

Cabinet

10 December 2020

Revenue Investment Funds 2020/21 November Report

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

- 1) Supports the progress made on the Climate Change strategy with a new Solar Panel project approved by Corporate Board under the under the authorisation delegated to Chief Executive at a cost of £0.094m.
- 2) Approves the bids as detailed in section 2, amounting to £1.413m from the Sustaining Prevention Fund and £0.385m from the Commercial Fund.
- 3) Approves the bid as detailed in section 3.1 amounting to £0.250m from the Capital Investment Fund and agree to add this to the capital programme.
- 4) Notes the approval of Corporate Board for the remainder of the funding requested in bids detailed in Section 3 from the Covid-19 government grant funding.
- 5) Authorises the Strategic Directors to procure and enter any agreements to give effect to the above proposals on terms and conditions acceptable to the Strategic Director for Resources.

1. Purpose of the report and context

- 1.1. As part of the 2020/21 budget, Council approved the creation of four Revenue Investment Funds, with a total allocation of £20m, to provide opportunities to run initiatives to meet objectives of tackling climate change, investing in commercialism, sustaining prevention of demand within communities and investment in place shaping including scoping capital and development opportunities for better value service provision. The indicative allocation of the resources between the funds was then updated by Cabinet in June to reflect the increased need to invest in economic recovery post Covid-19. The breakdown of these funds is below:

Council Investment Funds	Total £000s
Sustaining Prevention Fund – A fund to pump-prime upfront investment in demand management and early intervention initiatives prior to the financial benefits accruing.	5,000
Climate Change Fund – A fund to invest in priorities flowing from the Climate Change Task and Finish Group and Council Plan 2025	4,000
Commercial Fund – A fund to deliver commercial investment in outcomes for Warwickshire arising from the commercial strategy.	3,500
Place Shaping and Capital Investment Fund – A fund to support capital feasibility work, investment in place and to improve delivery.	7,500
Total MTFs Allocation	20,000

- 1.2. The funds are outside of core budgets, and members approved a four-stage approval process for projects seeking funding:
- **Stage 1:** A project proposal document is developed and reviewed by Gateway Group/Corporate Board as to the strategic fit with the priorities in the Council Plan;
 - **Stage 2:** The business case for the project is then prepared and an Investment Panel, made of representatives from Finance, Project Management Office and managers from services across the organisation, provides a technical evaluation and commentary on the proposal;
 - **Stage 3:** Gateway Group use this technical evaluation alongside their own analysis of project governance and feasibility, to recommend the projects to Corporate Board if under £0.1m per project, or Cabinet if over this value for approval; and
 - **Stage 4:** Cabinet approve/reject the allocations over £0.1m and note the projects under this value approved by Corporate Board. If the project is approved, funding is transferred to the service, and if savings have been identified flowing from the investment these are built into the medium-term financial strategy.
- 1.3. The schemes detailed in sections 2.1 to 2.6 and 3.1 to 3.6 of this paper are all part of a programme, led by People Directorate, covering wellbeing aligned to the recovery plan and wider prevention. Initiatives under the programme will focus on the objectives of enhancing residents' resilience, wellbeing and coping abilities in response to the pandemic; managing demand to Social Care services and avoiding pressure on other statutory Council services. Programme oversight will ensure that planning and monitoring include evidence of sustainability and developing clear breaks to exit safely when programme funding ends, as well as ensuring delivery and monitoring spend. Four projects have been put forward under this programme in this paper, two

with agreement for Covid-19 funding, two with recommendations for Sustaining Prevention funding, and there are two more in the pipeline. Subject to Cabinet's decision today a total of four projects will now be funded from the Sustaining Prevention Fund, leaving £3.033m in this fund for further initiatives across the next four years.

