



Briefing Note on Environmental Improvement Programme (EIP)

Requested By: West Central Area Committee – 5 July 2018

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This note outlines progress in delivering the Council's Environmental Improvement Programme (EIP) within West Central area.

2. Recommendations

The West Central Area Committee is asked to:

1. Note progress, and delays where experienced, in delivering the prioritised programme of projects for the area thus far
2. Note the outcome of further investigation undertaken since December 2017 on the three applications not yet prioritised
3. Notes the indicative level of funding not yet committed to projects across the area
4. Notes work under way to consider the forward focus and direction for investment in EIP

3. Background

- 3.1. The creation of direct, lasting and noticeable improvements to the appearance of the public realm environment has been at the heart of the Council's Environmental Improvement Programme (EIP) since its introduction in 2004. The programme is supported up to and including the current year 2018-19 with an annual capital budget which is split across the council's four areas depending on population, with devolved decision making to Area Committees to allocate the budget available to project applications each year.
- 3.2 West Central Area Committee last considered progress with project development and delivery, along with applications for new schemes, on 6 December 2017. The Committee determined to:

- abandon two previously committed projects due to changes in circumstances and need
- continue to seek to achieve two further committed projects still considered worthwhile
- allocate funding towards four additional new projects for development and delivery
- support a further project application round early in 2018
- request more information on those projects not considered ready to proceed at that time, the level of devolved funding remaining within West Central, and options under consideration for the future direction of EIP.

4. Project Delivery Progress and Capacity

- 4.1 The report to Area Committee in December 2017 identified that the majority (some 42 out of 51, or 82%) of projects prioritised in West Central from 2011-12 to that date had been completed successfully. Development and delivery of the programme has been undertaken by the Council's Streets and Open Spaces service, in conjunction with Cambridgeshire County Council's highways teams where necessary.
- 4.2 Nevertheless, difficulties had been experienced in realising some aspirations particularly where these had complex dependencies; including external permissions needed. Staffing changes, with limitations in expertise and capacity, have further exacerbated the difficulties across all areas.
- 4.3 A review of the programme was undertaken during 2015 to put more emphasis on smaller, community supported projects that can be developed and delivered more quickly. Applications for projects relating to core transport or highways functions, and infrastructure, are now encouraged via the County Council's Local Highways Improvements (LHI) programme. These amendments have, on the whole, assisted delivery since 2015 with steady progress and associated budget spend being achieved.
- 4.4 However, some 37 new EIP projects were added to the prioritised programme for development and delivery by the four Area Committees

in the December 2017/ January 2018 round. Progress is being made across all areas and many of these new commitments are under development or have already been completed, however there are currently circa 50 committed EIP projects still to be realised city-wide.

- 4.5 Within West Central area, the current position with the development and delivery of the remaining prioritised schemes is identified in **Appendix C**. The outcome of further investigation undertaken thus far on the three aspirations unable to be prioritised by Area Committee in December 2017 is identified in **Appendix A**, and **Appendix B**.
- 4.6 Latest indications suggest that remaining schemes 2 and 6 from Appendix C, for Grantchester Road and Parker's Piece, may require additional funding beyond that thus far allocated in order to complete them to a standard desirable to local councillors and other key stakeholders (including the County Council).

5. Review of Programme Delivery and Value

- 5.1 Existing committed funding for EIP concludes in the current year 2018-19 and the Council has been reviewing the future focus and direction of the programme in order to inform a decision on future investment. This work has considered the benefits and successes to date, along with the challenges faced – including delivery.
- 5.2 Further amendment to the composition and scope of the programme will be a strategic one, determined at Scrutiny and not Area Committees, and officers are tasked with reporting back to the Council's Senior Leadership Team (SLT)/ Executive forum further to the item considered during late 2017.

6. Funding Position

- 6.1 Efficient delivery of the Environmental Improvement Programme across all areas in recent years has led to savings against project allocations each year. Additionally, some aspirations have been abandoned, become delayed, or been funded elsewhere. The overall effect is that significant capital reserves have built up in all areas. Some projects, however, have contributed towards an increase in revenue operating costs which remains something of a concern moving forward.

