

Agenda Item	9
Report No	WRSL/009/20

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh Committee

Date: 15 October 2020

Report Title: Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme 2021-2022

Report By: Executive Chief Officer Housing and Property

1 Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report contains details of the level of HRA capital resources for Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh for the 2021-2022 mainstream Capital Programme approved at Housing and Property Committee on 13th August 2020 and the proposed programme of works for 2021-2022.

2 Recommendations

2.1 Members are invited to:-

- I. **Note** the allocation of resources to Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh Area as set out at 5.7;
- II. **Note** the guideline investment priorities as set out in sections 5.2 and 5.3 of the report;
- III. **Agree** the proposed one-year HRA Capital Programme for Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh 2021-22 as set out in **Appendix 1**;
- IV. **Note** the position relating the current year HRA Capital Programme; and
- V. **Note** that updates on the Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme will continue to be provided through ward briefings and at future Local Committees as requested by local Members, in addition to reporting to Housing and Property Committee.

3 Implications

- 3.1 Resource – this is discussed in the report.
- 3.2 Legal – there are no specific legal implications arising from this report.
- 3.3 Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural) – there are no specific implications arising from this report.
- 3.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever - continuing investment in heating and energy efficiency in council housing will help meet council objectives in relation to fuel poverty and climate change.
- 3.5 Risk - implications to the budget position, and budget assumptions, will be kept under regular review and any risks identified to future Committee.
- 3.6 Gaelic - there are no implications arising as a direct result of this report.

4 Background

- 4.1 The Housing and Property Committee 13 August 2020 approved the framework for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme for 2021-2022. This report highlights the resource allocations for Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh for 2021-2022 as approved in the above noted report and details the proposed HRA Capital Programme for Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh for 2021-2022.
- 4.2 This report relates to the mainstream HRA Capital Programme for 2021-2022. New build housing is reported separately to Housing and Property Committee.

5 Development of the HRA Capital Programme 2021-2022

- 5.1 The HRA Capital Programme 2021-2022 has been developed in line with the agreed principles within the 2016-2021 HRA capital plan, along with revised general principles approved at Housing and Property Committee on 13 August 2020.
- 5.2 The guideline principles within the 2016-2021 HRA Capital Plan were as follows: -
 - a lifecycle-based approach to major component replacement, which targets replacement of kitchens, bathrooms, windows and doors based on the last installation date recorded on the Housing Information System, adjusted through area knowledge on other relevant stock condition information;
 - a programme of heating and energy efficiency work based on compliance where feasible with the Scottish Government's new Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (EESH). It is expected that the EESH programme will be based on generic measures to certain house types rather than specific measures based on individual property energy efficiency assessments;
 - an allowance for structural work to roofs, chimneys and external fabric of properties;
 - an allowance for environmental improvement works; and

- continued funding of equipment and adaptations to allow disabled and elderly tenants to remain in their current tenancy.

5.3 At Housing and Property Committee on 13 August 2020, Members agreed to revised general guideline Highland priorities for spend as follows:-

Table 1

Element	General Principle
Major component replacement	30% spend
External Fabric Repairs/Replacement	10% spend
Heating/Energy efficiency measures	60% spend
Aids & Adaptations	Continued investment of £1m based on need

5.4 The starting point for HRA capital planning is to estimate a reasonable level of expenditure required given the Highland housing stock. In order to establish this as objectively as possible the Council undertook in 2015 an analysis of Highland housing stock based on a standard set of “Major Repairs Allowances” published by the UK Government Department for Communities and Local Government, adjusted for projected annual BCIS indices (contract price inflation).

5.5 This method provides standard investment allowances per house based on house type and construction. These allowances are based on the costs of standard life cycle replacement of major building elements.

5.6 The HRA Capital Programme for 2021-2022 used this method to assess a level of expenditure required for our housing stock.

5.7 This identified the following budget for the Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh HRA Capital Programme for 2021-2022:-

Table 2: Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh 2021-2022 HRA Capital Programme Resources

Year	Mainstream Investment	Aids and Adaptations	Total
2021/2022	£524,000	£27,000	£551,000

5.8 This funding is based on a number of assumptions including estimated capital borrowing costs. Loan Charges for all borrowing used to fund HRA capital investment are funded through HRA Revenue.

5.9 We will continue to produce detailed revenue estimates and update projections annually, but at this stage the level of investment required appears manageable within HRA projections.

6 2021-2022 Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh HRA Capital Programme

- 6.1 Proposals for the Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh 2021-2022 area programme are detailed at **Appendix 1**.
- 6.2 A key feature of developing the programme for 2021-22 has been identifying individual area priorities through discussion with Members, local maintenance teams and tenants. Priorities have been identified for the Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh area at a local level, with the projects defined within the programme aimed at meeting the locally identified priorities.
- 6.3 The proposed Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh HRA Capital Programme for 2021-2022 also reflects the strategic commitment towards increased spend on heating/energy efficiency measures to assist with improving the energy efficiency of the housing stock.
- 6.4 Members will continue to be updated on progress against both the current year programme and the 2021-2022 programme through ward business meeting updates. Members will be provided with specific project details and addresses on request.

7. Current financial year HRA Capital Programme

- 7.1 Members are advised that the current year HRA Capital Programme for Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh has inevitably been delayed due to the ongoing global pandemic. Projects which have been delayed will get underway as soon as is possible, although it is likely that there will be slippage into financial year 2021-2022; this may cause delays in delivering the 2021-2022 planned programme. Members are advised that all previously approved projects for Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh will be progressed.
- 7.2 Progress against the present year HRA Capital Programme for Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh will be reported to the next Area Committee as an appendix to the housing performance report in addition to spend to date and estimated outturns being reported to September 20 Housing and Property Committee.

Designation: Executive Chief Officer Housing and Property

Date: 24 September 2020

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Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh HRA Capital Programme 2021-22		
	Project budget	Comments
Equipment and adaptations		
Equipment and adaptations	£27,000	Works on demand following referrals from Occupational Therapists
Total	£27,000	
Major Component Replacement		
Bathroom/Kitchen/Windows & Doors Replacement	£40,000	One-off replacements/failures progressed through local team
Renovation works Plockton	£165,00	Large scale property renovation work in Plockton
Total	£205,000	
Heating/energy efficiency		
Heating replacements	£216,600	Oldest/most inefficient heating systems
One-off heating replacements	£50,000	One-off heating failure replacements progressed through local team
Total	£266,600	
External Fabric (major component replacement)		
External Fabric (major component replacement)	£26,200	One off roofing/chimney/render repairs progressed through local team
Total	£26,200	
External fabric (environmental improvements)		
Environmental Improvements	£26,200	Member led budget. Priority environmental capital projects identified through engagement with local team
Total	£26,200	
Overall Programme Budget Total	£551,000	