

Wiltshire Council

Council

16 June 2020

Subject: COVID-19 and Financial Updates

**Cabinet Member: Cllr Philip Whitehead, Leader of the Council and
Cabinet Member for Economic Development**

Key Decision: Key

Background

Wiltshire Council continues its work with partners to ensure the most vulnerable in the community are supported, local businesses receive support and funding allocated to the county and critical council services can continue to deliver essential services during what is an unprecedented and rapidly changing incident.

Cabinet received reports on COVID-19 and financial implications at its meetings of 19 May and 9 June. These are attached as Appendix 1 and 2 and the minutes of the meeting on 19 May are available [here](#). A Wiltshire COVID-19 Response Scrutiny Task Group has also been established and its summary reports considering the Cabinet reports are available [online](#).

The first Cabinet report focused on the immediate work on the response, the decisions that have been taken and some initial financial estimates.

The second Cabinet report provides a short update on matters such as: the development of Care Home Support Plans and Outbreak Management Plans; the reopening of services where it is safe to do so; and emerging plans for recovery. Alongside this it goes into considerable detail on the predicted financial impact to Wiltshire Council based on a submission to government in May; it also sets out the conditions and timing for the necessary action to be taken to mitigate against the current forecast financial position.

The second report includes Council's provisional outturn for the 2019/20 financial year as well as details on the use of emergency funding and the amount carried forward into 2020/21. The report outlines the Capital outturn for 2019/20, the slippage into later years and a review of the Capital Programme for 2020/21 and the impact of that review on the planned investment in the current financial year.

Proposal(s)

Council is asked to:

1. Thank local communities, the voluntary sector, businesses, strategic partners and education settings for their support during these unprecedented circumstances.
2. Acknowledge the significant and exceptional effort of staff working throughout the COVID-19 response.
3. Approve the inclusion of slippage from the 2019/20 Capital Programme (£35.535m) within the 2020/21 Capital Programme, subject to a recommendation from Cabinet on 9 June.
4. Note the two reports to Cabinet and that future reports will be received by Cabinet in the coming months

Reason for Proposal(s)

The two reports provides Council with updates on the work undertaken and ongoing in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The response to the pandemic will have immediate and long-lasting implications for Wiltshire's economy, communities and residents as well as the Council itself. Councillors have an important role as community leaders and in considering the financial implications for the council as a result of the pandemic.

The Council is required to operate a balanced budget. Council is also responsible for agreeing treasury management and capital plans. In this vein, Council is asked to approve the inclusion of slippage from the 2019/20 Capital Programme (£35.535m) within the 2020/21 Capital Programme, subject to a recommendation from Cabinet on 9 June (as set out in para 58 of the 9 June Cabinet report). The appended reports include commentary from statutory officers assessing the implications.

Alistair Cunningham
Chief Executive Officer – Place

Terence Herbert
Chief Executive Officer – People

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Covid-19 and Financial Update to Cabinet on 9 June 2020

Appendix 2 – Covid-19 and Financial Update to Cabinet on 19 May 2020