1. **SUMMARY**

This report proposes the Capital Investment Strategy for the period 2015/16 to 2019/20. The Capital Investment Strategy provides the framework for the delivery of the Capital Programme, identifying the estimated resources and the method for developing the overall Capital Programme.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 That the Council agrees the Capital Investment Strategy as detailed at Appendix A.

3. **BACKGROUND**

**Purpose of the Strategy**

3.1 This strategy sets out how Waltham Forest will allocate, finance and manage the delivery of investment to secure its long term strategy for growth and development in the borough. The purpose of this Strategy is to:

- Prioritise and co-ordinate funding to achieve the Council’s priorities
- Invest in most beneficial projects to meet the Council’s long-term ambitions
- Manage investment effectively and efficiently

3.2 Our five year Capital Investment Strategy outlines the:

- **wider context** for a balanced investment programme
- **investment themes aligning with Council Priorities** that will guide decisions over the five year period
- **resources** available and to be sought
- **management and delivery** of our capital investment programmes

3.3 The Capital Strategy provides the framework through which capital resources are allocated and schemes are approved for inclusion in the overall Capital Programme.

3.4 As capital resources are limited, it is important for the Council to take a strategic approach to capital planning in order to facilitate a long-term approach to decision-making, and to ensure that capital investment is targeted where it will achieve the greatest long-term benefit.

3.5 The Capital Strategy forms the basis for the capital programme, which contains the capital projects that the Council is planning to undertake in the medium term. The agreed capital programme over the next five years is £376 million.

3.6 The approach to developing the Capital Programme starts with the development of bids by services in support of Council Priorities and in line with the Corporate Asset Management Plan. This process will involve consultation with portfolio lead members and will then follow a gateway process (as set out in the Capital Investment Strategy) that leads to proposals to be brought to Cabinet and full Council.

3.7 Once the programme is approved the gateway process continues through to monitoring the delivery of the schemes. There will also be quarterly monitoring to Cabinet as part of the financial monitoring process.

3.8 Capital budget changes are approved by Cabinet as part of the quarterly monitoring process. Cabinet are recommended to approve changes to the programme at its meeting on December 17th. The programme set out in the Capital Strategy is subject to this approval.

4. PROPOSALS

4.1 This report proposes the adoption of the Capital Investment Strategy. This will provide a governance framework for taking forwards capital schemes, and allocating resources at a high level against which programmes/schemes will be brought to Cabinet for approval.
5. OPTIONS & ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

5.1 The alternative to refreshing the Capital Investment Strategy is to do nothing and continue to use the Capital Strategy approved by Cabinet in February 2015 as the overarching framework for delivery of the capital programme. The recommended option is to adopt the revised Capital Strategy to ensure that Council Priorities are reflected and that the Capital Strategy is up-to-date.

6. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY PRIORITIES (AND OTHER NATIONAL OR LOCAL POLICIES OR STRATEGIES)

6.1 Capital investment can play a key part in delivering Council Priorities. All bids for capital funding are required to demonstrate how they contribute to Council Priorities and other policies and statutory requirements.

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 Statutory consultation on the Capital Investment Strategy is not required. Members of Capital Strategy and Asset Management Group have contributed to the document and have been involved in refreshing information so that it reflects the current position.

8. IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Finance, Value for Money and Risk

8.1.1 This report is asking Cabinet to agree the Capital Investment Strategy (Appendix A) which provides a framework for capital investment of £376 million over the period 2015/16 to 2019/20. Investment will be financed from a variety of sources as detailed in the Appendix.

8.2 Legal

8.2.1 This report sets out the proposals for the Council’s capital strategy which will be applied within the budget framework agreed by Full Council.

8.2.2 The Council must take into account its wider Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under s.149 of the Equality Act 2010 when making its decision. Members are referred to the Equality Analysis screening (Appendix 2) that sets out the nature of the duty. The analysis does not identify any negative impacts that cannot be fully mitigated.

7.3 Equalities and Diversity

7.3.1 An initial equality analysis was undertaken (Appendix B) and it determined there was no negative impact arising from the proposals in this report on the advancement of equality.

7.4 Sustainability (including climate change, health, crime and disorder)

7.4.1 There are no direct sustainability implications. However where schemes in the capital programme are related to improving an asset or the creation of a new asset, specific regard will be given to sustainability during the development and design stage.
7.5 Council Infrastructure (e.g. Human Resources, Accommodation or IT issues)

7.5.1 The Capital Investment Strategy provides the framework for investment in the Council’s infrastructure. It will provide the mechanism whereby the demands for investment can be considered and prioritised accordingly.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION (as defined by Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985)

No background information