- 1.4. The schemes detailed in section 2.17 to 2.12 are part of the Commercial Strategy and Medium Term Financial Strategy to research and develop a Warwickshire Recovery and Investment Fund and to continue development of the Warwickshire Property and Development Company. Subject to Cabinet's decision today a total of three projects will now be funded from the Commercial Fund, leaving £2.675m in this fund for further initiatives across the next four years.
- 1.5. The scheme detailed in section 2.13 to 2.15 is part of the Climate Change Strategy to promote the installation of solar panels in Warwickshire. A total of two projects are now be funded from the Climate Change Fund, leaving £2.906m in this fund for further initiatives across the next four years.

2. Description of the Investment Fund bids

Tackling Social Inequality

- 2.1. Corporate Board recommend approval of £800,000 from the Sustaining Prevention fund for the Tackling Social Inequality project with the project sponsor being the Assistant Director, Children and Families Service.
- 2.2. Funding will be used to research, design and implement a strategy around tackling social inequality in Warwickshire. Implementation over two to three years will focus on containing the virus and promoting physical and mental health and well-being; helping our children and young people catch up on their education; harness the power of our communities to tackle inequality and social exclusion; stimulate job creation and skills by work with our partners in the Local Enterprise Partnership and higher and further education; and invest in regeneration and a sustainable future.
- 2.3. During its evaluation, the panel has requested that emphasis during the design phase of the project is given to identifying and engaging stakeholders to ensure the widest reach of the strategy. There is a request across the Sustaining Prevention bids to ensure longer term, indirect financial benefits from reduced demand to social care services are clarified and monitored. This feedback has already been incorporated into the delivery of the project through the design of a detailed engagement plan.

Integrated Health Records

- 2.4. Corporate Board recommend approval of £613,000 from the Sustaining Prevention Fund for the Integrated Care Record project with the project sponsor being the Assistant Director for Adult Social Care.
- 2.5. This bid will enable the Council to meet its Health and Care Partnership obligations regarding: 1) a financial contribution of £330,000 across the 5 years of the project, as required by all partners to Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust (CWPT) who are Programme Managing this work on behalf of the wider Health and Care Partnership; and 2) covering the Council's one-off ICT development, project delivery and implementation costs (including internal training, engagement and communications) during the 5 years of the project. The use of an integrated Care Record will give holistic access to customer data/information that will support improved care pathways through better insight and diagnosis as a result of the sharing of up to date information, and is aligned with the national policy drivers in terms of delivering integrated care records within Integrated Care System footprints at a regional level and better interoperability of systems across the public sector to improve customer outcomes.
- 2.6. During its evaluation, the Panel has requested that emphasis during the design phase of the project is given to milestone dates aligned to go/no go decisions. There is a request across the Sustaining Prevention bids to ensure longer term, indirect financial benefits from reduced demand to social care services are clarified and monitored. This feedback will be incorporated into the delivery of the project.

Warwickshire Recovery and Investment Fund

- 2.7. Corporate Board recommend approval of £220,000 from the Commercial Fund for the Warwickshire Recovery and Investment Fund development project with the project sponsor being the Assistant Director, Strategic Commissioning for Communities.
- 2.8. The funds will be used to engage resource to research and develop proposals for a Warwickshire Recovery & Investment Fund (WRIF); this will partially based on local and national economic analysis by external consultants that describes the potential benefits of setting up a WRIF, structured around three funds, that will attract investment into the county.
- 2.9. The Panel recognises that this is funding to research and design the Warwickshire Recovery Investment Fund and develop a full business case if the conclusion is that development of the WRIF is viable. As such the benefits and risks relating to the WRIF are not part of the decision to assign this initial

funding. The Panel recommended the inclusion of monitoring of external resource and an exit strategy from any obligations if the idea starts to appear non-viable. This feedback will be incorporated into the delivery of the project.

Warwickshire Property and Development Company

- 2.10. Corporate Board recommend approval of £165,000 from the Commercial fund for the Warwickshire Property and Development Company (WPDC) implementation project with the project sponsor being the Strategic Director for Resources.
- 2.11. The funds will be used to engage resource to continue development of proposals for WPDC.
- 2.12. During its evaluation the Panel noted the governance arrangements and evaluation criteria for investments are not fully defined, and requested that the stakeholder list be extended to incorporate a wider range of scrutiny and communication. This feedback will be incorporated into the delivery of the project.