- 6.2 The budget available to develop and deliver new EIP projects across West Central area was reduced from £42,800 in 2014-15 to £36,380 annually from 2016 to 2020. This is in order to support the city-wide £30,000 contribution to ensure an LHI programme can be delivered across Cambridge, where the majority of costs involved are met by the County Council.
- 6.3 However, there is a significant capital reserve rolled forward from previous years. Whilst the exact position is dependent of the final costs of schemes currently being delivered, latest estimates suggest this could be in the region of £114,000. Accounting for the additional funding available in 2018-19, therefore, there may be up to £150,000 or so thus far not committed to new projects across West Central area.
- 6.4 Given the high level of funding available for new EIP projects in the area, allied with the difficulty moving forward with remaining aspirations at this time in Appendix A, it is suggested that an additional £5,000 to £10,000 of further funding may be beneficial to complete the two schemes listed in 4.6. Officers will report back when needs are clearer.
- 6.5 Whilst further funding allocations are available in the current year 2018-19, some Executive Councillors have been sensitive about inviting further project applications until more of the existing programme has been completed and officer delivery capacity becomes available.

7. Proposed Way Forward

- 7.1 Officers will continue to progress with the development and delivery of existing committed projects across West Central area. The Council's SLT/ Executive are expected to consider the future scope and direction for investment in EIP in the coming months. This will take in to account levels of current funding not yet committed to projects, staffing capacity and options available to accelerate spend.

8. Implications

(a) Financial Implications

This is an annual capital programme of projects currently funded up to and including 2018-19; with significant additional funding available re-phased from previous years. Some prioritised projects have, in the past, contributed to

increased operating costs and this is being considered as part of the current strategic review. Where projects are on the public highway or hard-surfaced definitive footpaths, ongoing management and maintenance is the responsibility of the County Council.

(b) Staffing Implications

Historically a small number of projects have proven difficult to develop and deliver for reasons as laid out in this report, and have had a disproportionate impact on staffing resource in comparison with other programme work. The programme is under review to ensure future investment can be managed and delivered without the requirement for additional staffing resource.

(c) Equality and Poverty Implications

Environmental improvements have been prioritised across all areas proportionate to population and in accordance with locally identified need. They can be enjoyed by all and do not discriminate between any particular user groups. All schemes are designed to accommodate those less able and / or mobile. The overall impact of investment in such facilities is therefore considered to be positive. An Equalities Impact Assessment for the programme has been undertaken and is available as a supporting document.

(d) Environmental Implications

The programme aims to preserve and improve the quality of the natural and built public realm environment across Cambridge, in a manner that does not contribute towards climate change and leaves a positive legacy for future generations. The overall impact of the programme on the environment within Cambridge is therefore rated as +M (positive; Medium).

(e) Procurement Implications

Improvement to infrastructure facilities within Cambridge are, dependent on their nature, scope, scale and complexity either delivered in-house utilising existing resources within the Streets & Open Spaces service, or via existing framework contract arrangements (such as with Skanska for highways related services). Other schemes may best be procured and constructed via individual competitive pricing/ tender processes.

(f) Community Safety Implications

Environmental improvement of the outdoor public realm encourages use and promotes face to face contact, reducing social exclusion and isolation. The

programme is thus considered to have a positive impact on community safety.

(g) Consultation and communication considerations

Professional and public stakeholder engagement and consultation will take place, as appropriate, to help shape projects prioritised and ensure they are fully focused on and targeted towards local needs.

9. Background papers

Background papers used in the preparation of this briefing note:

None.

10. Appendices

Appendix A – Summary of EIP applications requiring further investigation

Appendix B – Position statement on provision of free drinking water

Appendix C – Progress of remaining prioritised EIP Schemes

11. Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact John Richards, Senior Engineer, tel: 01223 458525, email: john.richards@cambridge.gov.uk.

