Agenda item: 3 Meeting: 25th July 2022

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

Performance and Financial Position 2021/22

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1. To inform Cabinet of the Council's priority and financial performance in 2021/22:
 - 1.1.1. Revenue investment of £159.4m, 98% of budgeted spend.
 - 1.1.2. Capital investment of £28.7m, 76% delivery against plan
 - 1.1.3. Enhanced financial resilience through £2.2m revenue contribution to reserves.
 - 1.1.4. Performance has been improved or maintained in the majority of indicators.
- 1.2. To update Cabinet on the changes to the annual Accounts timetable.
- 1.3. To update Cabinet on the restated capital investment previously approved as projects have been rephased.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1. The Council set a revenue investment budget of £162.8m for 2021/22 for delivery of its functions and strategic priorities.
- 2.2. Funding for capital investment in 2021/22 was set at £47.3m although the net effect of additional investment and rephasing to future years reduced this to £43.9m as reported to Full Council in February 2022.
- 2.3. The budget policy framework set out the investment plans for each priority intended to achieve the outcomes for North Lincolnshire. Appendix 1 provides some further analysis in respect of financial performance and highlights areas of impact the investment has made.
- 2.4. The council has been able to strengthen its financial resilience and contributed £2.2m to reserves in 2021/22. Appendix 3 provides the reserves account in detail.
- 2.5. The Medium-Term Financial plan approved in February 2022 included the capital programme 2021/25 totalling £137m. This is updated to reflect actual investment in 2021/22 as set out at Appendix 4.

2.6. By law, the annual accounts must be published in draft by the end of May each year and a final audited version published by the end of July. The Government have recognised the combination of impact of the COVID 19 pandemic and capacity pressures in the external audit sector and has again amended this timetable to end of July 2022 for draft accounts and end of November 2022 for publication of the final audited accounts.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1. To consider the information contained in the report and note the financial outturn position and impact of investment.
- 3.2. To approve the revised capital investment budget profile reflecting the final investment in 2021/22 and virement as per Appendix 4.
- 3.3. The report reflects the historic position that has been achieved, and therefore there are no other options to consider.

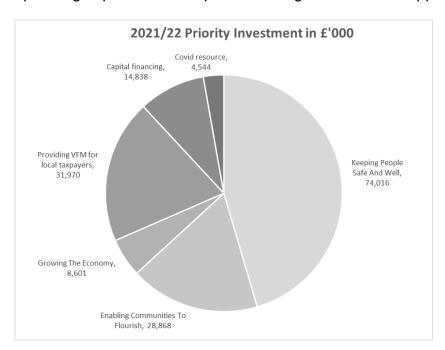
4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1. The outturn position provides evidence that the council invested the available resources wisely and that the investment enabled the council to fulfil its policy objectives and priorities: keeping people safe and well; enabling resilient and flourishing communities and enabling economic growth and renewal. Resources have been utilised as intended and remaining within overall investment limits.
- 4.2. The position contained in this report is positive, with high performance matched by strong financial management reflected in a favourable outcome position. This will be invaluable as we progress through 2022/23 and the challenges associated with the current operating environment, such as persistent high levels of inflation.
- 4.3. The financial outturn report and position provides external stakeholders with evidence of the integrity of the council's financial conduct and performance and demonstrates fiscal discipline. It also gives the executive confidence that the Council is well placed to navigate future challenges.
- 4.4. The council set a revenue investment budget of £162.7m and a total spend of £159.4m, or 97.9%, has been achieved. The funding assumptions that Full Council agreed in February 2021 included income from Council Tax, Business Rates and Government Grants as detailed below. It was estimated that the council would receive £1.13m COVID funding under the Local Income Tax Guarantee Fund. However, due to the final collection rates being slightly better than forecast, the claim under this grant was lower.

		Budget 2021/22 £000	Actual 2021/22 £000
Settlement	Funding		
	Revenue Support Grant	(6,232)	(6,232)
	NNDR Baseline Funding	(33,171)	(33,171)
Base Funding			
	Council Tax and ASC precept	(78,488)	(78,488)
	NNDR retention	(11,516)	(14,347)
	Collection Fund Surplus	(2,091)	(1,373)
	Government Grants	(23,130)	(23,153)
	COVID funding	(7,070)	(5,649)
Use of Reserves			
	Risk & Transformation	(1,139)	856
	General Fund	0	0
	TOTAL FUNDING	(162,837)*	(161,557)*

(*Includes additional Public Health grant allocation £184k confirmed following council budget approval of £162,653k)

4.5. The overall investment is summarised below by priority. Further detail on net operating expenditure compared to budget is set out in Appendix 1.



