

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL Scrutiny Report Template

Committee:	Corporate Scrutiny Committee
Date:	27 th February, 2020
Subject:	2020/21 Budget Setting (Capital)
Purpose of Report:	Scrutiny consideration of final budget proposals for 2020/21
Scrutiny Chair:	Cllr Aled Morris Jones
Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr Robin Williams
Head of Service:	Marc Jones, Director of Resources / Section 151 Officer
Report Author:	Anwen Davies, Scrutiny Manager
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Local Members:	Not applicable

1 - Recommendation/s

The Corporate Scrutiny Committee is requested to agree a formal response to the Executive on the Council's final proposals for the 2020/21 capital budget (using the key scrutiny questions in paragraph 4 below), taking into account views from the Finance Scrutiny Panel.

2 – Link to Council Plan / Other Corporate Priorities

Direct link with the Council Plan and transformation priorities. The Committee's consideration of the initial capital proposals for next year will include how the proposals enable the Executive to deliver on the Council Plan and transformation priorities as well as any specific risks.

3 – Guiding Principles for Scrutiny Members

To assist Members when scrutinising the topic:-

- 3.1 Impact the matter has on individuals and communities [**focus on customer/citizen**]
- 3.2 A look at the efficiency & effectiveness of any proposed change – both financially and in terms of quality [**focus on value**]
- 3.3 A look at any risks [**focus on risk**]
- 3.4 Scrutiny taking a performance monitoring or quality assurance role [**focus on performance & quality**]
- 3.5 Looking at plans and proposals from a perspective of:
 - Long term
 - Prevention
 - Integration

- Collaboration
 - Involvement
- [focus on wellbeing]**

4 - Key Scrutiny Questions

The following key questions are proposed to underpin the Committee's consideration of the 2020/21 capital budget proposals:

- i. Given the limited capital resources available, does the Committee consider that the proposed capital programme makes the most effective use of funding sources?
- ii. How do the 2020/21 capital proposals enable the Executive to deliver on the Council Plan and the transformation programme in the medium term whilst balancing short term priorities?
- iii. How has the Council prepared over recent years for diminishing capital funding? What are the risks in moving forward?
- iv. Does the draft budget enable the Council to take advantage of possible grant opportunities in support of our strategic objectives?

5 – Background / Context

1. CONTEXT

1.1 Scrutiny of the budget setting process has developed and matured over recent years, laying the foundations for a better, more systematic process based on outcomes and good practice. In fact, the process allows for a more systematic approach to financial scrutiny, as an essential building block of sound financial management and governance. Our approach to financial scrutiny is emerging as a model of good practice.

1.2 Capital Strategy 2019/20 – 2021/22

The revised CIPFA Prudential Code¹ requires local authorities to produce a capital strategy in order to:

- Set out the long term context within which capital expenditure and investment decisions should be made
- As a means of ensuring that Councils take capital and investment decisions in line with service objectives and priorities
- Ensure that local authorities properly take into account stewardship, value for money, prudence, sustainability and affordability when setting its capital programme.

The Authority's capital strategy and capital programme 2019/20 – 2021/22 was adopted by Full Council in May, 2019². It sets out the objectives, principles and governance framework to ensure that the Authority takes capital expenditure and investment decisions in line with the Council Plan and local transformation priorities. A fundamental principle of the Strategy is to focus capital expenditure on projects which assist the Council meet the following key objectives of the Council Plan and help the Council meet its statutory responsibilities:

¹ Revised Prudential Code (CIPFA) dated September, 2017

² Meeting of Full Council convened on 14th May, 2019

- i. Ensure that the people of Anglesey can thrive and realise their long term potential
- ii. Support vulnerable adults and families to keep them safe, healthy and as independent as possible
- iii. Work in partnership with our communities to ensure that they can cope effectively with change and developments whilst protecting our natural environment

The Strategy also identifies the potential future capital expenditure, assesses the impact on the capital financing element of the revenue account and determines the funding available to finance new capital schemes for the period 2019/20 – 2021/22. Also, the strategy sets out the long term principles underpinning capital planning to the future.

1.3 Principles of the Capital Strategy

The Capital Strategy discusses a number of long term principles which should underpin the Council's capital programme:

- The annual capital programme should focus capital expenditure on projects which contribute most to the key priorities of the Council Plan 2017/2022
- Capital funding should be allocated each year to ensure investment in existing assets
- The Council will maximise external capital funding wherever possible and affordable
- Capital funding will also be prioritised on assets required to help the Council deliver its statutory responsibilities
- Continued commitment to the 21st Century Schools Programme and to fully utilise external funding available

1.4 Capital Budget Funding Sources

The Council's annual capital programme is funded through a number of funding sources:

- Capital Receipts
- Contribution from Revenue
- Supported Borrowing
- Unsupported Borrowing
- General Capital Grant
- External Grants
- Major Repair Allowance

1.5 In considering their response to the final capital budget proposals, members of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee will need to consider the proposals in terms of the longer term financial position of the Council (our Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Strategy & Capital Programme 2019/20 – 2021/22) and the Council's long term objectives and priorities (as set out in the Council Plan).

