



South Somerset District Council - Thursday 22nd September 2022

Please find attached the report for item 15:

Proposed Increase to the Disabled Facilities Grant |Capital Budget - Referral from District Executive



Proposed increase to the Disabled Facilities Grant capital budget – referral from District Executive

Executive Portfolio Holder: Peter Seib, Finance and Legal Services
SLT Lead: Kirsty Larkins, Director Service Delivery
Report Lead: James Griffin, Regeneration and Capital Finance Specialist
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Purpose of the Report

1. District Executive considered the Council's 2022/23 Capital Programme Budget, of the actual spending at the end of quarter one, at their meeting on 01 September 2022. At that meeting it was recommended that the Disabled Facilities Grant capital budget be increased due to high demand.

Public Interest

2. Capital expenditure is expenditure on assets such as land, property, ICT equipment, and the refurbishment of existing assets that will prolong the useful life of the asset (such as replacing a roof). Lending to third parties is also capital expenditure in the majority of cases.

Recommendations

3. That District Executive recommend that Council agrees to:
 - a) Increase the Disabled Facilities Grant capital budget by £1.405m.

Background

4. Full Council approves the capital budget in February each year. Monitoring of the agreed programme has been delegated to District Executive and is undertaken on a quarterly basis. District Executive can agree to vire money from the Corporate Capital Contingency Budget to existing approved projects if required.
5. Full Council approves any in-year increases to the capital budget unless the proposed project delivers a corporate priority and/or is an emergency decision. In such circumstances District Executive, under delegation, can approve an increase in the capital budget as long as the increase does not total more than 5% of useable reserves in any one year. Any new capital commitments (i.e contracts) over £1m may need approval by Somerset County Council's S151 Officer or Executive under the S24 Direction, depending on whether the commitment has already been given a general up-front consent by the Executive or not.

SERVICE DELIVERY

6. **Disabled Facilities Grants** - The total budget for 2022/23 is £2.948m with an actual spend to the end of June 2022 of £0.233m. This is an ongoing project funded by Central Government's Better Care Fund and will continue to be live until such time Central Government end this scheme.
7. Based on last year we would anticipate spending the £1.543m in this financial year, which is the budget allocation slipped from 2021/22. There are also enough referrals to potentially spend the additional £1.405m in grant funding received this financial year from the Better Care Fund, so it is proposed that this amount is added to the 2022/23 capital budget. However, there is currently a limit on the amount of referrals that can be processed given the current restraints on resources and therefore these will be taken into the new council with the hope that the backlog can be ideally cleared or reduced dramatically. The Covid pandemic is the main reason for the backlog of referrals
8. There is a high demand for contractors at the moment and procuring them for our needs is difficult given the increased demand due to the Covid pandemic.
9. There is a SLA (Service Level Agreement) in place with Somerset Independence Plus to help address the resource and contractor availability problem. They are also engaged in helping SSDC align procedures and processes for Somerset Council which should help aid a smoother transition.
10. For the full 2022/23 Quarter 1 Capital Budget Monitoring Report for the Period Ending 30th June 2022 please see the District Executive report at this link: [Agenda for District Executive on Thursday 1st September 2022, 9.30 am \(southsomerset.gov.uk\)](https://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/agenda-for-district-executive-on-thursday-1st-september-2022-9.30-am)

Financial Implications

11. The increase in the capital budget being proposed will be funded entirely by grant. There are no additional financial implications for the council.
12. There are no Section 24 implications as general consent has been given by Somerset County Council's Executive to increase the capital budget if it is to be funded entirely by grant.

Corporate Plan Implications

13. There are no specific implications in these proposals.

Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications

14. There are no specific implications in these proposals.



South Somerset
District Council
Equality and Diversity Implications

15. There are no specific implications in these proposals.

Privacy Impact Assessment

16. There are no specific implications in these proposals.

Background Papers

Budget Report, February 2022, to Full Council
Review of 2022/23 Capital Programme, July 2022, report to District Executive
2022/23 Quarter 1 Capital Budget Monitoring Report for the Period Ending 30th June
2022, report to District Executive 01 September 2022.