

**Classification:** Public

**Key Decision:** No

## **Gravesham Borough Council**

**Report to:** Full Council

**Date:** 27 February 2018

**Reporting officer:** Leader of the Executive  
Chief Executive  
Director (Corporate Services)

**Subject:** SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT - Council Tax Setting 2018-19

### **Purpose and summary of report:**

To provide Members with proposed amendments to the General Fund Capital Programme for approval to be considered alongside the wider budget proposals.

### **Recommendations:**

1. Members are requested to approve the proposed amendments to the budget for 2018-19 as set out in paragraph 2.2 of the report.

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The council has a statutory duty to set the level of council tax and calculate the budget for the forthcoming financial year. In undertaking this duty the Constitution of the council requires Full Council to consider the budget proposals developed by the Cabinet. However, ultimately it is the Council's decision and, therefore, it may adopt those proposals, amend them or substitute its own in their place.
- 1.2 This report provides supplementary information to support the discussions at Full Council, regarding the budget for 2018-19, by outlining proposed additions to the General Fund Capital programme as agreed by the Leader of the Executive, Chief Executive and Director (Corporate Services).

## 2. Proposed amendments to the General Fund Capital Programme

2.1 The proposed amendments to the budget are as follows:

### 2.1.1 *Funding to support improvement to sports pitches*

Council support has been agreed in principle via the Leader of the Executive and Lead Cabinet Member to use capital receipts funding to support replacement artificial pitches used by Gravesend Hockey Club. At present this is the only full-sized artificial pitch surface in the borough and due to its current surface is almost at the end of its life, which will leave several prominent clubs without a base. Gravesham Sports Trust (GST) which has maintained the pitch since its opening in 1996 has raised £50,000 so far, but requires a total of £250,000 to replace the pitch.

The council is keen to make provision for potentially making a £50,000 contribution towards the replacement artificial pitch, subject to specific conditions and ongoing discussions.

### 2.1.2 *Land Acquisitions*

The terms of reference for the Property Acquisitions Cross Party Working Group were amended during 2017-18 to enable the group to understand, and aid the progress of development opportunities that assist the council's strategic objectives as well as reviewing, considering and providing an opinion on the council's land and property assets for both development and disposal.

Since this time, certain land assets within the borough have been identified which could assist the council with potential development and revenue generating opportunities in the future. Whilst a decision on the acquisition of these sites has not been made (this will be subject to the normal decision-making process), it is felt that it would be prudent to reflect these opportunities within the Capital Programme for the coming year in order to facilitate negotiations with relevant parties. It is suggested that the total sum included within the Capital Programme to support these potential acquisitions is £5m.

It should be emphasised that Council being asked to approve inclusion of this sum within the Capital Programme does not constitute authority to incur expenditure. As appropriate, potential acquisitions will be directed through the already constituted Property Acquisitions Cross Party Working Group for consideration, with approval through the normal decision making and scrutiny provisions. The specific funding method the initiatives will need to be addressed on a case by case basis to ensure that the most appropriate funding method is used.

2.2 It is therefore recommended that Full Council:

2.2.1 Supports the proposal to make provision for a potential £50,000 contribution to the Gravesham Sports Trust, subject to conditions and ongoing discussions, to assist in their overall funding bid to England Hockey for replacement artificial pitch.

2.2.2 Approve the inclusion in the Capital Programme the sum of £5m to support future land acquisitions; subject to formal reports on any proposed acquisitions, including the most suitable funding method, being presented to Members at the appropriate time.

### **3. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 3.1 Background papers pertaining to this report are held by the responsible officers for each items set out within section two of this report. Anyone wishing to inspect background papers should, in the first place, be directed to Committee & Electoral Services who will make the necessary arrangements.

**IMPLICATIONS****APPENDIX 1**

<b>Legal</b>	Annex 2 (Procedural Rules) to the Constitution of Gravesham Borough Council sets out the requirement for Full Council to approve the council's budgets for the coming financial year, including any amendments to the budget.
<b>Finance and Value for Money</b>	<p>Funding to support the £50,000 sum proposed for the replacement artificial pitch will be funded through the specific Capital Receipts fund that has been ring-fenced for use on sport pitches.</p> <p>The funding for the potential land acquisitions will need to be determined on a case-by-case basis in order to determine the most cost-effective funding mechanism. Inclusion within the Capital Programme does not constitute a decision to acquire specific sites; this will be the subject of future reports and the formal decision-making processes of the Council, in which the funding for each specific scheme will be outlined.</p>
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	<p>The proposed amendments set out within the report do not present any specific risks to the council.</p> <p>The funding for the artificial sports pitches is to be taken from an established Capital Receipts fund established specifically for use on sports pitches. This has sufficient funds to cover the proposed £50,000 contribution to the Gravesham Sports Trust.</p> <p>In terms of the land acquisitions, the report sets out the potential requirement to make funds available for the purchase of land assets but does not seek authority to purchase such assets. As appropriate, proposed purchases will be discussed through the Property Acquisitions Cross Party Working Group once a full risk assessment of any such opportunities has been undertaken.</p>
<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b>	<p><b>Screening for Equality Impacts</b></p> <p><b>Question</b></p> <p>a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community? If yes, please explain answer. No</p> <p>b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality? If yes, please explain answer. No</p> <p><i>In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above</i></p>

<b>Corporate Plan</b>	<p>The proposals set out within this report support the following council objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strategic Objective 2 - Stronger Gravesham <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Deliver an improved leisure offer; activities and facilities that increase sporting participation rates and address local health inequalities.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Strategic Objective 3 - Sustainable Gravesham <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work to ensure relevant physical infrastructure is in place to improve our local, national and international connectivity</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Strategic Objective 4 - Sound and self-sufficient council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Responsible financial management, through on-going development of a Medium-Term Financial Plan and regular budget monitoring</li> <li>- Commit relevant resources to implement a culture of innovation and commercial awareness, generating vital income for future services.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Crime and Disorder</b>	<p>There are no crime and disorder implications associated with this report.</p>
<b>Digital and website implications</b>	<p>There are no digital and website implications associated with this report.</p>
<b>Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults</b>	<p>There are no safeguarding children and vulnerable adults implications associated with this report.</p>