

## APPENDIX Q: 2024/25 Summary Updates for Major Capital Projects

### Adults and Health

Slippage of £2.862m has been reported in the Disabled Facilities Grant programme for 2024/25. These funds are now expected to be spent in 2025/26.

### Children's Services

A review of the Special Educational Needs, Schools Basic Need, and Schools Condition programmes have resulted in a revised forecast for 2024/25. This is mainly due to contractor availability and timing/ planning of works, such as the Schools Condition programme work takes place during the summer holidays when schools are closed. Whilst some smaller schemes will be implemented during the rest of the year.

#### Schools Basic Need Programme

Within the Basic Need Programme, three projects to expand the Dining Facilities at Court Fields, Pyrland, and Monkton Wood schools have slipped due to planning and tender delays. Contracts have been awarded but each project is around 4-8 weeks behind their original programmes.

Also, within the Basic Need programme, a review of outstanding costs has led to an underspend being reported against Orchard Grove Primary School. £0.400m has been shown as an underspend, with the remaining budget being held back for any remaining and retention costs due to come through in 2025/26.

Several schemes have been completed during 2024/25. These include:

- Orchard Grove Primary School – new 14 class school, completed July 2024
- Wadham School Dining expansion – completed July 2024
- Misterton new Therapeutic School – completed April 2024
- Selworthy Satellite School – completed April 2024

### Climate and Place – Other Services

Flood Prevention schemes for the Taunton area, brought forward from the Somerset West and Taunton capital programme. One scheme (Left Bank Tone – Frieze Hill to Town Bridge) has commenced during 2024/25. Two other schemes (Firepool Lock to Bund and Longrun Meadow Attenuation) are unlikely to commence until 2025/26.

### North Hill Cliff Stabilisation Works

A contractor has been appointed to complete the design of the North Hill Minehead rock catch fence which is now complete. The rock catch fence will prevent cliff falls causing injury to any persons or property below. The next step is to understand land ownership, biodiversity net gain requirements and submit a planning application for the works.

## **Climate and Place – Economy and Regeneration**

### **Yeovil Refresh Programme: Public Realm Works**

In Quarter 3, works in the Triangle were substantially completed. Commissioning of the water feature and big screen will occur in Quarter 4. Snags and defects are addressed across all schemes through Quarter 4 to enable final closure of all live public realm works. A section in Middle Street remains unfinished due to the presence of a dangerous structure preventing work from commencing. This remains an issue and potential options for construction of this section in the future are being explored.

### **Yeovil Refresh Programme: Active Travel – Cycling and Walking**

In Quarter 3, works have been carried out to create new shared cycling and walking facilities in Hendford. Upgraded facilities including crossings in Southwestern Terrace/ Middle Street/ Central Road were commenced, drainage and patching on route to Pen Mill station via Yeovil Country Park route. The aim is to complete works by the close of Quarter 4. Closedown of works and completion of projects will be completed in April 2025.

### **Yeovil Refresh Programme: Future High Streets Fund Development projects**

The demolition of Glovers Walk commenced in Quarter 3 with utility disconnections, soft strip of buildings and necessary survey work including asbestos. Quarter 4 will see work continuing with programme projected to complete early part of Quarter 2 2025/26. Work has extended due to additional requirements around asbestos removal and ongoing utility disconnections.

## **Town Deal Programmes**

### **Bridgwater Town Deal**

The Bridgwater Town Deal continues to progress the 11 projects into delivery to meet the funding deadline of March 2026.

Within Quarter 3, the programme continues to see developments and milestones achieved, including:

- Celebration Mile continues to progress with all three sections of the scheme underway. Project spend has increased as delivery has ramped up across all three sections of the scheme.
- The Engine Room is complete, and the facility is now operational.
- Carnival has seen a delay in the procurement of the main contractor, this project will still envisage significant delivery in 2025/26.
- Bridgwater Tidal Barrier has seen the first tranche of construction phase begin, with further capital commitments being made in 2025/26.
- Arts Centre and Town Hall Theatre projects have both been able to successfully procure main contractors to deliver the outputs and outcomes as agreed in the business case. Works starting on site this year, to be completed by Autumn 2025.
- Dunball – whilst Town Deal allocation of this project was spent in the early phases on this project, construction works continue throughout this period and are due to be completed by the end of 2025.
- Bridgwater Docks Walking and Cycling – With resource now in place, this project will be moving at pace and see high spend within this financial year to push the project forward into the delivery phase.

Capital Commitments to these projects will see increased expenditure during 2025 to deliver the intended outputs that we have agreed with MHCLG. Other projects within this programme continue to progress, with the team working through the challenges that are arising and working proactively to get the projects delivered within the timetable.

