

Meeting of the Full Council
Meeting to be held on Thursday, 18 October 2018

Report submitted by: Director of Finance

Part A

Electoral Division affected:
None;

Changes to Financial Regulations
(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

Financial Regulations currently require all amendments to the Capital Programme to be approved by Cabinet, and this includes frequent minor operational changes which can be met within the total approved budget for a service programme and where the scope of works has not fundamentally changed.

Amendment of the Financial Regulations to allow delegation to officers to approve amendments of this type will remove the necessity for Cabinet to approve these changes in future. This will enable improved efficiency in the management and monitoring of the Capital Programme and be overseen by the Capital Board.

Recommendation

Full Council is recommended to:

- (i) Approve changes to the Financial Regulations relating to Capital Expenditure as set out at Appendix 'A'.
- (ii) Authorise the Director of Corporate Services to make consequential amendments to the Constitution arising from these changes.

Background and Advice

The Capital Programme, once agreed by Full Council, is managed and controlled by an officer led Capital Board. However the Financial Regulations currently require relatively routine adjustments to the capital programme that can be met within the

approved budget for a service programme to be agreed by Cabinet, most often in respect of the highways and transport programmes.

The majority of the changes within these Cabinet reports are not fundamental programme changes but relate to operational adjustments concerning expenditure amendments to smaller schemes and in-programme budget adjustments, for example when outside factors mean that an individual scheme has to be rescheduled and another scheme started in its place, or when initial work on a scheme reveals that a lower than expected level of expenditure is necessary and other schemes can be brought forward. There have also been instances where new schemes are added to the programme through these reports, without affecting the overall budget allocation for a programme.

In order to enhance the efficiency of decision making and ensure that decisions are made at the most appropriate level within the organisation, it is proposed that the changes to the Financial Regulations around capital expenditure as set out in Appendix 'A' are approved. In summary these are to delegate to officers:

- decisions relating to straightforward operational changes, that do not change either the overall volume or scope of a particular service programme of works but relate to changes to individual project budgets.
- approval of new small schemes where funding is from an outside organisation, for example via a section 106 agreement.

If agreed, these decisions will be taken and recorded under the existing Heads of Service "Scheme of Delegation" arrangements. The Capital Board will continue to monitor and oversee these decisions.

Any requirement for significant new schemes, additional funding, or politically sensitive matters will continue to require Cabinet approval, ensuring that the transparency within the capital programme is maintained.

Cabinet and Cabinet Member oversight will continue, as will performance updates through the regular money matters reporting. Additional arrangements will be put in place to ensure that all county councillors are regularly updated to any changes that affect their own electoral division.

Implications:

There are no financial implications for this report, it relates to procedural changes to enable more streamlined management and reporting of the capital programme.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
None		

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A