2. SETTING THE COUNCIL'S CAPITAL BUDGET FOR 2020/21

2.1 Attached is the report of the Director of Function (Resources) / Section 151 Officer on the initial capital proposals for the 2020/21 budget (**APPENDIX 1**) which was submitted to a meeting of this Committee on 13th January, 2020. The paper provides a position statement on the following issues:

- The Executive's initial capital budget position for 2020/21
- Level of capital expenditure
- Borrowing impacts on the revenue budget due to capital financing costs

- Ongoing revenue costs (such as maintenance)
- Budget pressures
- Risks
- Impact on the Medium Term Financial Plan and Council Plan

Details of the Final Settlement for the 2020/21 budget are expected from Welsh Government on 25th February. It will therefore be necessary for the Director of Function (Resources) / Section 151 Officer to submit a verbal report to the Committee detailing the final budget proposals for the next financial year.

3. FINANCIAL SCRUTINY – SETTING THE 2020/21 BUDGET

3.1 Financial scrutiny is much more than adding value to decisions taken by the Executive. It is about ensuring that there is proper scrutiny in the effective planning, delivery and follow up of key decisions impacting on taxpayers and local communities. Scrutiny should therefore:

- Provide effective challenge
- Hold decision makers to account; and
- Assist the Executive to develop a robust capital budget for the coming year.

4. FINANCE SCRUTINY PANEL

4.1 The Finance Scrutiny Panel considered the latest details of the budget proposals at its last meeting (convened on 20th February, 2020). A summary of the Panel's deliberations will be presented verbally at the meeting by Cllr Dafydd Roberts, chair of the Panel.

5. PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCES

5.1 The consultation exercise built on the solid foundations set over the past few years under the direction of the Joint Engagement and Consultation Board established with 3rd Sector partners.

5.2 To this end and because this year is an exceptional year as regards timing of the Initial Settlement, the consultation process consisted of the following steps:

- i. Budget report for the purpose of comments via the Council website
- ii. Town and Community Councils Forum and also extending an invitation to partners
- iii. Children & Young People's Forum
- iv. Schools' Finance Forum

The consultation period ran from 14th January until 7th February, 2020.

Attached is the report of the Head of Profession Human Resources and Transformation Service which summarises the main messages of the recent public consultation (**ATODIAD 2**).

6. KEY SCRUTINY ISSUES

6.1 The 2020/21 budget setting process provides an opportunity for Elected Members to consider and challenge the implications of the draft capital budget and any risks. Input has also been received via the Finance Scrutiny Panel who have given detailed consideration to the draft budget proposals. At this stage in the process, the Corporate Scrutiny Committee is now requested to agree a formal

response to the Executive³ on the Council's final proposals for the 2020/21 capital budget (using the key scrutiny questions in paragraph 4 above).

6 – Equality Impact Assessment [including impacts on the Welsh Language]

Identify the need for impact assessments later in the process.

7 – Financial Implications

This report discusses the process for setting the Council's 2020/21 budget, which includes consideration of the final capital budget proposals

8 – Appendices:

APPENDIX 1: report of the Director of Function (Resources) on the proposed capital budgets for 2020/21

ATODIAD 2: report of the Head of Profession Human Resources and Transformation Service summarising the main messages of the recent public consultation

9 - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):

Anwen Davies, Scrutiny Manager, Isle of Anglesey County Council, Council Offices, Llangefni. LL77 7TW

Date: 20/02/20

³ Meeting of the Executive to be convened on 13th January, 2020

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO:	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
DATE:	13 JANUARY 2020
SUBJECT:	INITIAL CAPITAL BUDGET 2020/21
PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S):	COUNCILLOR R WILLIAMS
HEAD OF SERVICE:	MARC JONES (EXT. 2601)
REPORT AUTHOR: TEL: E-MAIL:	MARC JONES EXT. 2601 rmjfi@ynysmon.gov.uk
LOCAL MEMBERS:	n/a

A - Recommendation/s and reason/s

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The Executive is required to propose a capital budget for 2020/21, which will be presented to full Council for approval at its meeting on 10 March 2020.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- To recommend to the full Council the following capital programme for 2020/21:-

	Ref	£'000
2019/20 Schemes Brought Forward	Para 4.1 & Table 2	3,294
Refurbishment / Replacement of Assets	Para 4.2.2 & Table 3	5,158
New One Off Capital Projects	Para 5.2 & Table 4	2,174
Smallholdings funded from capital receipts	Para 5.7	100
21 st Century Schools	Para 6	9,039
Housing Revenue Account	Para 7	17,138
Total Recommended Capital Programme 2020/21		36,903
Funded By:		
General Capital Grant		2,165
Supported Borrowing General		2,364
Capital Receipts		245
Capital Reserve		500
21 st Century Schools Supported Borrowing		2,680
21 st Century Schools Unsupported Borrowing		3,679
HRA Reserve & In Year Surplus		14,228
HRA Unsupported Borrowing		250
External Grants		7,572
2019/20 Funding Brought Forward		3,219
2020/21 Total Capital Funding		36,903

- That the use of the VAT Leisure reserve and any potential capital receipts from the proposed sale of the golf course are considered by the Executive when the draft Developing Leisure Provision for Future Generations Plan is presented to the Executive. The remaining £32k is carried forward as funding to be used in 2021/22.
- To note the potential future funding requirements for 2021/22 onwards (Appendix 1 Table 3 and paragraph 5.5).