SUMMARY OF EIP APPLICATIONS REQUIRING FURTHER INVESTIGATION - WEST CENTRAL AREA

No.	Scheme Title	Scheme Description	Promoted by	Ward	Estimated Cost £	Risk to Delivery Rating R/A/G	EIP Allocation requested	Comments
WC4	Lammas Land kiosk fountain	Establishment of free drinking water fountain on the side of the Lammas Land kiosk for public use.	Cllr R Cantrill	Newnham	2,000	Red / Amber	None at this stage	There may be potential public health, testing, maintenance and property leasing implications with this proposal. Further investigation into possible options and alternatives needed prior to financial commitment.
WC6	Northampton Street landscaping	Provision of soft landscaping in Northampton Street and Pound Hill to extend and enhance the green environment.	Cllr M-L Holland	Castle	5,000	Red / Amber	None at this stage	Realising this aspiration would most likely require highway space previously been made available for pedestrians, cycle parking and on-street parking - which are already at a premium in the area. The practicality, and cost, at this early stage are uncertain. Further investigation and dialogue needed with the County Council, following conclusion of Kettles Yard redevelopment work - and prior to financial commitment.
WC7	Cycle parking in Derby Street and Hardwick Street	Provision of on-street cycle parking stands in these residential streets following introduction of potential Residents' Parking Scheme by County Council.	Cllr Nethsingha	Newnham	5,000	Red / Amber	None at this stage	Realising this aspiration is likely to be technically reasonably straightforward but it is heavily dependent on the release of highway space currently taken up by on-street vehicular parking; with establishment of a Resident's Parking scheme under development. Potential to consider as County Council Local Highways Improvement scheme. Further investigation needed prior to financial commitment.
				TOTAL	12,000		0	

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Provision of Public Drinking Water in Streets and Open Spaces

This note responds to member requests to review the practicability of providing free drinking water for public consumption across Cambridge's streets and open spaces. The Executive Councillors for Environmental Services & City Centre (Cllr Rosy Moore) and Streets & Open Spaces (Cllr Anna Smith) are supportive of this principle, and have asked officers to investigate potential options.

Public drinking water fountains have historically been expensive to install and maintain¹, and over the years have been removed from public places (particularly those with open access) because of vandalism and difficulties in keeping them clean and useable. Such fountains are potentially high risk areas of cross contamination for bacteria and germs.

There is however an alternative scheme that encourages cafes, shops, hotels and businesses to refill a water bottle presented to them by a member of the public (for free), that is now well developed and becoming more widely known. See <https://www.refill.org.uk/>

Participating cafes, bars, restaurants, banks, galleries, museums and other businesses simply display the schemes' sticker in their window(s) – alerting passers-by to the fact that they're welcome to come in and have their bottle filled up – for free. Users download the free Refill rewards app to see where they can Refill 'on the go', or add new places to Refill themselves. If the City Council were to develop a local scheme, other organisations and companies with which it works might be encouraged to become partners, with potential to share any costs involved.

Officers are continuing to explore various other potential options associated with the buildings and land it manages, which may prove practicable in addition to extending any Refill scheme to Cambridge. There are likely to be resource implications for the Council, however, with less opportunity to share with others than with Refill. Temporary free water stand pipes will continue to be made available as needed for events taking place through the year at Jesus Green, Midsummer Common, Parkers Piece and Cherry Hinton Hall.

¹ The Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999 place a range of responsibilities relating to the supply and maintenance of water fountains.

