

Committee(s): Resource Allocation Sub Committee Policy & Resources Committee	Date(s): 2 November 2023 16 November 2023
Subject: Capital Funding Update	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	The schemes for which funding is now requested span across a range of corporate outcomes
For City Bridge Foundation (CBF), which outcomes in the BHE Bridging London 2020 – 2045 Strategy does this proposal aim to support?	
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	Yes
If so, how much?	£4.928m
What is the source of Funding?	£4.634m from City Fund Reserves, £0.286 from City Cash, £0.08m from CBF
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	Yes
Report of: The Chamberlain	For Decision
Report author: Yasin Razaq, Capital and Projects Manager	

Summary

This report follows on from previous papers on capital prioritisation, the capital review and the 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 rounds of annual capital bids.

Members are reminded of the two-step funding mechanism via the annual capital bid process:

- Firstly, within available funding, 'in principle' approval to the highest priority bids is sought and appropriate provisions are set aside in the annual capital and revenue budgets within the MTFPs.
- Secondly, following scrutiny via the gateway process to provide assurance of robust option appraisal, project management and value for money, Members are asked to confirm that these schemes remain a priority for which funding should be released at this time.

The purpose of this report is for Members to consider release (following gateway approvals) to allow schemes to progress.

The approved annual capital bids for 2020/21 currently total £87.1m of which draw-downs of £37.8m have been approved to date. A schedule of the current 2020/21 allocations is included as Appendix 1 for information.

The second annual bid round for 2021/22 granted in principle funding approval to bids with a current value of £82.5m of which draw-downs of £13.1m have been agreed. A schedule of the current 2021/22 allocations is included in Appendix 2.

The approved annual capital bids for 2022/23 total £26.7m of which draw-downs of £6.6m have been agreed. A schedule of the current 2022/23 allocations is included in Appendix 3.

Release of £4.928m to allow progression of five schemes summarised in Table 2 'Project Funding Requests' is now requested.

Recommendations

Resource Allocation Sub Committee Members and Policy & Resources Committee are requested to:-

- (i) To review the schemes summarised in Table 2 and, particularly in the context of the current financial climate, to confirm their continued essential priority for release of funding at this time and accordingly:
- (ii) To agree the release of up to £1.104m for the schemes progressing to the next Gateway in Table 2 from the reserves of City Fund (£4.604m), City Cash (0.21m) and City Bridge Foundation (0.08m)
- (iii) To agree release of £0.076m of City Cash contingency.

Main Report

Background

1. As part of the fundamental review, Members agreed the necessity for effective prioritisation of capital and SRP projects, with central funding allocated in a measured way. This has been achieved via the annual capital bid process which applies prioritisation criteria to ensure that corporate objectives are met, and schemes are affordable.
2. The following criteria against which capital and supplementary revenue projects are assessed have been agreed as:
 - i. Must be an essential scheme (Health and Safety or Statutory Compliance, Fully/substantially reimbursable, Major Renewal of Income Generating Asset, Spend to Save with a payback period < 5 years.)
 - ii. Must address a risk on the Corporate Risk register, or the following items that would otherwise be escalated to the corporate risk register:
 - a. Replacement of critical end of life components for core services;
 - b. Schemes required to deliver high priority policies; and
 - c. Schemes with a high reputational impact.
 - iii. Must have a sound business case, clearly demonstrating the negative impact of the scheme not going ahead, i.e. penalty costs or loss of income, where these are material.

The above criteria were used as the basis for prioritising the annual capital bids and should continue to be applied when consider release of funds.

3. The scope of schemes subject to this prioritisation relates only to those funded from central sources, which include the On-Street Parking Reserve, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), flexible external contributions and allocations from the general reserves of City Fund, City's Cash or CBF¹. This means that projects funded from most ring-fenced funds, such as the Housing Revenue Account, Designated Sales Pools and Cyclical Works Programmes are *excluded*, as well as schemes wholly funded from external grants, and tenant/developer contributions e.g. under S278 agreements and S106 deposits.
4. Members are reminded of the two-step funding mechanism via the annual capital bid process:
 - Firstly, 'in principle' approval to the highest priority bids within available funding is sought and appropriate provisions are set aside in the annual capital and revenue budgets and the MTFPs.
 - Secondly, following scrutiny via the gateway process to provide assurance of robust option appraisal, project management and value for money, RASC is asked to confirm that these schemes remain a priority for which funding should be released at this time.