B - What other options did you consider and why did you reject them and/or opt for this option?

A number of additional schemes are to be considered in the capital programme with the main driving factor in funding being affordability and the maximisation of external grant funding. The proposed capital programme and the additional Capital schemes, if supported, do not commit the Council to a level of borrowing which increases minimum revenue provision or interest payments to an unaffordable level.

C - Why is this decision for the Executive?

The matter is delegated to the Executive to propose the capital budget.

CH - Is this decision consistent with policy approved by the full Council?

Yes

D - Is this decision within the budget approved by the Council?

N/A

DD - Who did you consult?

What did they say?

1	Chief Executive / Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) (mandatory)	Comments from the SLT have been incorporated into the report
2	Finance / Section 151 (mandatory)	n/a – this is the Section151 Officer's report
3	Legal / Monitoring Officer (mandatory)	
4	Human Resources (HR)	
5	Property	
6	Information Communication Technology (ICT)	
7	Scrutiny	
8	Local Members	
9	Any external bodies / other/s	

E - Risks and any mitigation (if relevant)

1	Economic	
2	Anti-poverty	
3	Crime and Disorder	
4	Environmental	
5	Equalities	
6	Outcome Agreements	
7	Other	

F - Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Report on the Capital Budget 2020/21
Appendix 2 – Proposed Capital Budget 2020/21

FF - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):

Capital Strategy Report – Executive Committee 30 October 2017
Capital Budget 2019/20 – Full Council 27 February 2019

DRAFT CAPITAL BUDGET 2020/21**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1. The draft Capital Budget for 2020/21, set out below, takes into account the principles set out in the Capital Strategy which was approved by the Executive in February 2019 and the full Council in May 2019.

2. PRINCIPLES OF THE CAPITAL STRATEGY

2.1. The Capital Strategy for 2019/20 was approved by the Executive and full Council and will be updated for 2020/21 to reflect the new funding levels, any changes in the Council's priorities and any changes set out in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy for 2020/21, which will be approved by the Executive and full Council in March 2020.

2.2. The current Capital Strategy sets out the following principles for the Council in determining its capital programme:-

- Each year capital funding will be allocated to ensure an investment in existing assets.
- The Council will maximise external capital funding wherever possible and affordable.
- Capital funding will also be prioritised on assets required to help the Council deliver its statutory responsibilities.
- The Council remains committed to the 21st Century Schools Programme and will continue to fully utilise 21st Century Schools external funding.

2.3. The strategy then went on to provide a little more information on how these principles would be delivered and included the following key points:-

- That the 21st Century Schools programme is considered separately from the remainder of the general capital programme.
- That the replacement of existing and obsolete assets has the benefit of reducing revenue costs and that the capital programme will allocate funding to replace or improve existing I.T. equipment, vehicles and Council buildings.
- It is a statutory requirement to offer disabled facilities grants and that the capital programme will allocate funding annually to comply with this requirement.
- A sum will be allocated annually to fund road improvement works. The sum will depend on the amount required to achieve any minimum contract values, the level of external and internal funding available and an assessment of the state of repair of the Authority's roads.
- Projects that require match funding will be assessed on a case by case basis, with any decision to allocate funding being based on how the project fits into the Council's corporate priorities, any ongoing revenue implications and the ratio of Council funding to external funding.
- Projects funded from unsupported borrowing will only be undertaken if the reduction in revenue costs or increased income generated is sufficient to meet any additional capital financing costs.

2.4. The Capital Strategy also sets out how any new bid should be scored as follows:-

- How closely the project will contribute to the priorities of the Corporate Plan – score out of 20;
- Whether the project attracts significant external funding – score out of 10;
- Whether the project will lead to revenue savings – score out of 10;
- Whether the project will help mitigate a corporate risk – score out of 10.

3. FUNDING THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2020/21

3.1. The funds available to finance the capital programme for 2020/21 are shown in Table 1 below. It should be noted that the figure for the General Capital Grant and Supported Borrowing are based on the provisional Local Government settlement figures. The final figure will not be known until the final settlement figures are announced on 25 February 2020. The level of funding under both headings have remained fairly constant over a number of years and are not anticipated to change significantly between the provisional and final settlement.

