

CABINET**18 January 2017****Minute Extract****543. CAPITAL STRATEGY AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2017**
(Report CAB2889 refers)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Thompson addressed Cabinet as summarised below. She noted that the Strategy should be read alongside the new Council Strategy but she believed that neither document was clear about environmental priorities. In addition, she queried whether the list of projects was too ambitious and highlighted that some, including the Central Winchester Regeneration project, were not yet costed. Councillor Thompson asked how the projects would be funded and whether there was a business case which took account of risks. With regard to Appendix D of the Report, she queried the reason for the large differences in Capital Receipts listed and the impact if any of these receipts were not forthcoming.

Councillor Godfrey introduced the Report and emphasised the increasing importance with ongoing pressure on the Council's resources. It was intended to continue to invest in infrastructure across the District and support businesses and local residents. He confirmed that all schemes would be supported by a clearly defined business case.

With regard to the concern expressed by Councillor Thompson that the Council was aiming to undertake too much, he confirmed that this risk had been identified and the Council was addressing this through financial investment in staff and recognition of the requirement for specialist staff to be employed in some circumstances. The Head of Finance advised that the increase in capital receipts outlined in Appendix D for 2018/19 related to the Chesil Extra Care Scheme. The figures in 2021/22 and 2024/25 were both in connection with the proposed Station Approach development.

In response to questions regarding Appendix C to the Report, Councillor Godfrey clarified that the Handlebar Café project would be dependant on funding also being provided from the South Downs National Park Authority.

During debate, Cabinet noted that a large number of the projects listed had an element of carbon reduction within them, including proposals to improve car parks and most significantly, to replace the Leisure Centre. A mechanism would be utilised to enable projects to be prioritised appropriately. Members also emphasised that the Strategy included schemes for across the District, not just in Winchester.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the Report.

RECOMMENDED:**THAT THE CAPITAL STRATEGY AND PROGRAMME 2017
BE APPROVED.**