- 5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)
 - 5.1. The financial implications are set out in this report.
 - 5.2. The Council's Draft Accounts for 2021/22 will be published by 31 July 2022 and will include public notice that draft accounts are available for inspection for 30 days. The Council's external auditors, Mazars, will complete their audit and present their opinion on the Accounts to the Audit Committee by 30th November 2022.

6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g., CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)

6.1. The investment made in 2021/22 enabled the Council to meet the ambition and priorities of the Council Plan, contributing to people in North Lincolnshire being safe, well, prosperous and connected.

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

7.1 Not applicable.

8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED

8.1 Not applicable for the purpose of this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Cabinet is asked to:
 - 9.1.1 Note the financial position for the 2021/22 against the budget policy framework set in February 2021 and the impact the investment has had on performance.
 - 9.1.2 Note the latest position in respect of the Council's financial resilience through its useable reserves statement.
 - 9.1.3 Note the changes to the timescales for publication and audit of the Council's Statement of Accounts for 2021/22.
 - 9.1.4 Note the final capital investment for 2021/22 and approve the virement and movement between years on the budget profile from 2021/22 to future years as detailed in Appendix 4, including the allocation of funding for the Brigg Allotment Scheme.

DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNITIES

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Date: July 2022

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Reports to Full Council:

- Financial Strategy, Budget 2021/22 and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2021/24
- Capital Investment Strategy and Capital Programme 2020/2024
- Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2021/22

Reports to Cabinet:

- 2021/22 Q1 Financial Management and Medium-Term Financial Plan Update
- 2021/22 Q2 Financial Management and Medium-Term Financial Plan Update
- 2021/22 Q3 Financial Management and Medium-Term Financial Plan Update Other background papers:
 - Revenue and capital budget adjustments
 - Local Government Finance Settlement 2021/22 (DLUHC, December 2020)
 - Council Plan 2018/19

- 1. On 25th February 2021, the budget setting meeting of Full Council approved plans for revenue and capital investment. This was constructed taking into account multiple factors, such as the local government financing framework, national policy and the local strategic context.
- 2. Investment plans were agreed in line with the policy framework determined through two key strategic documents: the Local Plan (place shaping) and Council Plan (ambition, purpose, priorities and use of resource). The outturn position provides an opportunity to confirm that the Council fulfilled its policy objectives and priorities: keeping people safe and well, enabling resilient and flourishing communities, and enabling economic growth and renewal, utilising resources as intended and remaining within overall investment limits.
- 3. Full Council approved revenue investment of £162.8m, funded through a combination of council tax, business rates and grant funding. During the year, the Council invested £159.4m and therefore achieved an overall underspend which strengthens its financial resilience position going forward.
- 4. The council invested £28.7m in its Capital Programme in 2021/22. This included a wide range of schemes with significant investment in the area's road network, schools' facilities, the Council's ICT infrastructure, community hubs, community grants and energy efficiency initiatives.
- 5. The capital programme delivery has been subject to some project delays due to continuing impact of the pandemic along with supply chain challenges, with the spend in-year of £28.7m being 76% of the Capital Investment planned budget. A further £10m Investment was rephased to 2022/23 at the year-end for ongoing schemes.
- 6. Where capital investment has been delayed, the budget has been rephased to future years. Whilst there is no reduction in the overall programme, the change of phasing of the programme has meant a reduction in both interest costs and funding costs totalling £0.6m of revenue saving in-year.
- 7. Covid-19 related grants totalling £32.2m have been applied during the 2021/22 financial year, some intended to fund the Council's additional costs in response to the pandemic as well as income losses suffered through reduced sales, fees & charges. See Appendix 3 for more details. Of these grants £16.4m supported businesses to remain viable, £4.6m supported individuals and £11.2m was used to finance the Council's Covid-19 response.
- 8. The budget policy framework set out the investment plans for each priority intended to achieve the outcomes for North Lincolnshire. The table below highlights areas of impact the investment has made:

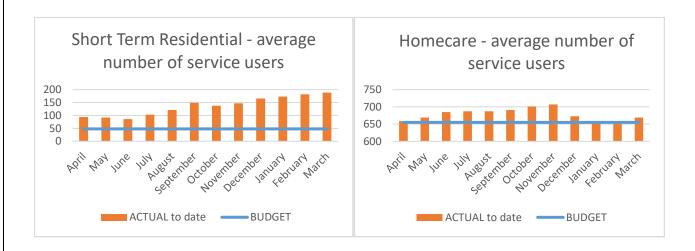
Priority: Keeping people safe and well

What did we do?

North Lincolnshire Council worked with residents and partners to lead the place of North Lincolnshire to promote wellbeing, prevent harm and prioritise the most vulnerable. We provided a range of services directly, together with partners or through contracts with other organisations to keep children and adults safe and achieve a better quality of life for everyone. We worked with children, young people, adults, families and carers to enable people to live well for longer, in their own homes, families and communities.

Outcome Theme	Council Contribution
Safer People	The council has invested £0.2m capital in the provision of complex care facilities improving outcomes for disabled people
	£0.2m capital has been invested in the One Family Hub which provides help and advice on child and family health, parenting, money, training and employment. The Hub also provides early learning activities and support.
	Whilst the number of children's and young peoples' assessment numbers have increased during 2021/22, the actual numbers of children in care, children in need, unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and placements out of area have decreased. This can be attributed to the success of the One Family Approach and effective partnership working with schools, health, police and the voluntary community sector. Our ambition for children to be in their families, in their schools and in their communities has also led to total spend being lower than the budgeted investment.
	No child was on a protection plan for two years or more, in line with the best performers across the country and 100% of child protection conferences were held within 15 days which was above the national average of 78%.
	Additional investment was made in Adults Social Care to manage the continuing effects of the pandemic which resulted in higher demand for provision of both care at home and short-term residential care to support people to live independently in the longer term. We worked in

partnership with local NHS partners to secure and utilise additional specific grant funding to partially mitigate the impact on costs caused by reducing hospital discharge times. Performance data relating to both the effectiveness of rehabilitation and reablement and the outcome of short-term services continues to be positive, both recording an upward trend in outcomes during 2021/22.



We supported 2,092 people with longer term needs to have choice and control over the way they want to live their lives.

100% of Adult Social Care provided by the Council was rated either good or outstanding.

Good health and wellbeing

The prevalence of adult smoking dropped from 17.8% to 11.6% and is now lower than the national average. This demonstrates the effectiveness of our partnership with the Northern Lincolnshire Smoke Free Alliance.

Priority: Enabling resilient and flourishing communities

What did we do?

North Lincolnshire Council promoted communities where people are proud to live, where neighbours look out for each other and people enjoy a strong sense of belonging. We engaged with residents to understand how they view their local areas and worked with communities to take ownership of place and improving the outcomes people achieve. We provided information, advice and guidance that supports residents to participate in activities that matter to them and enables opportunities for people of all ages to take part in activities that contribute to their health and wellbeing.

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Outcome Theme	Council Contribution			
Cleaner, greener and safer spaces and environments	52.6% of household waste was reused, recycled, and composted and is in the top quartile nationally and the amount of waste land filled was minimal and also places the Council in the top quartile nationally.			
	Over seven million waste and recycling collections were undertaken, with a completion rate of 99.91% which is an improvement on last year.			
	From 71 independent inspections of litter across North Lincolnshire, 97% reported improvements in litter levels and 100% of inspections relating to the incidence of graffiti found reduced levels.			
Safe Places, housing and Communities	We helped communities to help themselves through the investment of £0.2m in grants to community groups to invest in their own capital schemes			
	Investment of £1.6m in Green Homes improved the energy efficiency of North Lincolnshire housing and enabled a reduction in the levels of fuel poverty.			
	We have enabled a consistent level of housing growth within North Lincolnshire to derive economic and community benefit in line with the Council and Local Plan			