Table 1
Anticipated Capital Funding Available for 2020/21

Source of Funding	£'m	£'m
General Fund Capital Programme		
Funding brought forward from 2019/20	3.219	
General Capital Grant	2.165	
Supported Borrowing (including unutilised in 2019/20)	2.364	
Capital Receipts	0.828	
Capital Reserve	0.500	
Leisure VAT Reserve	0.750	
External Grants and Contributions	2.232	
Funding for the General Capital Programme (Council Fund)		12.058
21st Century Schools		
Supported Borrowing	2.680	
Unsupported Borrowing	3.679	
Welsh Government Grant	2.680	
Funding for 21st Century Schools		9.039
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)		
HRA Reserve	5.240	
HRA - In-year Surplus	8.988	
Welsh Government Major Repairs Allowance	2.660	
Unsupported Borrowing	0.250	
Funding for HRA		17.138
Total Capital Funding 2020/21		38.235

- 3.2. The value of the capital receipts identified includes an estimate sum of £550k generated from the potential sale of the Golf Course and an indication has been given by the Executive to use any capital receipts from the sale of the Golf Course to fund improvements to other leisure facilities. It also includes £100k from the sale of smallholdings, which has been previously earmarked to improve the existing smallholding properties.
- 3.3. £500k has been allocated from the Capital Reserve, which would leave a forecast balance of £640k, which is available to fund any emergency capital works which may arise during the year or to provide match funding if the offer of significant grant funding was received during the year which required a small amount of match funding.
- 3.4. The HRA funding is earmarked for HRA projects only and cannot be used for any other projects. The plan allows for the use of £5.24m in 2020/21, leaving £1m as the ongoing reserve balance. This is in accordance with the HRA Business Plan which has been previously approved by the Council.

4. DRAFT CAPITAL PROGRAMME (Committed Schemes)

4.1. 2019/20 Schemes Carried Forward

The following schemes will not be completed in 2019/20 and will carry forward to 2020/21.

Table 2

2019/20 Schemes Brought Forward

2019/20 Schemes Brought Forward	2020/21 £'000	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Gypsy and Traveller Site – Star	670	-	-
Tourism Gateway	1,345	-	-
Holyhead Strategic Infrastructure	379	-	-
Holyhead Regeneration (THI Phase II)	900	1,500	460
Total Schemes Brought Forward	3,294	1,500	460

4.1.1 Temporary Gypsy & Traveller Site at Star – Following the purchase of the site and the initial design costs, £670k of the allocated budget remains unutilised and will not be spent before the end of the financial year. The final specification for the scheme is currently being drawn up and the tendering process will commence in early 2020.

4.1.2 Tourism Gateway – This is an EU grant funded scheme and no additional Council funding will be required in 2020/21.

4.1.3 Holyhead Strategic Infrastructure – This is a scheme funded under a Joint Venture agreement between the Council and Welsh Government to build new business premises with additional external grant funding. No additional Council funding will be required in 2020/21 to complete the scheme.

4.1.4 Holyhead Regeneration (THI Phase II) - £825k of the £900k required will be grant funded through the Heritage Lottery Fund, but an additional £75k match funding will be required. Given the level of grant compared to the Council's contribution, it is recommended that this scheme is included in the 2020/21 capital programme.

4.2. Refurbishing/Replacing Existing Assets

4.2.1 Each year, sums are allocated in the capital programme in order to maintain, upgrade or replace existing assets. The sums allocated have been reviewed by the Finance Team in consultation with the relevant service and the following sums are recommended for 2020/21:-

- **Disabled Facilities Grant (DFGs)** – In previous years, £750k has been allocated and this was supplemented in 2018/19 and 2019/20 by the use of Intermediate Care Fund grants. The Housing Service, who is responsible for the awarding of DFG grants, have indicated that £600k will be sufficient funding for 2020/21. However, as part of the Revenue Budget proposals, the cost of delivering DFG work will also be capitalised, with £36k being transferred from the revenue budget to the capital budget. This takes the total allocation to £636k. It will be necessary to increase the funding back to £750k in 2021/22 onwards.
- **Disabled Access in Education Buildings** - £300k has been allocated to meet the cost of these adaptations in previous years. Property Services have identified £978k required in 5 secondary schools and has programmed this work to take place over the next 3 years. As a result, the allocation of £300k is recommended again for 2020/21.
- **Refurbishment of Schools** – The backlog maintenance in schools is significant and cannot be funded in the short to medium term. The Property Services Team have identified the most urgent work to utilise the usual allocation of £1m.
- **Refurbishment of Non School Buildings** – Again, a backlog of work has been identified in the Council's offices, residential homes, day care facilities, libraries and leisure centres and there is insufficient funding to undertake this work in any one year. £600k has been allocated in previous years and this level of funding will be sufficient to meet the cost of the majority of the priority work required to be undertaken. This could be a potential area the Council could capitalise on new environmental and carbon reduction grants during the year.
- **Highways Resurfacing** – Highways have assessed that, as a minimum, £2.2m needs to be spent on the Council's highways in order to maintain the current standard. To bring all the Council's roads up to standard again would take an investment in the region of £15m to £30m. Welsh Government has allocated £20m to assist Councils with a Highways refurbishment programme. Anglesey's allocation of this grant funding for 2020/21 is £599k, which leaves £1.25m to be funded from the Council's core capital funding.
- **Vehicles** – A sum of £150k has been allocated in previous years to allow for the replacement of obsolete vehicles and to purchase more fuel efficient/ carbon neutral vehicles e.g. electric cars. However, in addition to the routine replacement of vehicles, 2 sets of vehicles are reaching the end of their useful life and need to be replaced, namely gritting lorries and Môn Community Transport minibuses. In both cases, the repair costs are increasing and there is an increasing risk that vehicles may not be available when they are needed. It is recommended that the vehicles are replaced over the next 3 years, with £300k being allocated for the purchase of new gritters each year for the next 3 years. The Fleet Manager intends to purchase 2 new MCT minibuses in 2020/21, funding one from the £150k allocated for the purchase of new vehicles, with an additional £30k being allocated in 2020/21.

