

**Capital Programme
Environment Committee**

Committee: ENVIRONMENT
Date: 23rd January 2007
Title: Capital Programme 2006/07 to 2009/10
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**Agenda Item
6**

Item for
decision

Summary

Members are requested to consider the Draft General Fund Capital Programme for this Committee, details of which are included as Appendix 1 to this report. Members' attention is particularly drawn to specific details of individual capital schemes contained within the report.

Recommendations

That Members recommend to Operations Committee the proposed revised capital budget for 2006/07 together with the proposed capital budgets for each of 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10.

Background Papers

Capital budgeting, budget monitoring and financial system records held by the Financial Services.

Impact

Communication/Consultation	None.
Community Safety	None.
Equalities	None.
Finance	Details are contained within the report.
Human Rights	None.
Legal implications	None.
Ward-specific impacts	None.
Workforce/Workplace	None.

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Situation

- 1 As part of the annual budget setting process, the Council sets the budget for its Capital Programme. The first stage is for officers to consider the progress of those schemes that have been approved in earlier years, and to identify potential new schemes. Each committee then considers those schemes that are relevant to its own portfolio of services, and makes a recommendation to the Operations Committee for those schemes which Members consider should be included in the programme. Operations Committee will determine the scope for financing the capital programme, and will consider the prioritisation of capital schemes accordingly. Development of the programme involves updating of the current year's budget as well as identifying schemes that occur in each of the three subsequent years.
- 2 The proposed programme for the Environmental Committee is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. The schedule of schemes is divided in to those previously approved, and hence already in the programme, and those which are new schemes for consideration. Where relevant, notes accompany those schemes listed in order to identify any factors that have occurred which have impacted upon the progress of existing schemes.

Dunmow Depot and Vehicle Maintenance Building, Shirehill Depot

- 3 The schemes at the Dunmow and Saffron Walden depots which were planned for 2006/07 will now slip into 2007/08. The Dunmow depot replacement can only commence on the completion of a new civic amenities site by Essex County Council. However delays with this have had an impact on the timing of the relocation and provision of these new facilities at the Council's depots.

Car Park Pay and Display Machines

- 4 In September 2006 the Decriminalisation of Parking Enforcement Task Group recommended to the Environment Committee that a provision of £30,000 should be included in the capital programme for both 2007/08 and 2008/09 in addition to £15,000 identified in 2004/05 to cover the costs of the replacement programme for Pay and Display machines.
- 5 A further report to this Committee recommends the installation of machines with a 'Park Smart' facility that would enable parking payments to be made using a Smartcard. This would require an additional £40,200 to be added to this scheme. (See Agenda Item 9).

Vehicle Replacement Programme

- 6 The current vehicle replacement policy is to replace light goods vehicles, such as transit vans and small mechanical sweepers, every 5 years and to replace heavy goods vehicles, such as refuse freighters and septic tanks every 7

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years. It is envisaged that this policy will be reviewed as part of the capital programme appraisal process to ensure the Council maximises its return on these vehicles.

- 7 During 2006/07, the Council leased £1.8m of refuse freighters which are used to collect household waste. In addition to this service, the Council provides other refuse collection services such as bulky waste collection, glass bottle bank and trade skip emptying. The proposed budgets in the attached capital programme are to purchase replacement refuse vehicles for these latter services.

Risk Analysis

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Failure to identify capital spending pressures and costs accurately	Low	Medium	Continual review of the capital programme