

FALKIRK COUNCIL

**Subject: ADDITIONAL CAPITAL GRANT FUNDING FOR 2012/13
AND 2013/14**
Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL
Date: 26 June 2013
Author: CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 As reported to Council on 13 February 2013, the Scottish Government announced additional capital funding for 'shovel ready' projects. The conditions of the funding are that the money should be spent on projects that are ready to go and are not already funded in the capital programmes for 2012-13 or 2013-14. A mechanism to provide assurance on this has been agreed with local government.

1.2 Additional funding for Falkirk Council has been confirmed as follows:

2012/13	£34k
2013/14	£1.168m

1.3 All councils must provide high level details of planned expenditure on significant projects or work areas likely to be brought forward as soon as possible but no later than 30th June 2013. A final confirmation will also be required at the end of the financial year 2013/14.

2. IDENTIFICATION & ASSESSMENT OF PROJECTS

2.1 Given the time pressure and small amount it was agreed that roads would receive the 2012/13 funding of £34k.

2.2 At a corporate meeting, Services were asked to provide a list of projects for the 2013/14 funding of £1.168m. These bids were subsequently reviewed by CMT.

2.3 This exercise resulted in the following projects being recommended for approval:-

<u>Project</u>	<u>Cost £'000</u>
Falkirk High Station Additional Car Park	415
Enhancements, upgrades and infrastructure works to various parks	209
Forth & Clyde Union Canal Towpaths	150
Grange Primary School Atrium	150
Helix Playpark Contribution	150
Dundas Day Centre – Roof Replacement	85
85 Grahams Road – Office Space – Social Work	9
TOTAL	1,168

3. FURTHER INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Falkirk High Station Car Park has been prioritised due to the economic stimulus that an improved transport hub would provide for the area. The Forth & Clyde Union Canal Towpath also fits within the goals and priorities of the Corporate Plan. Both these projects fit our goal of further developing a thriving, sustainable and vibrant economy.
- 3.2 There are various projects listed in Appendix 1, which relate to playparks in Local Parks and other important areas of open spaces. These projects accord with our priority to improve the quality of our local environment, which is set out in the Open Space Strategy and the Parks Development Plan.
- 3.3 The Grange Primary School Atrium is a project to replace the existing atrium. The existing atrium is in a poor condition and temporary measures have been put in place to make it safe. This funding would allow a permanent replacement to be installed and accord with our priority to improve our infrastructure.
- 3.4 The Helix is specifically mentioned in our Corporate Plan as helping to achieve the Council's goal of enhancing and sustaining an environment in which people want to live and visit. It also fits with our wider aspirations to market the area to visitors from Scotland, the UK and internationally. Inclusion of a playpark will assist in supporting the operation of the adjacent plaza café which is an important source of revenue to offset the Helix park operational costs. This facility was included in the original project scope but had to be removed at the project review stage when the expected level of external funding was not realised. It has, however, remained a high level priority for the Helix partners and external match funding to complete the project is currently being sought.
- 3.5 The two Social Work projects listed above – additional office space at 85 Grahams Road and the Dundas Day Centre roof replacement, aim to make sure our assets are fit for purpose and will improve our infrastructure.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Proposals have been presented for the allocation of £1.168m extra capital funding in financial year 2013/14.

5. RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 Members are invited to approve the list of projects to which the additional funding should be allocated.**

Chief Finance Officer

Date: 4 June 2013

Contact Officer: Amanda Templeman

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

PARKS DEVELOPMENT PLAN – PRIORITIES

	Park Name	Indicative Project Value	Comments
1	Victoria Park - Falkirk	£30k	Enhancements or upgrades to existing play park provision
2	Bothkennar Park – Carronshore	£20k	Enhancements or upgrades to existing play park provision
3	Dunmore – Village Green	£10k	Enhancements or upgrades to existing play park provision
4	Dalgrain Park - Grangemouth	£30k	Enhancements or upgrades to existing play park provision
5	Ure Crescent – Bonnybridge	£25k	Enhancements or upgrades to existing play park provision
6	Glenyards – Public open space	£25k	Enhancements or upgrades to existing play park provision
7	Hayfield – Head of Muir	£30k	Enhancements or upgrades to existing play park provision
8	Childrens Playparks	£20k	Various works
9	Westquarter Glen Park	£15k	Signs and Safety Fencing
	Infrastructure	£4k	Essential infrastructure works e.g. pathworks, drainage, groundworks & miscellaneous works & fencing where appropriate.
	TOTAL	£209K	