

CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2019/20

COMMENTS FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

On 26 September 2019, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board considered the Capital Budget Monitoring Report 2019/20 and agreed to note the current position of the capital budget.

1. The Board questioned the slippage in the 2019/20 Capital Programme and highlighted the need to ensure effective budget profiling across the life of schemes/projects. Officers confirmed that the capital programme comprised schemes which often span a number of financial years and could be challenging to profile over multiple years.
2. The Board sought assurance on the reported underspends included in the report for the following schemes:
 - Lincoln Eastern Bypass (£7.683m underspend)
 - Grantham Southern Relief Road (£18.155m underspend)
 - Lincolnshire Enterprise Partnership Contribution (£10.401m underspend)
 - Fire and Rescue and Emergency Planning; and Fire Fleet Vehicles and Associated Equipment (£5.592m underspend)
 - IMT capital projects (£7.328m underspend)

The Board welcomed both the detail included in the report on the reported underspends and the proposed review of spending in the autumn to realign capital budgets with current spending plans.

3. The Board recommended the need for a defined programme of work for the IMT capital projects in order to ensure the required outcomes were delivered. Officers confirmed that additional assurance on the IMT capital projects would be included as part of the January 2020 capital budget monitoring report.

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REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2019/20

COMMENTS FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

On 26 September 2019, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board considered the Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2019/20 and agreed to note the current position on the revenue budget.

The Board sought assurance that the identified cost pressures were reviewed on a regular basis. Officers confirmed the cost pressures were thoroughly challenged as part of the on-going process and as part of the prudent financial management and budget setting process.

The Board highlighted the following points for further consideration by the Executive:

IMT Strategy & Support (£1.553m underspend)

1. The Board challenged the level of impact on IMT services as a result of the on-going infrastructure issues and queried whether the estimated budget had been allocated without a full awareness of the requirements or a defined programme of work for IMT service improvements. Officers confirmed that a better awareness of requirements had been achieved and would be reflected in future budget setting.
2. The Board welcomed the openness and transparency of the report in recognising that during the current year a far stronger grip on requirements had been achieved. Members of the Board highlighted that there was a good level of awareness of the on-going technology infrastructure issues.
3. The Board welcomed the significant on-going work to modernise technology and improve overall IT performance.

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EXECUTIVE
01 October 2019

Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee
SCRUTINY COMMENTS

HIGHWAYS 2020 CONTRACT AWARD DECISION

The Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee met on 16 September 2019 and considered a report on the Highways 2020 Contract Award Decision.

The Committee expressed its thanks to officers for the early engagement with the Scrutiny Committee as part of the process, as well as the inclusion of members of the Committee on the project board. Councillors C J T H Brewis, M Brookes, S P Roe and B Adams personally expressed thanks to officers as part of their roles on the project board. Councillors highlighted the positive experience of being involved, as well as the thorough, open and robust work undertaken by officers as part of the Highways 2020 project.

The Committee unanimously supported the recommendations to the Executive to approve the award of the contracts to the preferred bidders. The Committee highlighted the following comments for further consideration by the Executive:

- The Committee recommended that the quality commitments included as part of the bids needed to be monitored as part of the on-going performance monitoring of the wider contract. Officers confirmed that the added value included in the bids would form part of the formal contract.
- The Committee recommended that robust management was put in place in relation to the timing of the transition to the new contracts arrangements. The Committee highlighted the need to maintain the levels of service as part of the end of the current contract and during the mobilisation of the new arrangements.
- The Committee welcomed proposals to implement mobile IT tablets for contractors which would enable in the field reporting through CONFIRM. Members supported using the improved real time reporting to improved customer service.
- The Committee recommended the Highways 2020 Project Board continue to meet during the mobilisation of the contract.

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