	Forty two private sector rented properties were made safe from hazards - the financial return on investment to the NHS and society as a whole as a result of this work is estimated to be over £1.6m.				
Vibrant Leisure and Culture	Community Hubs, Active Lifestyles and Culture £0.5m capital investment in enhancing Community Hubs, making it easier for residents to access information, advice and support, and take part in activities to improve their health and wellbeing				
	Provided a range of community facilities that enable an active lifestyle, with almost 600 active members per month partaking in swimming sessions and over 5,100 per month using fitness facilities				
	Promoted participation in positive, recreational and community learning opportunities				
	Enabled access to arts, culture and entertainment, celebrating the heritage of North Lincolnshire and promoting North Lincolnshire as a place to visit				
	We have continued to fully support the Imagination Library. During 2021/22 a further 88,000 books were issued to children aged up to five, bringing the total number issued to over 700,000 since the scheme began. Across North Lincolnshire, nine out of every 10 children under five are registered for the programme. The impact of this scheme is evidenced through analysis of Year 1 phonics screening tests, which demonstrate that children registered with the Imagination Library achieve better outcomes than their unregistered peers – a pattern repeated year on year on a child's journey through school.				
Excellent Education	Educational Access & Inclusion We have delivered £2.7m capital investment in a range of improvements to schools enabling learning environments that are well maintained				

The percentage of two-year-old children benefitting from funded early education in North Lincolnshire was 97% in 2021; above the regional and national average and overall, 98% of children attended early years provision rated good or better
90% of children attended good or better schools, a 2% improvement on last year with 94% of children being given their first choice of school; above the national average

Priority: Enabling economic growth and renewal

What did we do?

North Lincolnshire Council worked with residents and partners to lead the growth of North Lincolnshire to promote prosperity for all. We provided a range of services directly, together with partners or through contracts with other organisations to create new businesses, jobs and opportunities for all. We continue to aim to be a sustainable council, becoming more commercial, enabling innovation to invest back into communities by promoting North Lincolnshire as best place to invest and live, leading to a more resilient tax base. These intentions are based on the principles of promoting excellence and equality of opportunity.

Outcome Theme	Council Contribution
Safe Roads, better roads and rail	We prioritised the improvement of unclassified roads. This has led to the percentage of roads that do not require maintenance rising from 67% to 79%.
	We invested £6.7m in enhancing roads and carriageways, including major works on the A15 to ensure a well-maintained Highway Network.
	We filled 1,500 potholes, investing £0.5m in repair and prevention and in addition to our programmed works, handled 2,682 calls in relation to safer roads.

	Our drivers drove in excess of 33,000 miles and used 5,500 tonnes of salt treating our roads				
Accessible Transport	We invested £0.3m in making road travel safer				
	£0.4m has been invested in extending Scunthorpe Ridgeway helping to connect more people to employment, education, leisure and other cycling facilities				
	We invested £0.1m in the Wheels to Work scheme improving young people's mobility, job prospects and enabling them to get to work				
	We supported over 14,000 passenger journeys using the Just Go service				
Growing business, more jobs, better paid jobs	We were awarded funding of £10.7m, as part of the Future High Street Fund for Scunthorpe and £20.9m as part of the Towns Fund, driving long term economic growth of which £0.7m was invested on regeneration of Scunthorpe High Street				
	We invested £1.3m in improving access to the internet across the area; average download speed has increased from 71.4 to 96.8Mbps				
	£0.8m has been invested in providing infrastructure to enable the development of the Lincolnshire Lakes				
	Over 250 local small and medium businesses were supported with grants to enable start-up, expansion, IT investment and diversification.				
Enhanced skills and	We supported skills transformation and the use of the apprenticeship levy				
employability	93.3% of 16- and 17-year-olds are in education and training, above the national average				
	51.3% of jobs in North Lincs were classed as highly skilled, an increase of 2.2% since 2020				

Priority: Running the business well

What did we do?

North Lincolnshire Council is a public body serving the whole of North Lincolnshire responsible for providing hundreds of essential services. As a public accountable body, we must make sure that we run the business well and continue to be able to operate as a going concern. That means spending money wisely and looking after our assets to ensure we can get things done as promised and to ensure that we can demonstrate this to our residents and regulators. We continually strive to keep our running costs as low as possible and adapt the way we work to remain financially sustainable.

