

CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROPOSALS

Ref No	Service	Description of Proposal	Investment in 2015/16	Investment in 2016/17	Investment in 2017/18	Investment in 2018/19	Other Revenue costs	Conservative Member Workshop	Labour Member Workshop	Liberal Democrat Member Workshop
			£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000			
General Comments									Members were disappointed that a number of proposals that members suggested in the previous workshop, were not shown as proposals. Members felt they had very little input into the capital programme, apart from agreeing to the proposal or not. One example was a suggestion for a small capital budget for Area Committees, proposal is not in there. Next time the notes are circulated could the proposals that members make be highlighted to show what has happened to them.	
Invest To Save Proposal										Would like to be presented with the information in a way which made it clearer which are new proposals and which are not. Perhaps provide a net change figure at the bottom of the page.
C1	Waste	Waste and Street Cleansing Vehicle Procurement	0	200	3,400	0	-200 (see Efficiency Proposal, E 10)	Clarification was provided of the intention to ask suppliers to provide quotes for provision of the service with the vehicles provided by the Council and separately with the vehicles sourced by the supplier. This would allow an assessment of which option is most financially beneficial to the Council at the time of the tender evaluation. It was also clarified that responsibility for repairs and maintenance would remain with the contractor.	Members were disappointed that the shared provision was not a separate budget proposal as this had been mentioned at the previous workshop. The budget process was questioned. Officers responded that this will be looked at when procurement takes place. Members also asked if electric vehicles were being considered, especially if the waste transfer station is located in North Herts. Should be a saving on carbon footprint.	Clarification was provided that this proposal related to the tendering of the new contract and not the existing contract. Suggestion that it is not always necessary to purchase new vehicles and second hand should be considered. Otherwise general support for the principle of investigating the financial viability of this option.
C2	Waste	Waste and Street Cleansing Data Mgmt	0	60	0	0	tbc			Supportive of this proposal - could end the problem of having to pass resident calls onto the contractor.
C3	Burial Services	Wilbury Hills Crematorium	0	tbc	tbc	0	tbc (see income generation proposal I2)	Members were assured that the business case would consider the option to fully outsource to the private sector.	Members were assured that the business case would look at all options including outsourcing and would also list the running costs of the crematorium. Members commented that the crematorium would be based at Wilbury Hills which would be Bedfordshire, should the crematorium not be in Hertfordshire.	
C4	Grounds Maintenance	Grounds Maintenance Vehicles	0	0	500	0	-87 (see efficiency proposal E 11)			
Sub-Total: Invest to Save:			0	260	3,900	0	-287			
North Herts Leisure Cen										Given the complexity of the proposals around NHLC the officer advised of the intention to run a separate workshop on this topic for all Members.
C5	Leisure	Construct a new learner pool at the North Herts Leisure Centre	1,375	0	0	0	-216 (see efficiency proposal E 9)			Problems around parking were raised and how this extension could only make the problems worst. The Officer explained that it is the intention to provide a further 15 places as part of the project but other options would also be investigated, such as working with the Rugby Club or enforcing parking restrictions.
C6	Leisure	North Herts Leisure Centre Development - relocate café, offices and provide new dance studio	785	0	0	0	0	There was concern expressed that the building is already beyond it's economic life. Re-assurance was provided that engineers had provided an assessment of the building and that to the best of their knowledge the building structure was sound. Officers also explained that the lease for the property from the LGCHF was until 2081. What about working with the LGCHF and neighbours to the site? The Finance Portfolio Holder reminded Members that the Council had just completed improvements to the Hitchin Swimming Centre and attention was now turning to this facility in Letchworth. Also that all the proposals (C5 to C11) had to be done as a package as there was no point only investing in part of the facility, although it could be beneficial to complete the works in	£785k seems to be a lot of money for a café? With regards to the fitness studio - what would be the uptake of this? Officer explained that nature of proposal is for sustainability as its cheaper to upgrade existing site rather than build a brand new facility. Need to look at proposals together to see the overall design benefit. Members commented that North Herts should consult with Letchworth Eagles Football Club as they have a cafe. Do not want to be direct competitors to them.	