Current Position

5. From the 2020/21 bid round, central funding of £87.1m is currently allocated for new capital bids across the three main funds. To date, £37.8m has been drawn down to allow 37 of these schemes to be progressed. A schedule of the current 2020/21 allocations is included in Appendix 1 for information.
6. Central funding of a further £82.5m across the three main funds for the 2021/22 new bids is currently allocated, of which drawdowns of £13.2m has been approved in respect of 19 schemes. A schedule of the 2021/22 allocations is included in Appendix 2 for information.
7. Central Funding of £26.7m has been agreed for the 2022/23 new bids of which draw-downs of £6.6m have been approved in respect of 12 schemes. A schedule of the 2022/23 allocations is included in Appendix 3 for information.
8. In addition, there are a small number of ongoing schemes for which funding was allocated as part of the Fundamental Review (such as Wanstead Park Ponds).
9. All schemes in this report have been through the capital review as part of a reprioritisation and value-engineering exercise to mitigate the effects of significant inflationary pressures. These pressures need to be carefully managed over the short to medium term to prevent a potential significant overspend. In instances where capital projects are approved assuming any element of external funding, risks must be managed to prevent additional unplanned cost pressures impacting on central funding.

¹ Contributions from Bridge House Estates are limited to its share of corporate schemes such as works to the Guildhall Complex or corporate IT systems and are subject to the specific approval of the Bridge House Estates Board.

Current Requests for the Release of Funding

10. There are five schemes with 'in principle' funding approved as part of the capital bids that have progressed through the gateways, for which release of up to £4.928m is requested:

Table 2: Project Funding Requests				Next Gateway	Funding Status	Capital Bid Round	City Fund	City's Cash	City Bridge Foundation	Total
							£m	£m	£m	£m
Funding to progress to the next gateway										
	St Paul's Cathedral External Re-lighting			GW4		2022/23	0.350			0.350
	Fire Safety - Car Park London Wall - Ventilation, electrics, lighting and fire alarm works			GW3/GW4		2020/21	0.240			0.240
Funding from contingency for scheme implementation										
	OS Hampstead Heath - Parliament Hill Athletics Track Resurfacing			GW6		2022/23		0.076		0.076
Full Funding for Scheme Implementation										
	Guildhall Spread of Fire/Smoke Stopping Works – all basement and plant areas			GW6		2022/23	0.202	0.21	0.008	0.420
Full funding for phase implementation										
	Cool Streets and Greening Phase 2 and 3			GW6		2021/22	3.842			3.842
Total							4.634	0.286	0.008	4.928

11. Further details of the individual schemes are provided in Appendix 4 attached.
12. In accordance with step two of the capital funding mechanism, Members will wish to confirm that these schemes remain a priority for funding to be released at this time particularly in the context of the current financial climate.
13. Funding for these schemes can be met from the provisions set aside from the reserves of the City Fund £4.634m, £0.210m from City Cash and £0.008m from CBF.
14. The Parliament Hill athletics track requires £0.076m from city cash contingency to meet a £0.3m budget deficit with remaining amount funded through local risk.

Conclusion

15. Members are requested to:
- 1) review the above and consider in the context of the completion of the capital review and the current financial climate their continued support for the schemes requesting internal resources to proceed, and;
 - 2) approve the associated release of funding in Table 2.
 - 3) approve release of city fund contingency of £0.076m

Appendices

Appendix 1 - 2020/21 Approved Bids

Appendix 2 - 2021/22 Approved Bids

Appendix 3 - 2022/23 Approved Bids

Appendix 4 - Requests for Release of Funding – Scheme Details

Background Papers

- Annual Capital Prioritisation Report, 12 December 2019 (Non-Public).
- Prioritisation of Remaining 2020/21 Annual Capital Bids (Deferred from December 2019 Meeting), 23 January 2020 (Non-Public)
- Re-prioritisation of 2020/21 Approved Capital Bids, 18 September 2020 (Non-Public)
- Capital Funding – Prioritisation of 2021/22 Annual Capital Bids – Stage 2 Proposals, 10 December 2020 (Public)
- Capital Funding – Prioritisation of 2022/23 Annual Capital Bids – Stage 2 Final Proposals
- Capital Review 2022 – final recommendations to RASC

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