

Councillor P Twiss
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County Treasurer
County Hall
Exeter
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12th October 2021

Dear Councillor Twiss

FIN 683 - CAPITAL PROGRAMME

This letter contains a number of proposals concerning variations to the approved capital programme and other property or debt related matters. These items are to be dealt with under delegated authority and I would be grateful for your consideration.

Capital Programme Increase

Traffic Signal Maintenance – £500,000 (£210,000 in 2021/22 and £290,000 in 2022/23)

Devon have been successful with a bid for £500,000, to the Department for Transport, for traffic signal replacements and upgrades.

Approval is sought to increase the Highways, Infrastructure, Development and Waste 2021/22 Capital Programme by £210,000 and by £290,000 in 2022/23, funded by external grant.

Electoral Division: Countywide

Capital Programme Allocations

Lampard Special School, expansion – £860,000 2022/23

Identified within the approved Planning, Transportation and Environment Capital Programme are funds totalling £2.8m to support the phased expansion of Lampard Special School. The school wish to expand the plans by an additional 60 places to meet the increased need for special school places, and mitigate the rising calls on the High Needs Block.

The first phase tender has already been let. However, tenders have recently been received for the second phase, which have identified a total shortfall in funding of £860,000. This increase can be attributed to the following factors:

- SWW - Water Main Diversion – A planning condition was placed on the project by South West Water which required the diversion of the water main ahead of relocating the MUGA which has added an additional 11 weeks to the programme.
- Asbestos – Despite a detailed asbestos survey further asbestos was discovered in concealed floor ducts.
- Roofing works – There is substantial timber decay which must be rectified which is an additional cost to the project.

However the main increase, as reported on other large schemes, is directly linked to the current market conditions with increasing demand for materials and labour outweighing supply, for example the timber frame alone has seen an increase of circa 11%.

The tender has been analysed and is considered good value for money and the cost per place is circa £60,000 with the Department for Education guidance suggesting a special school place is four times a mainstream place which equates to £100,000 per place.

Approval is sought to allocate £860,000 of unallocated Basic Need capital from the Planning, Transportation & Environment Schools 2022/23 Capital Programme.

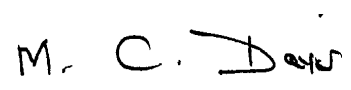
This is not an increase in the overall Capital Programme.

Electoral Division: Barnstaple South

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If you approve the items included in the letter, please indicate by signing the approval statement below. Please direct any queries to Esther Thorpe, Head Accountant – Capital, Tel 01392 383457, email esther.thorpe@devon.gov.uk


Yours sincerely



Mary Davis
County Treasurer


Conflict of interest declaration

Details of any personal interest or conflict of interest and dispensation granted to the Cabinet Member(s) involved in or consulted upon this decision (if any) are detailed below:

Signed  Dated 12th October 2021

Councillor Phillip Twiss - Cabinet Member for Finance

Please accept my signature as approval of the above changes

Signed  Dated 12th October 2021

Councillor Phillip Twiss - Cabinet Member for Finance

cc. Cllr Caroline Leaver