

## **Cabinet – 27<sup>th</sup> November 2006**

### **Supplementary Paper to Agenda Item 5c**

#### **Capital Programme 2007/08 to 2009/10**

Purpose is to receive details from the meeting of a Sub Group of Cabinet (consisting of Councillors Lager, Harley and Walters) constituted by the Leader of the Council to review the bids for capital funding in 2007/08.

The group at its meeting on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2006 considered the schedule of capital bids as presented at Appendix E of the Priorities and Budget 2007/08 report on tonight's agenda.

A revised schedule is appended to this supplementary paper. This shows that the total value of bids supported for funding is £1,133,000, an increase of £255,000 over the value of priority bids suggested in Appendix E.

The changes, including comments and requests for further information from the Sub Group, are provided below:

- Spinks Lane Sports Ground – additional funding required for the replacement football pitch at £50,000 remains at priority 1. Request for detailed estimate for replacing the football pitch, as the total now provided of £110,000 may not be sufficient.
- Town Hall Centre – roof repairs at £30,000. Members increased priority rating from 2 to 1 to enable a continuation of the investment made in this building over the last few years.
- Provision for works to various Cemeteries – original sum suggested of £50,000 increased to £75,000 for 2007/08.
- Play Areas – provision increased from £120,000 to £240,000 to enable a continuation of the current programme of refurbishing six play areas per year. Members have however requested details of the number of play areas that still require refurbishment.
- Silver End Sports Ground Tennis Courts – fencing at £20,000. Members increased priority rating from 2 to 1, as it is important not to let the facility deteriorate (the playing surface is currently in a good condition and is generally well used).

- Maldon Road Park, Witham – provision of £60,000 over three years to be set aside as match funding should a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund be successful.
- Millennium Tower, MRF and Lakes Road Yard – £150,000 for repair and improvement works. Members have requested assurance that all of the works are essential to assets for which the future may be uncertain following the vote on the proposed housing stock transfer.
- Improvements to various Allotment sites – Priority remains at level 3 but Members requested information on current income levels and questioned whether increases in fees in future years could be earmarked to provide the funding for these works.

Anticipated capital resources for 2007/08 are sufficient to enable the suggested increased programme to be funded. The Group recognise however that there are pressures on resources in the following years including from works identified in condition surveys of the Council's assets, continued funding of Housing Repair and Social Housing grants, and ensuring major schemes, such as the new Braintree swimming pool, are delivered on budget. Whilst the Group was informed that negotiations on the sale of some assets currently in the disposal programme indicate receipts will exceed expectations, the Group is recommending a full review of all of the Council's land and buildings be undertaken with an initial report produced by May 2007, to feed into the business planning process for 2008/09.

### **Recommendations**

That the bids for capital funding in 2007/08, classified as priority 1 in the revised schedule attached to this supplementary paper, be used as the basis of the 2007/08 Budget Consultation process;

That the Council's Asset Manager is requested to undertake a review of the Council's land and buildings with an initial report produced by May 2007.

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Date: 27<sup>th</sup> November 2006