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C7	Leisure	North Herts Leisure Centre Development - replace Sport Hall Floor and Lights	135	0	0	0	0	<p>stages rather necessarily all at once. In answer to a question Officers informed Members that the estimated life of the building after completing all the works would be 25 years, subject to routine repair and maintenance. Based on the pay back estimates from the management contract there was a suggestion that the investment was not worth doing. There was also concern expressed about whether the amount of suggested payback via the management contract could be sustained from the income generated. Officers reminded members that the risk of income generation rests with the contractor. Another Member commented that the facility had a high demand and that the quality of changing facilities in Hitchin were now far superior to Letchworth. It was explained that the reason the suggested improvements would need to be done in 2015/16 was for the maximum amount of benefit to be generated from the remaining period of the contract.</p> <p>Is there more investment that could be done at the sametime? The Officer explained that it is believed these proposals are the best that can be done relatively easily in the existing footprint of the building. Also that the sports strategy did not suggest further leisure facilities were required in the area. Members queried opportunities to talk to the Rugby and football clubs and LGCHF.</p>		
C8	Leisure	North Herts Leisure Centre Development - pool filter refurbishment and new UV system	100	0	0	0	0			
C9	Leisure	North Herts Leisure Centre Development - refurbish swimming pool changing rooms	509	0	0	0	0		Could this proposal be funded over two years rather than one?	
C10	Leisure	North Herts Leisure Centre Development - provide more parking and upgrade gas and electricity services	181	0	0	0	0			
C11	Leisure	North Herts Leisure Centre Development - upgrade corridor lighting and flooring	51	0	0	0	0			
Sub-Total: North Herts Leisure Centre:			3,136	0	0	0	-216			
Other Asset Manager										
C12	Property Services	To carry out essential capital improvements to the council's premises determined by ongoing condition surveys.	300	300	300	300	0 (see revenue investment proposal R7)	<p>This investment relates to the Community Halls Strategy. Will the halls be handed over to the management committees by the end of 2018/19 when this investment is completed? The Officer responded that negotiations are ongoing but the outcome will be variable depending on the ability of groups to generate income.</p> <p>Can we consider a replacement to PACIF as a means of providing investment for the rural areas? Can we look into getting a good broadband connection to these facilities while we are undertaking the works, as this service would assist the organisations to become more self sufficient?</p>		<p>What is the total number of Community Centres? Answer: There are 13 Community Centres (including youth wings), one day centre, 4 bowls pavilions and 8 other pavilions. A Member recalled that In 2010/11 the necessary investment in Community Centres was £2.6million so the total could be more now. Clear linkage with needing to get the centres up to standard in order to hand over responsibility to the community groups.</p>
C13	Leisure	Replace swimming pool seating at Hitchin Swimming Centre	80	0	0	0	0	There was support for this proposal although more narrative was required to put the amount of investment in context.	Could this proposal be funded over two years rather than one?	In answer to a question the officer explained that the current seating is regularly used.
C14	Property Services	District Council Offices refurbishment programme	3,250	0	0	0	0			
C15	Community Services	Demolition of Bancroft Hall	49	0	0	0	-6	This seems a lot of money for a demolition? Response that will be subject to quotations and could be less.		
Sub-Total: Other Asset Management			3,679	300	300	300	-6			
Grants to Third Parties										
C16	Housing Services	Grant towards Housing Development at John Barker Place, Hitchin.	548	548	0	0	0			