- **I.T. Assets** – Continued investment is required to maintain the Council's core infrastructure and the replacement of devices used by staff to access systems. £171k has been identified as a sum required to maintain the core infrastructure with £121k required for desktop devices. In previous years, licensing costs were funded from capital funding but, as the pressure on the revenue budget has eased slightly, these costs have been transferred to the revenue budget, which releases some capital funding.

4.2.2 The recommended core funding allocations above are summarised in Table 3 below:-

Table 3
Recommended Allocation of Funding for Refurbishment / Replacement of Existing Assets 2020/21 – 2022/23

Refurbishing / Replacing Existing Assets	2020/21 £'000	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Disabled Facilities Grants	636	750	750
Disabled Access in Education Buildings	300	300	300
Refurbishment of Schools	1,000	1,000	1,000
Refurbishment of Non School Buildings	600	600	600
Highways Resurfacing (£599k funded from WG Grant)	1,850	1,850	1,850
Vehicles	480	480	480
I.T. Assets	292	292	292
Total	5,158	5,272	5,272

4.2.3 The General Capital Funding received from Welsh Government for 2020/21 totals £4.324m. There has been little increase in the general capital allocation received from Welsh Government for a number of years as additional capital funding has been directed to specific projects e.g. 21st Century Schools. If this level of funding continues in 2021/22 and beyond, the Council's capital programme will either be limited to the refurbishment and replacement of existing assets or the allocations shown above will have to be reduced in order to free up funding to meet other commitments.

5. OTHER BIDS FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING

- 5.1. Services were requested to put forward bids for capital funding. These bids were assessed by the Finance Team, using the scoring mechanism set out in the Capital Strategy, and then prioritised by the Senior Leadership Team. Excluding the 21st Century Schools programme, the Housing Revenue Account, the Leisure VAT reserve, any capital receipts which may be generated from the sale of the golf course (if the Executive decides to move ahead with the sale) and smallholdings, the total general core funding available for 2020/21 totalled £5.207m, of which £4.634m is allocated above (Table 2 & 3), leaving £0.573m surplus funding to fund new projects in 2020/21.
- 5.2. Having scored the projects (as per the methodology set out in paragraph 2.4) and following the review by the Senior Leadership Team, the following projects are recommended to be included in the 2020/21 capital programme (see Table 4 below):-

Table 4

Recommended One Off Capital Projects to be Funded in 2020/21

Project Title	Description	Sum Recommended £'000	Core Funding £'000	External Grant £'000
Economic Development and Environmental well being projects	Project development and match funding to be used as and when grant funding becomes available.	95	95	0
Porth y Wrach Slipway	Installation of vehicle recognition/ CCTV cameras at the slipway to monitor health and safety and to assist in the collection of launching fees.	30	30	0
Plas Mona	To upgrade facilities at the Residential Home.	80	80	0
Leisure Facilities Improvement Fund	To provide initial funding to begin the implementation of the "Developing Leisure Provision for Future Generations Plan." The plan will be presented to the Executive in due course which will detail the exact projects to be progressed using this funding and any potential external grants which the Council can secure.	250	250	0
Flood Relief Schemes	To fund the design of major schemes and to provide match funding (15%) to draw down Welsh Government grant funding for smaller schemes. WG grant would total £487k.	573	86	487
Holyhead Landscape Partnership	This will be fully funded from external grants.	1,146	0	1,146
TOTAL RECOMMENDED FUNDING TO BE ALLOCATED IN 2020/21		2,174	541	1,633

5.3 The Council has identified the need for flood relief works in a number of areas including Menai Bridge, Llanfair, Red Wharf Bay, Valley, Amlwch and Holyhead. The total cost of all of these schemes is estimated at between £10m and £12m. Even with 85% grant funding from Welsh Government, it would require the Council to allocate significant core capital funding to complete these schemes. At present, that funding is not available, however, the sum allocated above will allow the projects to be designed and be ready to implement as and when funding becomes available.

