

AVON FIRE AUTHORITY

MEETING:	Policy and Resources Committee
MEETING DATE:	Thursday, 18 April 2024
REPORT OF:	Statutory Finance Officer
SUBJECT:	2023/24 Capital Programme Update as at 29 February 2024

1. **SUMMARY**

This report provides an update on spend against the Capital Programme for 2023/24.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- a) Note the 2023/24 current Capital spend position and to consider the updates provided to gain assurance on the 3-year approved Capital Programme.

3. **BACKGROUND**

3.1 The Capital Programme approved for 2023/24, including adjustments for the final 2022/23 carry over, is £6.332m. An adjustment of £350k to Fleet to take account of reprofiled (pulled forward) costs and additional equipment costs approved from capital receipts from disposal, has increased this to £6.702m as reflected in **Appendix 1**.

3.2 The updated 3-year Capital Programme is shown in **Appendix 2**, demonstrating the net-nil impact of the £370k pull forwards on the Fleet line, with the total Capital Programme of at £12.477m across the three years.

4. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The updated Capital Programme, year-to-date spend and forecast for the full year are detailed in **Appendix 1**, and the full Capital Programme is detailed in **Appendix 2**.

5. Key Considerations

Year-to-date Capital Spend

Premises

- 5.1 As at 29 February 2024 £2,528k has been spent on capital projects relating to Premises. £1,960k of this relates to the Bedminster projects works and the remainder relates to various small works within the Premises ongoing maintenance plan. The forecast spend for 2023/24 for Premises is expected to be £2,766k with costs of £695k relating to Bedminster being carried over into the next financial year as a result of changes in the payment schedule for this project.

Fleet

- 5.2 Fleet spend as at 29 February 2024 is at £1,800k relating to planned payments due on Type B appliances plus some additional equipment relating to these appliances and the purchase of the replacement Pioneer boat. Because of the additional spend in 2023/24 some additional funding has been brought forward from the 2024/25 capital programme to cover this reprofiling, giving an overall Fleet budget of £1,800k for 2023/24 which has now been spent in full.

Other spend

- 5.3 There has been a spend of £119k on operational equipment in line with the updated capital programme. £172k has been spent on MDTs (Mobile Data Terminals) against the Transformation budget as agreed and there has been a spend of £115k on ICT capital which is made up of hardware purchased to support infrastructure developments. The underspends in these areas will not be carried forward into future years and are not a result of rephasing of projects.
- 5.4 Control spend of £189k relates to the radio replacements approved by the Service Leadership Team in September against the 2023/24 Control capital allocation. The underspend on Control is as a result of rephasing of the Control projects which were allocated funding so the underspend is accounted for in the revised Capital Programme.

Capital Programme in Future Years

- 5.5 As per **Appendix 2**, Prudential Borrowing is currently expected to be required to fund the Capital Programme from 2024/25 onwards. The updated Capital Programme was presented at the Fire Authority meeting on 20 March 2024 for approval.
- 5.6 There are several significant upcoming capital projects, for example Bath and Weston redevelopments. Neither of these projects are included within the

current Capital Programme at **Appendix 2**, but do form part of the updated Programme. Both will involve significant spend and increase the requirement to seek external borrowing to fund the Programme. The Mobilisation Upgrade required within Control is also over and above the current Capital Programme allocation and will have a similar impact.

- 5.7 Prudential borrowing will have a twofold impact on the revenue budget, both in terms of servicing the debt with interest payments, and the statutory requirement to contribute to the repayment of capital in the form of the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). This has been considered whilst compiling the revised Capital Programme and will be an added pressure for the Service when balancing the budgets in future years and has been taken into account when preparing the Medium-Term Financial Plan, presented to the Fire Authority on 20 March 2024.

6. RISKS

- 6.1 This report primarily relates to CR20 (Funding and Resource Pressures), CR17 (Building Asset Condition & Physical Security) for the Premises programmes, CR19 (Change and Transformation) and CR13 (Loss of IT Systems) for the ICT programme.

7. LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- a) AFA report: 17.02.2023 (Paper 6)
[Agenda for Avon Fire Authority on Friday, 17th February, 2023, 10.30 am - Modern Council \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#)
- b) PRC report: 13.12.2023 (Paper 10)
[Agenda for Policy and Resources Committee on Wednesday, 13th December, 2023, 11.30 am - Modern Council \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#)
- c) AFA Report: 20.03.2024 (Paper 11)
[Agenda for Avon Fire Authority on Wednesday, 20th March, 2024, 2.00 pm - Modern Council \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#)

9. APPENDICES

1. 2023/24 Updated Capital Programme
2. Approved Capital Programme 2023/24 – 2025/26

10. REPORT CONTACT

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