approved the inclusion of the termination of the Leisure PPP contract as a qualifying project for the flexible use of capital receipts. This enabled the Council to utilise capital receipts received between April 2016 and March 2018. The projects that were originally planned to be funded from these capital receipts were financed by prudential borrowing, funded from the Leisure contract annual savings.
- 6.12 As in 2021/22, any changes to this strategy, including any further qualifying projects identified for inclusion, will be reported to Full Council for approval.

Projects approved in previous years

- 6.13 The strategy is required to list the projects approved in previous years and comment on progress against delivery of the planned savings or service transformation initially targeted for each project.
- 6.14 As referred to at 6.11, the only qualifying project identified to date is the termination of the Leisure PPP contract, which is now complete.

7. Capital Receipts

- 7.1 The Council continues to face the challenge to effectively prioritise and manage capital investment. Recent years have seen a variation in the value of the capital receipts that have been received.
- 7.2 The difference between the capital receipts funding available and the capital receipts approved to fund capital programme schemes is shown in the table below. This shows that currently there is a forecast surplus available for allocation over the next three financial years, however this value is dependent on future receipts being received in line with current forecasts.

	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m
Forecast cumulative surplus	4.901	4.313	13.787

7.3 The projected three-year forecast, as highlighted in paragraph 6.6, indicates limited receipts will be available in the short term, however, historical receipts which have yet to be allocated ensure a cumulative surplus in available capital funding.

7.4 With the exception of specific receipts from housing and school related asset disposals, capital receipts are treated as a corporate resource available to fund the corporate capital programme. Full Cabinet is responsible for deciding how corporate capital receipts are to be utilised in line with the Council's objectives.

7.5 The Corporate Capital Strategy is supported by the Council's Corporate Asset Management Strategy which includes an objective to optimise the Council's land and property portfolio through proactive estate management and effective corporate arrangements for the acquisition and disposal of land and property assets.

7.6 The Council will continue to realise the value of any assets that have been declared surplus to requirements in a timely manner, having regard to the prevailing market conditions.

8. The Revenue Implications of Capital Investment Decisions

8.1 The Council shall ensure that the revenue implications of capital finance, including financing costs, are properly taken into account within the option appraisal process.

8.2 The capital financing charges and additional running costs arising from major corporate capital investment decisions have been fed into the latest MTFs. This enables members to consider the consequences of major capital investment alongside other competing priorities for revenue funding.

8.3 For self-funded projects the relevant service area is required to identify the revenue implications of the project and demonstrate how they will be financed as part of the approval process. In addition if the capital investment generates income, the risks to the income stream should be considered during the business case evaluation including the impact of potential vacant periods, decline in market rents etc.

9. Long Term Implications of Capital Investment Decisions

9.1 Capital investment decision making is not only about ensuring the initial allocation of capital funds meet the corporate and service priorities, further review ensures that the asset is fully utilised, sustainable and affordable throughout its whole life. This overarching commitment to long term affordability is a key principle in any capital investment appraisal decision. In making its

capital investment decisions the Council must have explicit regard to consider all reasonable options available.

10. Prudent Implications of Capital Investment Decisions

- 10.1 In producing the Corporate Capital Strategy the Council ensures all of the capital and investment plans are prudent and sustainable.
- 10.2 In doing so we take into account the arrangements for the repayment of debt, through a prudent MRP policy in line with MRP guidance produced by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
- 10.3 Further consideration is given to risk and the impact, or potential impact, of capital investment decisions on the Council's overall fiscal sustainability.

11. Risk Implications of Capital Investment Decisions

- 11.1 Any proposed substantial capital or investment plan will be subject to a risk analysis review. It is important to note that risk will always exist in some measure and cannot be removed in its entirety. The results of the risk analysis will be considered in line with the risk management strategies we have in place commensurate with the Council's low risk appetite.
- 11.2 Managing the Council's risks is an area of priority focus for senior management and Members including managing strategic risks associated with capital investment decisions. The Council aims to minimise its exposure to unwanted risks through the risk analysis review.