Solar Together

- 2.13. Under delegated authority for allocation of investment funds under £100,000, Corporate Board have approved £93,600 from the Climate Change Fund for the Solar Together project, with the project sponsor being the Assistant Director for Enabling Services.
- 2.14. The funds would be spent designing and promoting a purchasing club for solar panel installation for Warwickshire residents wishing to take part. A commissioned partner would hold a reverse auction for the cheapest solar panel installer, vet the potential suppliers and send out offer letters to residents who have expressed an interest, as well as support through the installation process for those residents who proceeded with the selected supplier.
- 2.15. During its evaluation the Panel recommended clear dates to be set out for a decision on future years' continuation of the scheme, which will need to be based on the levels of income from the prior year, since funding from the Climate Change Fund is one year only. This feedback will be incorporated into the delivery of the project.

3. Description of the Covid-19 and Capital Investment Fund bids

Improving Mental Wellbeing

- 3.1 Corporate Board have approved £1,090,000 funding from the Covid-19 government grant, and recommend approval of £250,000 from the Capital Investment Fund for the Improving Mental Wellbeing project. The project sponsor is the Assistant Director, Strategic Commissioning for People.
- 3.2 This programme of work will support the Council to deliver the following priorities:
- Improve health and wellbeing outcomes for residents and tackle the impact of COVID-19 by using the findings from the Warwickshire health impact assessment;
 - Promote Dearlife.org.uk - a locally focused suicide prevention website which supports residents and their families;
 - To address the impact on people's mental health, we will improve access to mental health and wellbeing services. Strengthen support for young people at risk of emotional or mental health issues, with a particular focus on preventing self-harm;
 - Ensuring our services work closer with communities to increase the levels of self-help and volunteering;
 - Develop and implement an action plan to tackle isolation as a result of the impact of COVID-19.
 - The capital element of the funding will be spent on Signage in frequent suicide locations and creating dedicated relaxation spaces equipped for people in community centres, and will be added to the Capital Programme.
- 3.3 During its evaluation, the panel has requested that emphasis during the design phase of the project is given to any overlaps with existing Mental Health services to take advantage of arrangements and remove duplication. This feedback will be incorporated into the delivery of the project, with the responsibility for the project being placed with the same commissioners who have responsibility for existing Mental Health provision.

Mitigating the impact of Covid-19 on BAME communities

- 3.4 Corporate Board have approved £400,000 funding from the Covid-19 government grant for the Mitigating the Impact of Covid-19 on BAME Communities project. The project sponsor is the Director of Public Health.
- 3.5 The project aim is to work with the BAME community in Warwickshire to mitigate the elevated risks of COVID-19 mortality and morbidity experienced by this community. The following elements will be funded: Collaborative

research to understand the wider determinants of Covid-19 in the BAME Community; a grants process for BAME communities to apply to; two posts to coordinate the grants process and support communities to apply for funding and implement projects

- 3.6 During its evaluation, the panel has requested that emphasis during the design phase of the project is given to options appraisal and procurement routes. This feedback will be incorporated into the delivery of the project.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 The cost of the projects in sections 2 and 3 are limited to the amounts detailed. The Investment Panel have highlighted the need for exit strategies to ensure further funding is not committed without prior approval being sought. The anticipated financial benefit from the investments is to mitigate the impact of Covid-19 on social care and community services demand, and longer term business rate and council tax income through maintaining a vibrant economy.

5. Environmental Implications

- 5.1 The intention of the Community Climate Change Fund is to financially support external initiatives which have a positive impact on the environment in line with our climate change agenda. Individual bids have been assessed on their impact on the environment.

6. Background Papers

None

	Name	Contact Information
Report Authors	Andrew Healey	andrewhealey@warwickshire.gov.uk
Assistant Director	Andy Felton	andrewfelton@warwickshire.gov.uk
Strategic Director	Rob Powell	robpowell@warwickshire.gov.uk
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Peter Butlin	peterbutlin@warwickshire.gov.uk

This report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:
Cllr Peter Butlin