Council Contribution

Elected members and decision making

We facilitated almost 200 statutory council meetings through MS Teams, enabling public access and participation with over 1000+ hits recorded on the Council's website for live streaming

Professional and Technical Advice

We invested £1.4m in modernising council IT systems and enhancing cyber-security

Our finances were given a clean bill of health by our External Auditors and they were also satisfied with our arrangements to secure Value for Money

Maintaining Council Assets

£0.3m was invested in replacing council vehicles with more efficient and modern models

Customer Access, Taxation and Benefits

We maximised collection of income to invest in our priorities for North Lincolnshire, with collection rates at 97.08% of non-domestic rates and 94.6% of council tax collected in year

Financing and Levies

During 2021/22 the Council's cash balances remained healthy due to the continued availability of government grants relating to COVID response and recovery. This, combined with the rephasing of some of the larger capital investment schemes to the later part of the year, meant that new borrowing could be deferred. As a result, the cost of borrowing was temporarily less in 2021/22 than planned. The annual Treasury Management report to the Audit Committee provides further detail on the investment and borrowing strategy and demonstrates effective deployment and probity regarding handling of the Council's cash balances.

Reserve Statement

- 9. Overall, the Council reserves reduced in 2021/22, but by less than had been anticipated. The favourable outturn position has enabled the Council to increase its General Balances to 5% of its net revenue budget in 2022/23. The Council was also able to set aside funds in its Risk and Transformation Reserve providing some additional financial resilience.
- 10. The Council set aside £2.2m from revenue investment in 2021/22, with £1.3m added to the general reserve, retained at 5% of net expenditure. The balance of £0.9m has been transferred to the risk and transformation reserve. A further £5.8m has been transferred to the risk and transformation reserve from the COVID-19 un-ringfenced grant balance to provide future financial resilience. In addition, there has been an increase in schools' reserves of £2.3m.
- 11. The largest usage of reserves (£9.9m) was to meet the costs of Business Rate relief awarded to businesses during the Covid Pandemic. This was built into the budget as the Government had provided a grant to meet these costs in previous years. See Appendix 3 for more detail on council reserves.

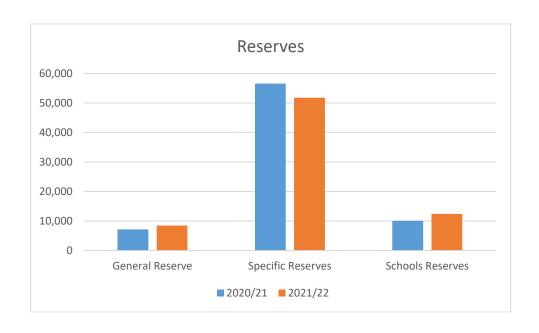
OUTTURN DETAIL : APPENDIX 2 Subjective analysis and Management accountability

	Budget	Actuals	Variance	Commentary
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Employees	104,369	100,371	-3,998	The largest category of expenditure across numerous functions, professions, technical experts. Staff turnover for the year was 12.32%. To enable the council to achieve its objectives in 21/22 the budget provided for approximately 3,100 posts. The average number of staff employed in 2021/22 was approximately 2,960. Based on trend analysis the Council reduced the budget for Employees in 2022/23 by £2.5m, with £1m of this being a permanent reduction.
Employees	,	,	,	being a permanent reduction.
Premises Costs	7,072	7,169	97	
Transport Costs	6,413	7,141	728	Travel expenses paid to staff have remained lower than the budget partially offsetting increased costs of Home to School transport and the council's fleet running costs.
Supplies & Services	45,501	46,147	646	
Third Party Payments	141,058	143,612	2,554	Increased care costs have been partially offset by a reduction in rent allowances.
Capital Financing Costs	13,202	12,621	-581	The council has maintained its policy of not borrowing before there is a cashflow need resulting in a saving on interest payable.
	317,615	317,061	-554	
Income	-311,831	-313,623	-1,792	The post lockdown recovery of income has been greater than anticipated.
Earmarked Reserves	-5,784	-5,627	157	This has been transferred to reserves: £1.3m to general fund reserve and
Total	0	-2,189	-2,189	£0.9m to risk & transformation reserve