12. Affordability Implications of Capital Investment Decisions

- 12.1 The fundamental objective is to ensure the affordability of the Council's capital and investment plans. To further ensure that the total capital investment of the Council remains within sustainable limits, the Council is required to consider all of the resources available to it and those estimated to be available in the future, together with the totality of its capital plans and income and expenditure forecasts.
- 12.2 The Prudential Code refers to both affordability and prudence. In order to ensure long term affordability, decisions have also to be prudent and in the long term sustainable. Where borrowing is to be used, the principles detailed in paragraph 5.3 represent the affordability test; that is, the ability to fund interest costs with the repayment of the borrowing (the MRP charge) must be prudently matched to the asset life and any income streams to fund this asset acquisition must be sustainable.

13. Value for Money Implications of Capital Investment Decisions

- 13.1 Another key principle is to ensure value for money in any asset investment over the life of the asset. Initially the manner in which capital monies are spent is governed by the Procurement Strategy to ensure that the acquisition of all goods and services secures value for money.

13.2 Value for money is not just limited to financial costs and efficiency but could also consider various impacts on the economy, the environment and social welfare. Value for money is assessed in a number of ways including as part of the annual external audit of the Council's financial statements which concluded that the Council has put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

14. Prudential Indicators

14.1 The Council shall set and monitor against the specified prudential indicators for capital expenditure and external debt. The prudential indicators provide a broad framework to be considered alongside robust forecasting procedures embedded into the budget consideration process.

14.2 The prudential indicators required by the Prudential Code are designed to support and record local decision making in a manner that is publicly accountable. They are not designed to be comparative performance indicators.

14.3 They should be considered in parallel with the treasury management indicators required by the CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice and Cross-Sectoral Guidance Notes.

14.4 The prudential and treasury indicators contained within the Treasury Strategy and this Corporate Capital Strategy approved by Full Council will be monitored by Audit Committee as part of the Mid Year Treasury Management Report. The Prudential Indicators are set out below.

Estimates of Capital Expenditure

14.5 The estimate of capital expenditure is the first prudential indicator and must show the total capital expenditure the Council plans to incur during the forthcoming financial year and at least the following two financial years. This information is shown in paragraph 3.1 and summarised below with the financing of the capital expenditure. Any shortfall in resources results in a borrowing need.

	2021/22 Forecast £m	2022/23 Estimate £m	2023/24 Estimate £m	2024/25 Estimate £m	2025/26 to 2031/32 Estimate £m
Non-HRA	79.170	54.109	60.982	64.196	116.880
HRA	23.834	29.318	19.098	15.324	141.127
Total	103.004	83.427	80.080	79.520	258.007
Financed by:					
Capital receipts	2.875	0.033	0.068	0.171	1.425
Capital grants	30.496	35.689	22.998	13.045	69.930
Contributions	2.515	3.688	0.300	1.450	3.250
Revenue	22.464	20.816	16.678	17.054	142.502
Net financing need for the year	44.654	23.201	40.036	47.800	40.900

Actual Capital Expenditure

- 14.6 After the year end, the actual capital expenditure incurred during the financial year will be recorded and forms one of the required prudential indicators.

	2020/21 Actual £m
Non-HRA	41.348
HRA	17.989
Total	59.337

Estimates of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream

- 14.7 Prudential indicators are required to assess the affordability of the capital investment plans, to provide an indication of the impact of the capital investment plans on the Council's overall finances. This indicator identifies the trend in the cost of capital (borrowing and other long-term obligation costs net of investment income) against the net revenue stream.

	2021/22 Forecast	2022/23 Estimate	2023/24 Estimate	2024/25 Estimate	2025/26 Estimate	
Non-HRA	12.66%	11.90%	11.37%	12.00%	12.72%	
HRA	16.62%	15.82%	16.50%	16.06%	15.50%	
	2026/27 Estimate	2027/28 Estimate	2028/29 Estimate	2029/30 Estimate	2030/31 Estimate	2031/32 Estimate
Non-HRA	12.36%	11.95%	11.63%	11.35%	11.67%	11.14%
HRA	14.13%	13.49%	13.10%	12.72%	11.26%	11.97%

Actual Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream

- 14.8 After the year end the proportion of financing costs to net revenue stream will be calculated directly from the Council's comprehensive income and expenditure statement.