## **Bridgwater Levelling Up Fund**

The Levelling Up Fund is progressing at pace. With many cogs turning, designs have been progressing and the design team will now progress designs to RIBA Stage 3 and a submission to the LA for planning permission is due in Jan 2025. From this, procurement on Main Contractor will take place while planning permission is being decided with the Local Authority to ensure in efficiency of time as the project team recognises the tight timescales on this project. Once main contractor is secured, project spend will accelerate significantly with construction works starting on site.

## **Glastonbury Town Deal**

Project delivery continues at pace and the Programme is on target to complete in time and within budget. Project deliverables include:

- Sports & Leisure Hub at Tor Leisure was the first project build to be completed, and the fitout is underway. The site reopens on 3 February 2025.
- Abbey Piazza works are substantially complete, and the main entrance will reopen in March 2025.
- Baily's Buildings and St Dunstan's House projects – build contractors on-site and good progress is being made. £0.500m of Community Ownership Fund has been secured for St Dunstan's House.
- Clean Energy Project – rooftop solar arrays being firmed up and applications for grid connection & planning being prepared for the ground mounted solar array.
- St Brigid's Chapel & Field and Food & Regenerative Farming Centre projects – both are getting ready to install buildings in 2025 and do winter tree planting.
- Enabling Project – project manager engaged and is gathering baseline data about the site, however court action is being taken to evict an illegal occupation.
- Robert Richards Initiative – preparing for new and improved path works in 2025.
- The Life Factory – SWAP is completing their audit of the project's governance & financial arrangements.

## **Firepool Development**

The development of the site at Firepool is continuing with the Northern Boulevard works well under way and the Southern Boulevard will commence shortly.

## **Staplegrave Housing Infrastructure Fund**

This government funding currently has a spend deadline of March 2025. A deed of variation has been submitted to Homes England setting out the expected delivery of the project. It is expected that £2.789m will be spent in the current year for the land rights acquisition for the East project.

## **Climate and Place – Infrastructure and Transport**

### **Road Structures**

As of April 2024, the Council has begun working with a new set of contractors to deliver its Structural Maintenance Programme (SMP) and is now in the process of developing the capital works programme for the year. This includes finalising design, acquiring road space, diversion routes and works resources for specific schemes.

A key achievement to note is the completion of the surface dressing programme, with over one million square metres of dressing completed. This is the largest surface dressing programme undertaken by the council in six years.

Significant progress has also been made with the surfacing programme, with a full programme in place through to the end of the year. This programme has begun delivering substantial schemes on the A road network with recent work in Bridgwater and Taunton, and major schemes being completed on the C182 (HPC) route and the A38 Bristol Road, Bridgwater. It is expected that the full programme will be delivered on time and on budget.

### **Bridge Structures**

Urgent and Minor Works Schemes and provision of TM/Site Safety measures are currently being progressed by Walters UK Ltd under our Majors Framework Contract. However, scheme delivery has slowed both on inhouse schemes and external consultant schemes due to a number of reasons including resourcing issues.

### **Traffic Signals**

The Traffic Signals Recovery Programme continues to work through the high priority crossing upgrade requirements. The traffic signals at Charlton Crossroads in Shepton Mallett, has been completed ahead of schedule.

Works at upper High Street in Taunton have been completed. The Taunton works are to be funded from the Future High Street Funds which will be vired across from Economy and Planning once the final costs are known.

Works have now commenced on Hurdle Way, Taunton and design work has begun for signal improvements on the A39 Junction, Street.

### **A38 Chelston Link**

A38 Chelston Link Resurfacing project has progressed through the pre-construction phase. However, the main construction is now not scheduled to commence until the second half of 2024/25. This is due to the tendering process and availability of road space with several Highways England works planned within the local area.

### **J23 Dunball Roundabout**

Works commenced on site during November 2024 and are scheduled to be completed by the end of 2025.

### **Blue Anchor Coast Protection**

The Blue Anchor Coast Protection scheme has been completed. There is some expenditure expected in 2024/25, with final costs to be settled.

### **Community Services**

#### **Octagon Theatre**

The revised Octagon Theatre project was approved by Full Council in May and has been added back into the capital programme. A revised business case is to be submitted to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in Autumn 2024, with a final business case to be submitted in February 2025, so the majority of spend on this project has been refiled into 2025/26.

#### **Ports and Harbours**

Quotes for the Navigation Markers have been obtained and it is hoped that the project will be completed in year.

### **Resources and Corporate Services**

#### **Corporate ICT Investment**

Planned expenditure on Device, Mobile and Network Infrastructure refreshes, along with Sheltered Housing ICT Provision is expected to be achieved in year.

#### **Property Services**

The Property Services General consists of a number of schemes, which have been reviewed to Quarter 3 resulting in a number of projects that are complete or are brought forward from legacy districts for which no owner can be identified being written off, resulting in an underspend of £0.258m.

#### **Strategy, Workforce, and Localities**

No change in forecasts to report in this area.