

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET - 9 JANUARY 2024

CAPITAL STRATEGY 2024/25 – 2028/29

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND SECTION 151 OFFICER AND FINANCE TEAM
MANAGER AND DEPUTY S151 OFFICER**

LEAD CABINET MEMBER – COUNCILLOR ROGER LEES, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

PART A – SUMMARY REPORT

1.0 SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 The 2017 version of the CIPFA Prudential Code introduced the requirement for authorities to produce a capital strategy. The purpose of the capital strategy is to firmly place decisions around borrowing in the context of the overall longer-term financial position of the authority and to provide improved links between the revenue and capital budgets.
- 1.2 The last approved Capital Strategy covered the period from financial year 2022/23 to 2026/27.
- 1.3 Given the current uncertain economic climate, and the switch in external auditors to take effect from closure of the 2023/24 accounts it is prudent to approve an updated version to commence from the start of 2024/25 and to cover the period to 2028/29.
- 1.4 It is also noted that the current Council Plan expires in 2024. As the Capital Strategy necessarily follows the objectives of the Council Plan, this Capital Plan shall act as a holding document (to ensure we have a current plan in place) to be reviewed and updated as necessary alongside the approved, revised Council Plan (2024-28).

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that Members of Cabinet support the attached Capital Strategy 2024/25 to 2028/29.
- 2.2 It shall be noted that the document will be further revised (if necessary) further to the approval and publication of the Council Plan (2024-28)

3.0 SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

POLICY/COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Council Plan objectives?	
	Yes	The Capital Strategy is informed by Council Plan objectives and targets

	Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) been completed?	
	No	This report does not impact on equality issues
SCRUTINY POWERS APPLICABLE	N/a. The Capital Strategy is adopted further to Full Council approval	
KEY DECISION	No	
FINANCIAL IMPACT	Yes	The report ensures that the Capital Strategy of the Council, including future acquisitions and maintenance can be afforded and financed within the constraints of the MTFS.
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires the Council to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs. The 2017 version of the CIPFA Prudential Code introduced the requirement for authorities to produce a capital strategy.
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	No	
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	No	All Wards

4.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 4.1 The Appendix to this report includes the drafted Capital Strategy for the Council for 2024/25 to 2028/29.
- 4.2 In approving the broad principles of the Strategy, it should be noted that financial details in the Appendix will be updated alongside and commensurate with the MTFS. The intention is that both documents will be presented to Full Council in February 2024 (in the case of the MTFS there is a statutory requirement to do so) and it is imperative that they are consistent at that stage.
- 4.3 The Capital Strategy also needs to align and be consistent with the Council Plan. The current approved Plan (2020-24) will in due course be superseded. If necessary, an updated Capital Strategy will be drafted for Member approval to reflect priorities within the new Council Plan (2024-28) when the latter is adopted.

5.0 IMPACT ASSESSMENT – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Not applicable

6.0 PREVIOUS MINUTES

Not applicable

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Draft MTFS 2022/23 to 2026/27

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