

Schools Programme element of the Capital Investment Programme; the Council's bid to the Housing Infrastructure Fund; and that this decision would give officers a clear mandate to progress work. Cllr Hall further highlighted that there had been no change to the estimated cost of the programme.

Further points raised in debate included: ensuring young people have the best possible opportunities; the need for the Cabinet to receive regular progress reports; Department for Education (DfE) funding confirmation; ensuring schools funding is discussed with the five Somerset MP's; Somerset's unfortunate inclusion in the F40 group of lowest funded local authorities; the importance of additional funding; and borrowing money to fund school development projects.

In response to the points raised in debate, the Director of Finance, Legal and Governance: agreed the importance of ensuring the Cabinet receives regular progress updates; highlighted that 19 of the last 20 school development projects had been delivered on-time; and noted the unprecedented demand on DfE resources.

The Leader of the Council summarised the points raised in debate and noted that: he would continue to work with the five Somerset MP's; that this was the biggest school's investment programme since the Second World War; and the importance of spending money on school development projects to provide the best facilities for children.

Following consideration of the officer report and discussion the Cabinet RESOLVED to approve a commitment to fund the full Capital Investment Programme requirement for the Schools and Early Years 2018/19 starts of £109,372,000 shown in table 1, noting the capital resources set out in section 2 of the report.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report

94 **LTP Implementation Plan adoption and approval for publishing – agenda item 6**

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, Cllr John Woodman, introduced the report noting: the existing transport plan expired in 2017; and the updated plan included project status updates. Cllr Woodman further highlighted the £1.5m allocated to the Small Improvement Schemes Programme, and that there were also financial allocations for traffic signal and Rights of Way improvements.

Further points raised in debate included: the importance of addressing rural isolation; improvements to rural roads; the importance of considering disabled access requirements; improving facilities for cyclists and associated funding sources; the potential for an Ashcott by-pass; improvements to freight routes and related funding; and access to Taunton railway station for cyclists.

The Chairman of the Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee, Cllr Tony Lock, informed Members of the Scrutiny committee's comments and concerns including: the availability of funding for future schemes; and the level staff resources within the Council.

In response to the points raised in debate officers confirmed that: the Council continues to look for additional sources of funding; and the Small Improvement Scheme Programme was being operated using a phased approach including scheme feasibility assessments.

Following consideration of the officer report, impact assessment, appendix and discussion the Cabinet RESOLVED to:

1. Approve the content of the Local Transport Plan Implementation Plan 2018/19 – 2019/20 attached as Appendix A.
2. Delegate authority to the Lead Director Economic and Community Infrastructure to approve the final version of the LTP document for publication.
3. Approve the allocation of £1,500,000 for small improvement scheme works from the 2018/19 highway basic need capital budget.
4. Approve the allocation of £1,000,000 towards the traffic signals recovery programme from the 2018/19 highway basic need capital budget.
5. Approve the allocation of £220,000 towards the rights of way capital programme from the 2018/19 highway basic need capital budget.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report

95 **Award of the contract for the provision of Temporary Labour** – agenda item 7

The Cabinet Member for Corporate and Community Services, Cllr Anna Groskop, introduced the report noting: the existing temporary labour contract expired in November 2018; and the new contract included budget savings.

The HR & OD Director, Chris Squire, added to the points raised by Cllr Anna Groskop noting: a preferred supplier had been identified; agency spend had reduced by £4m over the past 3 years, and was expected to continue to fall; the move from locum to permanent social worker posts; the requirement for agency staff to cover areas of key skills shortages; managers across the organisation had been consulted; and that it was proposed both a main supplier and second tier suppliers should be utilised.

The Service Manager – Commercial and Procurement, Paul Skuse, further noted: that a thorough procurement exercise had been completed; and that it was proposed the contract be awarded for 4 years with a 2 year break clause.

Further points raised in debate included: support for the primary and second tier suppliers approach; and the importance of a stable workforce.

The Chairman of the Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee, Cllr Tony Lock, informed Members that the Committee has considered the proposed contract and felt that it was acceptable, whilst supporting the 2 year review period. Cllr Lock further requested the Scrutiny for Policy's and Place Committee be provided with annual contract updates.

Following consideration of the officer report, impact assessment, confidential appendix and discussion the Cabinet RESOLVED to:

1. Approve the award of the temporary labour contract to the preferred supplier under ESPO MSTAR2 framework, as detailed in the appended confidential Appendix A for a period of up to 4 years.
2. Agree the case for applying the exempt information provision as set out in the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A and therefore to treat the attached Appendix A in confidence, as they contain commercially sensitive information, and as the case for the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing that information.
3. Authorise the Commercial and Business Services Director or the HR & OD Director to sign the contract with the preferred supplier on behalf of the authority and to determine in due course whether to utilise the optional two-year extension.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report

96 **ANY OTHER URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS** – agenda item 8

There was no other business.

(The meeting ended at 10.39am)

CHAIR