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C17	Housing Services	Housing Development - partnership scheme funding	0	0	0	0	0	There was support for the proposal to consider each housing development proposal on a case by case basis.	Members cannot support this proposal. Want to see the budget retained each year. If no proposals are received then can use the budget for other things later in the year. Need funds for social housing especially if local plan gets approved.	How much has been spent in total on these grants? Answer: A total of £7.4million was spent between 2004/5 and 2013/14. Why is it not being spent as do not believe Housing Associations have obtained alternative funding from elsewhere. In the past this funding has helped HAs obtain further funding from the HCA. Need to consider the impact on rural areas and the provision of affordable housing.
C18	Housing Services	Discontinuation of the Tenants Cash Incentive Scheme	0	0	0	0	0	There was support for the proposal to transfer the resources to where it was needed.	Members do not support this. Feel that the scheme could be more popular in the future due to a government scheme that means council houses will be means tested, so more people may need help with mortgage deposits. Also as the right to buy scheme is no more, people again may choose to take this scheme up. Members queried how much the scheme is promoted?	Do not have a strong view about the proposal. RSLs should be trying to fund this sort of scheme.
C19	Housing Services	Increase in annual investment in Home Repair Assistance Grants	60	60	60	60	0	There was support for the proposal to transfer the resources to where it was needed.	Members supported this.	Support the proposal. In answer to a question the officer advised that this scheme has not typically been fully utilised but then it has not been widely advertised either. With an increased budget it would be appropriate to advertise the scheme more.
C20	Housing Services	Continuation of the Disabled Facility Grants scheme at the current level of investment	745	745	745	745	0	Following a question further clarification was provided on the demand for the service and the fact that the annual provision is always committed. Concern was raised that the Housing Associations are quicker to get their applications in and so private residents can miss out. This could in part be the result of residents not being aware of the service - how well is it publicised? In response the officer advised that information is being included in the next publication of outlook. There is currently a piece of work underway to look into a better way of delivering the service - linked to the inclusion of the grant in the Better Care Fund.	Very important service, members support this.	
Sub-Total: Grants to Third Parties:			1,353	1,353	805	805	0			
Green Space Strategy - Hitchin								Given it is anticipated that S106 contributions will start to dry up is it necessary to completely review all the green space strategy programme? The Officer reminded Members that the current programme had already been reduced and was considered the bare minimum.		
C21	Parks & Countryside Development	Provision of an interactive Water Splash Park and associated toilet /baby change facility in Bancroft Recreation Ground	190	0	0	0	15 (see revenue investment R3)	This proposal is subject to Project Board consideration.	Members feel that this could span 2 financial years but would support it.	
C22	Parks & Countryside Development	Hitchin Cemetery, Roadways - Reconstruction of roadways and footpaths	0	0	40	0	0			
C23	Parks & Countryside Development	King George V Recreation Ground, Hitchin - Relay car park, provide signage, improve main entrance, provide electric supply to garages.	0	60	0	0	0			
C24	Parks & Countryside Development	King George V, Hitchin, Pavilion - Grant aid to a 3rd party to refurbish pavilion.	0	0	50	0	0			

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C25	Parks & Countryside Development	Butts Close, Hitchin. New pathway, replace benches and vehicle gate. Historical interpretation of site.	30	0	0	0	0			
C26	Parks & Countryside Development	Smithsons Recreation Ground	30	0	0	0	0			
C27	Parks & Countryside Development	Replacement of Walsworth Common Bridge	50	135	0	0	0			
C28	Parks & Countryside Development	Walsworth Common, Hitchin, Pavilion - Provide grant aid to 3rd party to provide new football changing pavilion	0	300	0	0	0			
C29	Parks & Countryside Development	Walsworth Common, Pitch Improvements - levelling of site to create three new football pitches	0	20	0	0	0			Parking provision needs to be considered, especially if more facilities are to be provided.
C30	Parks & Countryside Development	Walsworth Common, Hitchin, Reconstruction of Car Park	0	0	30	0	0			
C31	Parks & Countryside Development	Swinburne, Playing Fields, Hitchin - Improve disability access, add pathway to Oughtonhead Common, enhance biodiversity and replace field gate.	0	30	0	0	0			
Sub-Total: Green Space Strategy - Hitchin:			300	545	120	0	15			
Green Space Strategy - Letchworth										
C32	Parks & Countryside Development	Replacement Changing Rooms at Baldock Road Recreation Ground	50	0	0	0	0		Shame no proposal for changing facilities at Jackmans.	
C33	Parks & Countryside Development	Jackmans Creamery, Letchworth - Remove old pavilion base and security fencing, provide new path from car park to play area.	30	0	0	0	0	It was questioned if this was completely necessary given the current situation does not appear to be causing a problem.		
C34	Parks & Countryside Development	Jackmans Central, Letchworth, Play Area. - Renovation of Play Area.	0	0	75	0	0			
C35	Parks & Countryside Development	Grange Recreation Ground, Letchworth - Improvements to entrance, remove ascot fencing and add bike restrictors, enhance biodiversity.	15	0	0	0	0			
C36	Parks & Countryside Development	Norton Common Enhancements to wheeled sports provision	20	0	0	0	0			Clarification provided that "wheeled" refers to any self powered vehicle with wheels. For example, skateboards and bikes.
C37	Parks & Countryside Development	Icknield Way Cemetery, Letchworth - Reconstruction of pathways and roadways	0	40	0	0	0			
Sub-Total: Green Space Strategy - Letchworth:			115	40	75	0	0			
Green Space Strategy -										