5.4 The bidding process also identified a number of projects which do not require funding in 2020/21 but may need to be funded in 2021/22 or beyond. These include the following:-

- ICT in Schools – The Council will receive grant funding to upgrade IT facilities within schools but the grant is conditional on the Council making a commitment to renew and upgrade these facilities in the future. This will require the release of an estimated £2m of funding in 5 years' time. By setting aside an annual sum e.g. £500k per annum, it is possible to build up a reserve that will be available to fund the future replacement costs.
- Flood mitigation on the B5109 at Fryars Bay. As no properties are at risk from the flooding in this area, the scheme does not attract grant funding from the Welsh Government under its current scheme. Should grant funding become available, the Council may need to consider releasing match funding in order to complete the mitigation works.
- The provision of learning disability day services is currently under review. The outcome of that review may recommend a capital investment in one or more centre in order to modernise the service. It is not clear at this point how much capital funding would be required but it is likely to be a significant sum.
- The Council is currently producing a "Developing Leisure Facilities for Future Generations" plan, designed to identify what will be required to maintain and improve the leisure facilities at the Council's 3 main leisure centres and other key locations. Around £750k is held in a leisure specific reserve and the funding available could be increased through the potential sale of the golf course, if the Council reaches that conclusion. However, the funding requirement is considerably higher and will require additional external funding to implement. Any additional investment to prepare for the Island Games would also require external grant funding support.
- The current Anglesey Connected equipment is nearing the end of its useful life and, in order to maintain the connections to the establishments currently served by Anglesey Connected, the equipment will need to be replaced or the connections need to be transferred to PSBA. It is estimated that, over a 3 year period, £180k will be required to complete the transition. However, moving away from Anglesey Connected would allow the masts to be sold, which would generate a capital receipt.
- The Council has invested sums over recent years in modernising its business processes by investing in back office systems and implementing the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system. The next step is to begin to develop automated response systems to deal with customer queries (ChatBots). Although the Council is not in a position to implement the technology at the present time, the need to invest in such technology was identified as a future capital bid.
- In order to extend the areas where it is possible to generate fees from car parking or modernise the way motorists pay parking fees, it will be necessary to replace and/or increase the number of pay and display machines. This will require future capital investment.
- The Council is developing a corporate strategy to improve environmental performance and reduce carbon emissions. Whilst a number of existing or planned activities are funded, it is expected that the Council will need to allocate additional capital and revenue funding in the future to ensure it plays its part fully.

5.5 Smallholdings

Two bids were received for the upgrade of 2 smallholdings at a combined cost of £160k. Given the limited funding, it is recommended that the upgrade of smallholdings is funded from any capital receipts generated from the sale of land or buildings or from the sum allocated for repairs and maintenance in the revenue budget. It is expected that capital receipts of £100k will be received in 2020/21.

6 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS

6.1 Due to the significant amount of Welsh Government funding the schemes will attract and the need to modernise the existing school estate, the Council is committed to funding these schemes through the use of unsupported borrowing and the capital receipts from the sale of old school sites. The 2020/21 Capital Programme allows for the completion of Band A projects and the commencement of Band B projects. It is for the Executive to decide what those projects will be and when they will be commenced.

6.2 The estimated cost of the programme in 2020/21 is £9.039m (net of any capital receipts), which will be funded from £2.68m Welsh Government grant, £2.68m supported borrowing and £3.679m unsupported borrowing.

7 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

7.1 The Housing Revenue Account is a ring fenced account in terms of both revenue and capital expenditure. The proposed programme for 2020/21 will see the continued investment in the existing stock to ensure continued compliance with the WHQS standards, with £6.645m being invested. A further £10.493m will be spent on developing new properties and in re-purchasing former right to buy properties.

7.2. The programme will be funded from: the HRA Reserve (£5.24m), the revenue surplus generated in 2020/21 (£8.988m), Welsh Government grants (£2.66m) and new unsupported borrowing (£0.25m).

8. SUMMARY RECOMMENDED CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2020/21

8.1. The recommended capital programme for 2020/21 is summarised in Table 5 below and analysed in further detail in Appendix 2.

Table 5

Summary Recommended Capital Programme 2020/21

	Ref	£'000
2019/20 Schemes Brought Forward	Para 4.1 & Table 2	3,294
Refurbishment / Replacement of Assets	Para 4.2.2 & Table 3	5,158
New One Off Capital Projects	Para 5.2 & Table 4	2,174
Smallholdings funded from capital receipts	Para 5.7	100
21 st Century Schools	Para 6	9,039
Housing Revenue Account	Para 7	17,138
Total Recommended Capital Programme 2020/21		36,903
Funded By:		
General Capital Grant		2,165
Supported Borrowing General		2,364
Capital Receipts		245
Capital Reserve		500
21 st Century Schools Supported Borrowing		2,680
21 st Century Schools Unsupported Borrowing		3,679
HRA Reserve & In Year Surplus		14,228
HRA Unsupported Borrowing		250
External Grants		7,572
2019/20 Funding Brought Forward		3,219
2020/21 Total Capital Funding		36,903

8.2 The total funding available for 2020/21, as set out in Table 1, is £38.235m. It is recommended that £36.903m is utilised, leaving an unused balance of £1.332m. This is made up of £750k VAT Leisure reserve, £550k estimated capital receipts from the potential sale of the Llangefni Golf Course and £32k of unallocated capital receipts.

