STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

13 JUNE 2017

Report Title	**CAPITAL PROJECT MONITORING**
Purpose of Report	To inform the Committee of progress on capital projects within its remit.
Decision(s)	**The Committee notes the report.**
Consultation and Feedback	Details are contained within the body of the report
Financial Implications and Risk Assessment	This report is consistent with approved Council budgets. There are no direct financial implications as this report is for information only. Any additional expenditure outside of the agreed budget must be reported separately. David Stanley – Accountancy Manager (s151 Officer) Tel: 01453 754100 Email david.stanley@stroud.gov.uk Risks for these projects are set out in the Council's Corporate risk register.
Legal Implications	This report is for information purposes only and there are no specific legal implications. However, each individual capital project will have its own separate legal implications which will be dealt with in their individual reports as and when they come to committee. Craig Hallett, Solicitor Tel: 01453 754364 Email: craig.hallett@stroud.gov.uk
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Options	This report is for information only
Performance Management Follow Up	Update reports are to be supplied to this committee on a regular basis
Background Papers/ Appendices	A number of members information sheets have been prepared.

1.   Introduction

1.1   The following report provides an **executive summary** of each of the Capital Projects within the remit of the Strategy and Resources Committee.

In some cases there is a Members' information sheet that provides further detail.

1.2   The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee on progress with the capital projects and allow members to question project managers.

2.   Littlecombe Business Units – Dursley

2.1   The objective of this project is to bring forward 18,350sqft of new commercial buildings for use by small-medium businesses on the Littlecombe development site. The decision is based on a business case estimate which shows pay-back on full build cost between 0 years and 15 years, depending on pre-let, pre-sale and other contract terms.

2.2   Due to tender prices being returned at figures higher than budget estimates the project has been reviewed and an amended proposal is the subject of a separate report to members seeking approval to a revised budget of £1.93 million.

3.   Brimscombe Port Redevelopment

3.1   The overall aim of this project is to see the redevelopment of this important site to deliver a minimum of 150 homes, some commercial uses, a community centre and to the restore the canal and basin.

3.2   The first part of the project comprises the land assembly, design and planning permission for the 1st phase infrastructure (canal/river/road crossing, new bridge and access into the site) of this brownfield site, substantially de-risking the site for developers. This will be followed by the procurement of the development of the site.

3.3   A £3m Investment, made up from a £2m (recoverable loan) from the Homes and Communities Agency and £1m of capital from the Council has been made available for the phase 1 infrastructure works.

3.4   The Ship Inn was acquired in March 2017 to facilitate the development, this impacted on spend last financial year. Design consultants have been appointed for the Phase 1 infrastructure and are in contract.

3.5   The overall project programme requires updating to reflect the current position and different scenarios for some of the main streams of work (e.g. development procurement) as requested by the Project Board. The programme will endeavour to run tasks concurrently where possible and practical to do so with the aim of minimising the impact on the overall project due to any slippage in time for the phase 1 infrastructure works.

3.6   An Information Sheet is to be circulated to members prior to the meeting detailing the key milestones for the project.

4.   Homes for Rent

4.1   The Council wishes to provide more rented homes for the district and has approved a four year expenditure profile in its Capital Programme 2017-21 under the heading Homes for Rent.

4.2   In making this decision, it was acknowledged this would require decision-making about the nature of the programme.

4.3   A separate report is to be presented to members at the meeting setting out the next steps prior to returning to members in October with proposals for delivering more homes for rent.

5.   ICT Investment

5.1   The Council is committed to investing up to £600k over the next 3 years (2017/18 to 2019/20) in the corporate infrastructure of ICT and in achieving channel shift.

5.2   The investment plan is detailed in Members Information Sheet 2016/17 SR-003 and shows the spending profile balanced at £200k per annum. Due to recent events, we may have to look at this again, advancing some of our disaster recovery spend into years 1 and 2.

5.3   The spend is divided into two main areas,

5.3.1 **Infrastructure** – The servers, wiring, switches and other ancillary peripherals are either passed their 'use-by-date' or are about to exceed it. As such we are unable to maintain them nor source replacements should they fail. In addition, technology has moved on considerably since they were installed, and therefore replacements would be more energy efficient, quicker and more robust.

5.3.2 The Council also needs to keep up with advances in cyber attacks and increase its resilience in the event of penetration by malware, virus or any other threat to our data security. It is in this area that projects will have to be brought forward.

5.3.3 **Step Change** – The Council has a reputation for cutting edge software development, as evidenced by our award winning website. Times have moved on and so has the technology behind the scenes. The Council is committed to increasing the transactional nature of its website and e-communication. To facilitate this we need to invest in a suite of tools that will integrate the citizens request for service, our payment engines, booking/appointment services, and the back office systems.

5.3.4 The projects team are currently reviewing a number of services including the Customer Service Centre so that efficiencies can be realised from Channel Shifting calls to the most appropriate method of communication.

5.3.5 Of particular interest to members is investment in a more secure means of getting, reading and replying to councillor emails, whilst at the same time making it far simpler to use. A product called Blackberry Works (formally the GoodApp) has been procured and is in the process of being installed. It is planned to deploy the system to early adopters (live testing) in two months, with it going mainstream after the summer holidays. This work has been promoted and reviewed by the Members Development Working Group and led by Cllr Braun.