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C38	Parks & Countryside Development	New wheeled sports facility, Baldock	100	0	0	0	3	A member referred to a possible suitable site.		
Green Space Strategy - F										
C39	Parks & Countryside Development	Royston Cemetery Construction of Pathways & Roadways	35	0	0	0	0			
C40	Parks & Countryside Development	Provision of an interactive Water Splash Park in Priory Memorial Garden, Royston	160	0	0	0	12 (see revenue investment RB)	Members were positive about the existing splash park facilities in the District and as such would support this proposal. Funding should be sought from other third parties to assist with the investment in the scheme.		Reassurance was provided that this was not the re-direction of budget previously earmarked for Bancroft.
C41	Parks & Countryside Development	Serby Ave Play Area, Royston - Renovate play area	0	75	0	0	0			
C42	Parks & Countryside Development	Newmarket Road Wheeled Sports Provision, Royston - Engage with local users to enhance existing provision.	0	0	20	0	0			
Sub-Total: Green Space Strategy: Royston			195	75	20	0	12			
Green Space Strategy - G										
C43	Parks & Countryside Development	Great Ashby District Park, Pathways - Reconstruction of pathways, entrance enhancements and additional planting.	0	0	45	0	0			
Parking Related Proposals										
C44	Parking Services	Off Street Car Parks Resurfacing and Enhancement - To undertake a planned programme of car park resurfacing and enhancement derived from ongoing condition surveys.	95	90	130	0	-10			Is there no plans to do works to the Lairage multi-storey in order to make it a safer environment? The Officer advised that the Senior Management Group project is looking into the overall cost effectiveness of car parks.
C45	Property Services	St Mary's Car Park - replacement lighting	60	0	0	0	0	Is there not a revenue efficiency as a result of implementing more energy efficient lights? This needs to be estimated for the budget report. Is it possible to plug into the HCC control systems?		
Sub-Total: Parking Related			155	90	130	0	-10			
IT Schemes:								General comment received that the total proposed spend of £300k is not unreasonable for investment in the IT infrastructure.		General comment that members do not need to see the detail of the IT proposals, just an overall budget figure. Unless members have expertise in IT there is no point in seeing the detail. Also a proposal for tablets for members not in the proposals. Officers responded that this would be part of the office accommodation project. Howard Crompton said that a survey would be coming out to members in the next few weeks to see if members would be interested in using tablets.
C46	IT	infrastructure: Dell Servers	53	0	0	0	0			

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C47	IT	Infrastructure: New Blade Enclosure	24	0	0	0	0			
C48	IT	Infrastructure: Replacement SAN	110	0	0	0	0			
C49	IT	Infrastructure: Core Backbone Switch	20	0	0	0	0			
C50	IT	Infrastructure: Back-Up Diesel 40 KVA Generator DCO	15	0	0	0	0			In response to a question the officer advised that the power has only gone down for 6 hours a handful of times before but that when it does it has a significant impact on the ability to continue to provide services.
C51	IT	Infrastructure: 40 KVA UPS Device or Battery Replacement	7	0	0	0	0			
C52	IT	Equipment Refresh: PC's Refresh Programme	9	0	0	0	0			
C53	IT	Bring forward part of PC refresh programme to enable efficient decanting	13	0	0	0	0			In response to a question the officer advised that these new PCs are to facilitate the decanting of staff for the office accommodation project. The PCs would then be used to replace older machines as part of the normal replacement programme.
C54	IT	Equipment Refresh: Laptops	6	0	0	0	0			
C55	IT	Infrastructure: Additional Storage	13	0	0	0	0			
C56	IT	Software Asset Management (Carried Forward)	13	0	0	0	0	Concern was raised that this was an audit recommendation that has been hanging around for some time. It was also questioned whether this was completely necessary.		
C57	Parking Services	Permit gateway Citizen - to enable customers to renew permits on line	15	0	0	0	£1,500 to be paid from existing budgets			
Sub-Total: IT investment			298	0	0	0	2			
TOTAL			9,331	2,663	5,395	1,105	-487			

Notes:
 * Proposals are scored against the criteria agreed in the Financial Strategy. There is a weighting for projects which are invest to save.
 ** The proposal ranked '1' has the highest score.
 Shaded rows are provided as a reminder of capital schemes already approved in the capital programme.
 Descriptions in **Bold** indicate a scheme already approved to be in the capital programme.