It is recommended that the use of the VAT Leisure reserve and any potential capital receipts from the sale of the golf course are considered by the Executive when the draft Developing Leisure Provision for Future Generations Plan is presented to the Executive. The remaining £32k is carried forward as funding to be used in 2021/22.

Proposed Capital Programme 2020/21

Scheme Name	Budget 2020/21 £	Funded By								Total Funding £'000
		2019/20 B/F	General Capital Grant	Supported Borrowing	Capital Receipts	Capital Reserve	Unsupported Borrowing	External Grants	Reserves	
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
2019/20 Schemes Brought Forward										
Star Gypsy and Traveller Site	670	670								670
Tourism Gateway	1,345	1,345								1,345
Holyhead Strategic Infrastructure	379	379								379
Holyhead Regeneration (THI Phase II)	900	825			75					900
Total 2019/20 Schemes Brought Forward	3,294	3,219	-	-	75	-	-	-	-	3,294
Refurbishment / Replacing Existing Assets – Building, Vehicles, IT & Highways										
Disabled Facilities Grants	636		636							636
Disabled Access in Education Buildings	300			300						300
Refurbish Schools	1,000			1,000						1,000
Refurbish – Non School Buildings	600			379	71	150				600
Highways Resurfacing	1,850		726	524		1		599		1,850
Purchase of New Vehicles	480		480							480
Upgrading / Replacing IT Equipment	292		292							292
Total Refurbishment / Replacing Existing Assets	5,158	-	2,134	2,203	71	151	-	599	-	5,158
New Capital Projects 2020/21										
Economic Development and Environmental Well Being	95			95						95
Porth Wrach Slipway – Enforcement Cameras	30			30						30
Refurbishment of Plas Mona Residential Home	80		31	36		13				80
Match Funding for Flood Relief Schemes	573					86		487		573
Leisure Improvements	250					250				250
Smallholding Refurbishments	100				100					100
Holyhead Landscape Partnership	1,146							1,146		1,146
Total New Capital Projects 2020/21	2,274	-	31	161	100	349	-	1,633	-	2,274

Scheme Name	Budget 2020/21 £	Funded By								Total Funding £'000	
		2019/20 B/F	General Capital Grant	Supported Borrowing	Capital Receipts	Capital Reserve	Unsupported Borrowing	External Grants	Reserves		
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		
21st Century Schools / School Modernisation											
Completion of Band A Programme	5,297			1,355				2,587	1,355		5,297
Commencement of Band B Programme	3,742			1,325				1,092	1,325		3,742
Total 21st Century Schools / School Modernisation	9,039	-	-	2,680	-	-	-	3,679	2,680	-	9,039
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	19,765	3,219	2,165	5,044	246	500	-	3,679	4,912	-	19,765
Housing Revenue Account											
Planned Maintenance and WHQS Improvements	6,645								2,660	3,985	6,645
New Developments and re-purchase of RTB properties	10,493							250		10,243	10,493
Total Housing Revenue Account	17,138	-	-	-	-	-	-	250	2,660	14,228	17,138
TOTAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2020/21	36,903	3,219	2,165	5,044	246	500	-	3,929	7,572	14,228	36,903

Response to the Executive Committee's Initial Budget Proposals – 2020/21

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

February 2020

Author – Gethin Morgan, Business Planning, Programme and Performance Manager

Head of Service – Carys Edwards, Head of Human Resources & Corporate Transformation

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Council recently undertook a consultation exercise on the initial budget proposals agreed for consultation by the Executive Committee between 15th January and 7th February, 2020. The 3 week consultation period focused on proposals from across Council services.
- 1.2. These proposals were the result of the annual budgetary process and were consulted upon in order to gain the views of the public and ensure the Executive can (as the process draws to a close) make recommendations from a fully informed position. They were presented by the services during the autumn where they were also challenged and agreed upon for the purposes of consultation by the Elected Members of every political group in the Council.
- 1.3. Consideration was given to a broad range of savings where the internal challenge and consensus had led to proposals that varied from matters such as increasing Council Tax levels by between 4-5% to the deletion of certain vacant posts to increasing car parking costs at coastal sites and towns by differing rates.
- 1.4. These proposals were publicised in various ways;
 - 1.4.1. Statements and articles in the press
 - 1.4.2. The proposals were published on the Council's website (homepage)
 - 1.4.3. Extensive use of social media – Twitter, Facebook to promote the proposals to a broader range of residents
 - 1.4.4. An interview by the Portfolio Holder Robin Williams on MônFM promoting the consultation and its contents

Each of the channels above were aimed at publicising and creating enthusiasm amongst citizens and staff to engage and respond to the initial proposals.