	2020/21 Actual
Non-HRA	12.36%
HRA	18.44%

Estimates of the incremental impact of capital investment decisions on council tax

- 14.9 This indicator identifies the revenue costs associated with proposed changes to the three-year capital programme compared to the Council's existing approved commitments and current plans. The assumptions are based on the budget, but will invariably include some estimates, such as the level of government support, which are not published over a three-year period.

	2021/22 Forecast	2022/23 Estimate	2023/24 Estimate	2024/25 Estimate	2025/26 Estimate	
Council Tax – Band D	£35.13	£35.10	£20.59	£33.79	£34.37	
	2026/27 Estimate	2027/28 Estimate	2028/29 Estimate	2029/30 Estimate	2030/31 Estimate	2031/32 Estimate
Council Tax – Band D	£20.69	£5.55	£5.52	£5.49	£5.47	£5.44

Estimates of the incremental impact of capital investment decisions on housing rent levels

- 14.10 Similar to the council tax calculation, this indicator identifies the trend in the cost of proposed changes in the housing capital programme recommended in this budget report compared to the Council's existing commitments and current plans, expressed as a discrete impact on weekly rent levels. This indicator shows the revenue impact of any newly proposed changes, although any discrete impact will be constrained by rent controls.

	2021/22 Forecast	2022/23 Estimate	2023/24 Estimate	2024/25 Estimate	2025/26 Estimate	
Weekly Housing Rent Levels	£9.39	£49.63	£9.44	£0.00	£0.00	
	2026/27 Estimate	2027/28 Estimate	2028/29 Estimate	2029/30 Estimate	2030/31 Estimate	2031/32 Estimate
Weekly Housing Rent Levels	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

15. Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement

- 15.1 The Council is required to pay off an element of the accumulated General Fund capital spend each year (the CFR) through a revenue charge (the minimum revenue provision - MRP), although it is also allowed to undertake additional voluntary payments if required (voluntary revenue provision - VRP).
- 15.2 Regulations have been issued which require Full Council to approve an 'MRP Statement' in advance of each year. A variety of options are provided to councils, however, these are not compulsory as long as there is a prudent provision.
- 15.3 For capital expenditure incurred before 1 April 2008 or which in the future will be Supported Capital Expenditure, MRP will be charged on a 2% straight line basis, net of 'Adjustment A'. This ensures that the debt will be repaid within 50 years.
- 15.4 From 1 April 2008, for all unsupported borrowing (including PFI and Finance Leases) the MRP policy will be the:
- 15.5 Asset Life Method - There are 2 methods of calculating the annual charge under this option. Firstly, equal annual instalments or secondly by the annuity method where annual payments gradually increase during the life of the asset.

Equal Instalment Method - MRP will be based on the estimated life of the assets, in accordance with the regulations (this option must be applied for any expenditure capitalised under a Capitalisation Direction). MRP in respect of leases brought on balance sheet will equal the annual repayment of the deferred liability; and the

Annuity Method – MRP is linked to schemes where the flow of benefits is expected to increase in later years. It may be particularly attractive in connection with projects promoting regeneration.

- 15.6 These options provide for a reduction in the borrowing need over the asset's approximate life and each option is used in appropriate circumstances.
- 15.7 Regulations allow authorities to apply an 'MRP holiday', whereby the MRP charge is deferred until a year after the practical completion of the asset. The Council will apply this allowance where appropriate.
- 15.8 There is no requirement on the HRA to make a minimum revenue provision but following HRA reform, there is a requirement for a charge for depreciation to be made (although there are currently transitional arrangements in place).
- 15.9 Repayments included in annual PFI or finance leases are applied as MRP.
- 15.10 MRP on capitalised loan advances to other organisations or individuals will not be required. Instead, the capital receipts arising from the capitalised loan repayments will be used as provision to repay debt. However, revenue MRP contributions would still be required if the loan or part of the loan defaulted, equal to the amount of any impairment of the loan advanced.
- 15.11 MRP on investments in equities will be made on an annuity profile over 20 years, as recommended by government guidance.