Management Accountability	Assistant Director	Budget	Actual	Variance
		£'000	£'000	£'000
	Adult Social Services	19,716	21,329	1,613
	Integrated Health & Care	2,926	1,731	-1,195
	Adults Early Help & Prevention	21,081	21,979	898
Adults & Health		43,723	45,039	1,316
	Education	4,164	4,270	106
	Children's Help & Protection	10,379	9,480	-899
	Children's Standards & Regulation	10,843	8,806	-2,037
Children & Fami	lies	25,386	22,556	-2,830
	Place	25,587	27,824	2,237
	Public Protection	873	632	-241
	Organisational Development	13,639	13,765	126
Economy & Envi	ronment	40,099	42,221	2,122
	Governance & Partnerships	4,896	4,809	-87
	Resources & Performance	8,013	6,073	-1,940
	Community Enablement	6,986	7,292	306
Governance & C	ommunities	19,895	18,174	-1,721
	Central & Technical	26,556	24,759	-1,797
	Public Health	7,178	6,619	-559
	Schools	0	0	0
Total Other Serv	rices	33,734	31,378	-2,356
Service Total		<u>162,837</u>	<u>159,368</u>	<u>-3,469</u>
Funding		<u>-162,837</u>	<u>-161,558</u>	<u>1,279</u>
Council Position		<u>0</u>	<u>-2,190</u>	<u>-2,190</u>

RESERVES STATEMENT

Reserve	2021/22 Opening	(Increase) / Decrease	2021/22 Closing	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
General Reserve				
General Fund Balance	(7,158)	(1,335)	(8,493)	
Specific Reserves				
Risk & Transformation	(24,331)	(6,750)	(31,081)	
Grants	(15,001)	1,328	(13,673)	
NNDR Smoothing	(12,461)	9,898	(2,563)	
Public Health	(1,752)	(585)	(2,337)	
DSG Council element	(392)	(58)	(450)	
Licensing	(273)	(16)	(289)	
Safety Camera Partnership	(255)	0	(255)	
Care Leavers	(218)	(14)	(232)	
Adult Social Care Staffing	(430)	218	(212)	
Scunthorpe Special Expenses	(207)	75	(132)	
Covid PPE	(697)	697	0	
Other	(556)	(8)	(564)	
	(56,573)	4,785	(51,788)	
Total Council Reserves	(63,731)	3,450	(60,281)	
Schools Reserves				
Dedicated Schools Grant	(3,860)	(1,705)	(5,565)	
School's Balances	(6,217)	(639)	(6,856)	
	(10,077)	(2,344)	(12,421)	
Total Reserves	(73,808)	1,106	(72,702)	



	Budget	Actual	
	£'000	£'000	
Capital Programme	37,711	28,682	
Financed by:			
Grants	24,679	20,998	
Council Resources	1,954	1,920	
Borrowing*	11,078	5,764	

^{*}Currently met from council cash balances

The capital programme has been adjusted to reflect the £10m of cost that has been rephased from 2021/22 to future financial years. The table below reflects the profile of investment over the financial years 2022/23 to 2024/25.

Proposed Programme*	2021/22 £000's	2022/23 £000's	2023/24 £000's	2024/25 £000's	Total £000's
Investment in Priority					
Keeping People Safe and Well	2,699	10,989	985	185	14,858
Enabling Resilient and Flourishing Communities	7,006	12,148	7,681	6,166	33,001
Enabling Economic Growth and Renewal	15,909	28,818	14,092	9,612	68,431
Running the Business Well	3,063	9,536	6,447	1,442	20,488
Total Investment	28,677	61,490	29,205	17,405	108,100
Capital Investment Allocation	5	0	860	7,664	8,529
Capital Investment Limit	28,682	61,490	30,065	25,069	145,306
Funding Analysis					
External & Grant Funding	20,999	34,982	17,223	12,948	86,153
Internal funding	7,683	26,508	12,842	12,121	59,153
Total	28,682	61,490	30,065	25,069	145,306

^{*}This table reflects the allocation of £390k of the approved priority investment fund to meet the additional investment in the Brigg Allotment scheme.

Capital Programme Reconciliation	Council Approved Budget	Additional Financing	Latest Capital Programme
Funding Analysis	£'000	£'000	£'000
External & Grant			86,153
Funding	78,649	7,504	•
Internal funding	59,069	84	59,153
Total	137,718	7,588	145,306