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**Report To:** Education & Communities Committee      **Date:** 1 November 2016

**Report By:** Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and Chief Financial Officer      **Report No:** EDUCOM/68/16/JA

**Contact Officer:** John Arthur      **Contact No:** 01475 714263

**Subject:** Communities Capital Programme 2016 to 2018

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## 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update the Committee in respect of the status of the projects forming the Communities Capital Programme and to highlight the overall financial position.

## 2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report advises the Committee in respect of the progress and financial status of the projects within the Communities Capital Programme.
- 2.2 Overall the Committee is projecting to contain the costs of the 2016-2018 Capital Programme within available budgets.
- 2.3 Appendix 1 contains details of the projected spend and cashflow for the Capital Programme over the 2 years of the current programme together with a projected allocation for future years.
- 2.4 Expenditure at 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2016 is £1,182,000 or 43.6% of the 2016/17 approved budget.

## 3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the Committee note the progress with the specific projects as detailed in Appendix 1 and the projected acceleration of £55k or 2.0% expenditure.

**John Arthur**  
Head of Safer & Inclusive  
Communities.

**Alan Puckrin**  
Chief Financial Officer

## **4.0 BACKGROUND**

4.1 This report shows the current position of the approved Communities Capital Programme.

## **5.0 HOUSING SCHEME OF ASSISTANCE (SOA)**

5.1 The Scheme of Assistance provides statutory housing assistance for the improvement and repair of private sector housing within Inverclyde. There is a 3-strand approach to delivery, namely Advice & Information, Practical Assistance and Financial Assistance. In order to meet the objectives of the Local Housing Strategy, repairs and improvements for the following areas are given priority – work to meet needs of disabled persons, houses which fail the tolerable standard, tackling fuel poverty, replacement of lead drinking water pipes and communal Scottish Housing Quality Standard works. Funding for SOA in the period 2016 to 2019 is £2.572m.

Expenditure to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2016 is £195,000 or 26.4% of the approved 2016/17 budget 2016/17 (£739,000)

## **6.0 WATT COMPLEX REFURBISHMENT**

6.1 The immediate priority for the complex is to ensure that all essential repairs are carried out to the external envelope, ensuring that the building is wind, watertight and safe. The capital programme has been amended to take account of this with a total of £2million being earmarked for essential repair and upgrading by the end of 2017/18.

Dry rot works have been carried and, following tender, were less expensive than expected, contributing to an actual expenditure of £184k for 2015/16. Expenditure to 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2016 is £45,000 or 8.6% of the 2016/17 budget (£523,000).

Historic Environment Scotland (HES) approved a grant application for £297,000 for the project in August 2016. This award will ensure that the required works for Phase 1 are kept within the budget allowance.

## **7.0 INVERKIP COMMUNITY FACILITY AND LIBRARY FITOUT**

7.1 Construction of a new Community Facility for Inverkip commenced on site in November 2015 and is progressing well despite challenging weather conditions.

The contractor anticipates completion on site by mid-October 2016.

Expenditure at 30 September 2016 is 887,000 or 84.3% of the 2016/17 budget (£1.052m).

## **8.0 WOODHALL COMMUNITY FACILITY**

8.1 The purpose of this project was to build a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) and a small tenants' hall at a vacant site in Parkhill Square, Port Glasgow. The Woodhall Tenants' and Residents' Association were successful in obtaining lottery funding for the MUGA but expressed no interest in proceeding with the tenants' hall project at this time.

In order to resolve an unforeseen land acquisition issue, the sum of up to £30k from the current capital allocation was earmarked to allow purchase of the land (including professional fees) without further delay.

Officers have agreed with Woodhall Tenants' and Residents' Association that the current allocation from the capital budget will be allocated toward provision of CCTV to combat fly tipping, and road calming and other road safety measures in the area.

Expenditure to 30 September, 2016 is £2000, 3.1% of the 2016/17 budget (£65,000).

## **9.0 NEW COMMUNITY FACILITY BROOMHILL**

- 9.1 The Environment & Regeneration Committee of January 2013 approved in principle that the site of the former Mearns Centre and the adjoining blaes pitch at Nile Street Greenock would be made available to Inverclyde Action on Mental Health (IAMH) to develop a joint Social Enterprise / Community Facility. A planning application has been submitted and the former Mearns Centre building has now been demolished and the site cleared.
- 9.2 IAMH have been successful in their bid to the Big Lottery, and the Scottish Government has confirmed the award of Regeneration Capital Grant to the Council to support his project. The Environment and Regeneration Committee at their meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015 approved the recommendation to transfer the ground/ agree a 99 year lease at Mearns Street/ Nile Street in support of the project.
- 9.3 At the Education and Communities Committee of 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2016 members agreed to provide an additional £300k to provide sufficient funds to allow this project to progress in 2016/17. This brings the Council's contribution to the project to £1.350million, including land acquisition, demolition of the former school and fees.
- 9.4 The Regeneration Capital Grant Fund application for draw down of the award of £397k has been approved and funds have now been transferred to the Council. This is reflected in the total cost of the project noted in Appendix 1. The project is now on site and ground and foundation works are now well advanced. The project is reported to be on programme with and anticipated completion of late May 2017.
- 9.5 Expenditure to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2016 is £47,000 or 18.9% of the approved 2016/17 budget (£249,000).

## **10 Birkmyre Park Pitch Improvements.**

- 10.1 The current budget for Birkmyre Park pitch improvements is £350k. The estimated cost of the necessary drainage works at the site is £400k including a £50k contribution from St Columba's School.

Officers will prepare a drainage scheme for the site. It is anticipated that work will begin in late 2016/17 and be completed in 2017/18.

## **11 Mountain Bike Track, Rankin Park**

- 11.1 The Committee approved funding of £150k in support of a successful bid to Sports Scotland's 'Active Places' fund at the meeting in May 2015. The full budget for the project is £240 (inclusive of grant of £90k). The project is now completed and the track was formally opened on 22 June, 2016. Informal feedback from users to date has been very positive.
- 11.2 Expenditure to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2016 is £6,000 or 9.8% of the 2016/17 budget (£61,000).

## **12.0 IMPLICATIONS**

### **Finance**

- 13.1 The actual spend for Communities at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016 for 2016/17 is £1,182m compared to an approved budget of £2.709m. This is 43.6% of approved budget.

The expenditure at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016 for Housing, Scheme of Assistance is £195,000, 26.4% of the approved budget of £739,000. The expenditure at 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2016 for Cultural and Sports is £987,000 or 50.1% of the approved budget of £1.970m

Current 16/17 projections show an acceleration of £55k or 2.0% of expenditure.

- 13.2 The current budget (16/18) of £10.341m is made up of £2.572 for Scheme of Assistance (SOA) and £6.648m for Cultural & Sports projects. Please refer to Appendix 1 for details of expenditure by project.

### **Legal**

- 13.3 There are no legal issues.

### **Human Resources**

- 13.4 There are no human resources issues.

### **Equalities**

- 13.5 There are no equalities issues.

### **Repopulation**

- 13.6 There are no repopulation issues.

## **14.0 CONSULTATION**

- 14.1 The report has been jointly prepared by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and the Chief Finance Officer.

## **15.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 15.1 There are no background papers for this report.