16. Treasury Management Strategy

- 16.1 The prime policy objective of the Council's treasury management strategy is the security of funds, and the Council should avoid exposing public funds to unnecessary or unquantified risk.
- 16.2 The treasury management service is also involved in funding the Council's capital plans. These capital plans provide a guide to the borrowing needs of the Council and the longer term cash flow planning to ensure that the Council can meet its capital spending obligations.
- 16.3 The Treasury Management Strategy 2022/23 – 2031/32 contains the Treasury Indicators.

17. Property Acquisition

- 17.1 The Council is currently considering a number of strategic acquisition opportunities in line with the Property Investment Strategy. The purpose of the Strategy is to ensure the investment is carried out in accordance with an

approved process and complies with published guidance on local government capital, treasury management and investments.

- 17.2 The Strategy is predominately concerned with direct property investment but also allows the Council to invest in property funds or to take on the role of property development, either on its own or with a development partner. Preference will be given to investments of economic or social benefit to the borough.
- 17.3 The Strategy proposes that once a potential investment is identified, detailed due diligence will take place and the investment will be 'scored' against the scoring matrix. The proposal will be reviewed by an Investment Board. If the Investment Board thinks that the investment should be pursued, they will present a report to Full Cabinet for consideration.
- 17.4 November 2019, CIPFA published the Prudential Property Investment Guidance document. The objective was to explain the provisions in the Prudential Code that relate to the acquisition of properties intended to make investment returns.
- 17.5 The guidance considers the decisions that an authority should take before it acquires any property. There are three basic questions that need to be addressed, each of which might require complex analysis to determine: (i) Can we acquire the property; (ii) Should we acquire the property; (iii) Will we acquire the property.
- 17.6 For future property acquisitions the Council will comply with the Prudential Property Investment Guidance and notify Members of any deviation from it.

18. Corporate Asset Strategy

- 18.1 Particularly strong links exist between the Corporate Capital Strategy and the Corporate Asset Strategy. The Corporate Capital Strategy sets out the corporate framework to capital investment whilst the Corporate Asset Strategy provides more detailed information on the asset portfolio and its performance in meeting service objectives.
- 18.2 The strategy summarises how the Council intends to use its land and property assets in accordance with the local plan and other policies and strategies to make a significant contribution to:
- Delivery of the 5 Council Priorities;
 - Support improved service delivery;
 - Continue to provide a significant and improved revenue stream from a managed investment portfolio;
 - Drive efficiencies in both financial and environmental terms through major initiatives including investing in the operational estate.

- 18.3 The Corporate Asset Management Strategy sets out the Council's direction to 2025. The next stage involves the process of delivering Strategic Asset Management Plans (SAMPs).
- 18.4 The SAMPs will be underpinned by the data we hold including full stock condition surveys that are carried out on a rolling programme every 5 years. Priorities will be addressed using a range of data including, condition surveys, suitability assessments, energy performance, running costs, maintenance costs and assessment of service needs under each of the SAMPs.
- 18.5 With this in place the Corporate Capital Strategy will be able to enhance the presentation of the long term context in which capital decisions and investment decisions are made in relation to corporate property assets.

19. Knowledge and Skills

- 19.1 The Council has professionally qualified staff across a range of disciplines including, finance, legal, commercial and property. Staff undertake continuing professional development and attend courses on an ongoing basis to ensure compliance with latest legislation and guidance and to maintain their technical skills in order to meet the challenge and delivery of accurate and secure capital and treasury decisions. This combined knowledge supports the affordability, prudence and proportionality of Corporate Capital Strategy decision making.
- 19.2 External professional advice is acquired where required and will always be sought in respect of any major capital project or property investment decision to provide specialist skills and resources.
- 19.3 External training is offered to members to ensure they have up to date knowledge and expertise to understand and provide sufficient scrutiny and challenge for any proposed capital and treasury management decisions.

20. Conclusion

- 20.1 This Corporate Capital Strategy outlines the context for the Council's capital programme and summarises the key considerations which the Council takes into account when making capital investment decisions. As the strategy highlights, the Council continues to manage a significant programme of investment which is targeted at improving the lives of people in the borough in line with the objectives set out in the Council Plan.
- 20.2 The strategy adds to our comprehensive approach to managing resources in Solihull. The measures outlined in this strategy complement the revenue strategy in maintaining the authority's sound financial base and providing a solid platform from which the Council can deliver its priorities.



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