- 1.5. Citizens, partners and staff were asked to respond to the consultation through different means, including:
 - An on-line survey on our website
 - E-mail or
 - Writing to us in the traditional way by posting a letter
- 1.6. As well as the above, the Council held further engagement exercises with :

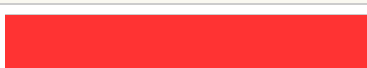

- Town & Community Council forum together with partners in the Council Chamber
- Sessions with young people via the Young Farmers and Urdd forums.
- A session with the Head teachers and Senior Managers of schools on the Island



The consultation this year followed a similar pattern to previous consultation events that have been held in recent years, but wasn't as extensive as past years due to the shortened timescale enforced upon the Council by Welsh Government. The emphasis this year was placed on gaining an electronic response through our extensive use of social media.



85 responses were received via electronic means, 3 e-mails and 2 letters were received via e-mail.

The results / findings are as follows –

Do you agree that the Council should continue to invest in Adult Services as a response to an increase in demand?							Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes						80.72%	67
2	No						19.28%	16
Analysis	Mean:	1.19	Std. Deviation:	0.39	Satisfaction Rate:	19.28	answered	83
	Variance:	0.16	Std. Error:	0.04			skipped	2

Do you agree with the Executive's proposal to protect the School's budget by not implementing the £800k cut that was postponed in 2019/20?							Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes						73.49%	61
2	No						26.51%	22
Analysis	Mean:	1.27	Std. Deviation:	0.44	Satisfaction Rate:	26.51	answered	83
	Variance:	0.19	Std. Error:	0.05			skipped	2

Do you think it is reasonable that we raise the Council Tax between 4.5% and 5%? (When considering the level of the settlement and the need to fund the increase in financial demand within Adult Services and Schools)							Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes						30.12%	25
2	No						69.88%	58
Analysis	Mean:	1.7	Std. Deviation:	0.46	Satisfaction Rate:	69.88	answered	83
	Variance:	0.21	Std. Error:	0.05			skipped	2



Do you agree with the proposals in Appendix 4 of the Revenue Budget Report?							Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes						58.90%	43
2	No						41.10%	30
Analysis	Mean:	1.41	Std. Deviation:	0.49	Satisfaction Rate:	41.1	answered	73
	Variance:	0.24	Std. Error:	0.06			skipped	12

The result above demonstrates an outcome in favour of the proposals put forward for savings during 2020/21. Having said this, there are some views which question certain proposals and the Council received seventeen such views. These vary from questioning the value of increasing car parking charges to challenging why such an increase in Council tax is required.

The point re: increasing car-parking costs at coastal location is a point of concern for two e-mailed responses (one of which is from Red Wharf Sailing and Water-sports Club) which outline the impact such a change could have if increases are implemented and whether this could have further far-reaching effects to individual health and well-being opportunities into the future.

Others question the validity of increasing Council Tax year on year with some highlighting the fact that the rise is normally at a rate above inflation which means their disposable income is decreasing year on year. One comment stated that Welsh Government should increase funding levels for Councils and three comments pointed to the view that second home owners should pay a greater tax for their second home on Anglesey.

A single comment questioned the value of the reducing the civic events budget, questioning its impact on tourism, social inclusion and intergenerational activities and a response from a community council noted that the 3 week consultation period wasn't sufficient for them to reply.

Do you agree with our proposals in our full capital programme for 2020/21 provided in the Capital budget report?							Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes						53.42%	39
2	No						46.58%	34
Analysis	Mean:	1.47	Std. Deviation:	0.5	Satisfaction Rate:	46.58	answered	73
	Variance:	0.25	Std. Error:	0.06			skipped	12

The responses to the capital budget proposals were more evenly matched with 53% in agreement with the proposals and 47% not in favour of them.

Seventeen comments were received, one of which questioned why there was no public facing documents used for consultation and that failure to do so inferred a 'tokenistic' consultation process. A couple of comments pointed to the fact that the government should be lobbied to a greater degree in order to realise corporation tax from large organisations.

Others questioned the relevance of the following –

- Why protect the education budget?
- Why increase council tax?
- Travellers site
- The purchasing of new gritters

One response questioned whether there should be an investment into Ysgol Syr Thomas Jones, Amlwch as part of the school modernisation programme as it is believed it is a 'money pit'. Another questioned whether an investment into Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni should be realised due to the condition of the current school and a further comment pleaded with the Council to build the new Corn Hir school with a 50% increase in capacity due to increasing number of families that will make Llangefni their home over the forthcoming years.

Other responses noted that old Council buildings should be sold off and the number of Council staff should be reduced together with the stern questioning of whether Mon Community Transport is an unnecessary luxury that has become unaffordable when there are other alternative transport options for customers to use.