

## **Committee: Council**

**Date: 2 February 2011**

**Agenda item:** 12  
**Wards:** All  
**Subject:** Capital Programme 2010-15  
**Lead officer:** Caroline Holland, Director of Corporate Services  
**Lead member:** Councillor Mark Allison

**Key Decision Reference Number:** This report is written and any decisions taken are within the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules as laid out in Part 4-C of the Constitution.

**Contact officer:** Andy Wood

---

### **Recommendations:**

1. That the Council approves the incorporation of the additional funding for the Sure Start Children's Centres scheme, estimated to be £0.612m, into the Capital Programme, and approves a new capital scheme relating to the technical costs of joining the London Libraries Consortium estimated to cost £45,000.
- 

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 As part of the report to Cabinet on 13 December 2010 on the Budget 2011/12 and MTFS 2011-15, the latest details relating to the Capital Programme 2010-15 were discussed. This included details of slippage, virements and some proposed additional schemes arising as a result of the clarification and award of external funding by way of grants and contributions. Furthermore, additional approval was sought for the London Libraries Consortium scheme for which funding has been identified through virements.
- 1.2 As per Financial Procedures, schemes costing in excess of £500,000 will be subject to the approval of full Council. In addition, decisions which are not in line with the existing budgets and/or policy framework must be referred to Council for decision including the addition of a new scheme to the programme. Details of the proposed additions are set out below.

## 2. **DETAILS**

### 2.1 **Additional Grant – Sure Start Children’s Centres - £0.612m**

Since the last report to Cabinet, additional capital grant has been received in respect of 2010/11 (and included in the draft programme) for Sure Start Children's Centres. This is a drawdown of Merton’s agreed grant allocation which was taken into account in the boroughs existing plan for Children’s Centres, but not included in the grant funded schemes set out in the original Capital Programme.

### 2.2 **Additional Scheme – London Libraries Consortium - £45,000**

Significant advantages have been identified in the Merton Library service to joining the London Libraries Consortium – a grouping of 14 London library authorities all sharing the same library computer system. The company providing this computer system manages it for all the consortium members and along with membership gives free access to a range of new enhancements that provide extra customer service (which we could not afford outside of the consortium) and also helps us identify savings within our service. The consortium also attracts discounts on other software that Merton libraries subscribe to, providing further savings. In order to achieve full year savings as of 2012/13, the Library Service needs to have joined the Consortium formally and undertaken a range of technical tasks (data transfer, interface between the council’s financial system and stock acquisition software) before April 2011, for which a capital sum of £45,000 is required. This capital sum in 2010/11 will be funded by virements from within the Community and Housing Capital Programme and specifically from the Library Service media fund scheme.

## 3. **Consultation undertaken or proposed**

3.1 There will be regular update reports on the draft Capital Programme throughout the budget process to keep Members apprised of the latest position. The latest draft Capital Programme is being considered by Scrutiny Panels and the Overview and Scrutiny Commission. The draft Capital Programme 2011-15 will be considered by Cabinet on 14 February and finally by Council on 2 March.

## 4. **Financial, resource and property implications**

4.1 As the £0.612m Children's Centre expenditure is completely grant funded and as the £45,000 London Libraries Consortium expenditure is completely funded by virements, there are no net revenue effects as a result of these items. There are no property implications arising from this report.

5. **Legal and statutory implications**

5.1 There are no legal and statutory implications arising from this report.

6. **Human rights, equalities and community cohesion implications**

6.1 There are no human rights, equalities and community cohesion implications arising from this report

7. **Risk management and health and safety implications**

7.1 There are no implications arising from this report.

8. **Appendices**

8.1 There are no documents to be published with this report.

9. **Background Papers**

9.1 The following documents have been relied on in drawing up this report but do not form part of the report

- Report to Cabinet 13 December 2010 on the Budget 2011/12 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2011-15

10. **Report author**

- Name: Andrew Wood
- Tel: 020 8545 3492
- email: [andrew.wood@merton.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.wood@merton.gov.uk)