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PROGRESS OF REMAINING PRIORITISED EIP SCHEMES - WEST / CENTRAL AREA

LHI - County Local Highways Improvements

No.	Scheme Title	Scheme Description	Promoted by	Ward	Year Allocated	Approved Budget £	Completion Expected	Comments
1	Oxford Road Traffic Calming	Contribution towards County Council s106 funded project to improve streetscape, encourage lower speeds and discourage through traffic in area.	-	Castle	2011-12	1,000	Winter 2018-19	Linked to growth plans in the area. Project being developed and delivered by County Council Highways team. County Councillor canvassing date for meeting with key stakeholders.
2	Grantchester Road Traffic Calming	Introduction of a 'gateway' feature at the entrance to Newnham, changes to the junction with Selwyn Road and a proposed new speed restriction.	Former Cllr S Reid	Newnham	2011-12 & 2014-15	27,000	Partially completed Summer 2014	Funding allocations £22,000 plus further £5,000. Work to the junction of Grantchester Road with Selwyn Road completed Summer 2014. Further consultation on introduction of a gateway entry feature ramp to be undertaken Summer 2018. May require additional funding to realise.
3	Canterbury Street Traffic Calming	Consultation on measures to calm traffic using Canterbury Street.	Former Cllr S Kightley	Castle	2011-12	12,250	Winter 2018-19	Funding allocation initially £15,000; later reduced to £12,250. Various consultations undertaken with split support for the need and likely benefits. Area Committee, nevertheless, determined to retain the project Summer 2016. Detail under development in conjunction with County Council and other key stakeholders; as item 1 above.

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No.	Scheme Title	Scheme Description	Promoted by	Ward	Year Allocated	Approved Budget £	Completion Expected	Comments
4	King Street weight limit	Weight limit on eastern part of King Street.	Former Cllr C Rosenstiel	Market	2014-15	500	On hold Winter 2014-15	Funding allocated £500 EIP with further £4,500 County LHI. Highway Authority (Cambridgeshire County Council) however not persuaded of the need for the change, and the anticipated level of compliance. Area Committee, nevertheless, wish other opportunities explored that might offer traffic reduction (Dec 2017). Under further discussion with County Council.
5	Entrance to Midsummer Common Community Orchard, Newmarket Road	Planting and landscaping scheme (designed with input from Friends of Midsummer Common) to further improve the entrance to the site from the road, and extend the improvements previously undertaken.	Cllr T Bick	Market	2016-17	2,500	Completed Spring 2018	Work well received by local community.
6	Light on Parkers Piece at crossing of paths near Public Conveniences	Provision of lighting at this busy path crossing point to improve safety during hours of darkness. Crossing remote and shielded from existing lighting sources.	Cllr T Bick	Market	2016-17	5,000	Autumn 2018	The lighting of paths across Parkers Piece with heritage style units has been well received. Identified solution is to extend this in conjunction with s106 funded improvements to paths and grass edges currently under development. Scope of that project may be extended to include improvement of the paths themselves. May require further funding beyond initial provisional sum allocated; yet to be determined.

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No.	Scheme Title	Scheme Description	Promoted by	Ward	Year Allocated	Approved Budget £	Completion Expected	Comments
7	Removal of redundant public 'phone boxes from Fitzroy and Burleigh Street	Those 'phone boxes not needed by the public or as advertising opportunities might be removed in order to reduce street clutter.	Cllr T Bick	Market	2016-17	10,000	Under review	Call boxes in two locations have been changed by BT at their own cost to the new style slim open canopy that incorporates variable electronic advertising to the rear (no cost to EIP). One pair of older style boxes remain, both incorporating static advertising and with telephony equipment in one. BT's plans for these being sought.
8	City Centre open spaces enhanced biodiversity	Provision of bird, bat and bug boxes, and wildflower meadows, on Parker's Piece, Christ's Pieces, Midsummer Common and Jesus Green to encourage wildlife and provide a more interesting, colourful environment.	Cllr T Bick	Market	2017-18	5,000	Summer 2018	The majority of the work suggested is small scale and straightforward, and is being developed in conjunction with the Council's ecology officer, local Association, Friends and community groups. Good progress being made.
9	City Road tree and tree pit	Construction of a suitable tree pit and surrounding landscaping improvements at the vehicular access restriction, to facilitate the planting and healthy growth of a suitable replacement for the tree recently lost.	Cllr T Bick	Market	2017-18	4,000	Partially completed Spring 2018	Tree replaced during Winter/ Spring 2018 planting programme following resident requests. Need for further work, and spend, under review.
10	Gough Way to Cranmer Road path way-finding	Provision of solar powered stud way-finders along remaining extent of path south of the Bin Brook footbridge, and running in parallel with the brook.	Cllr R Cantrill	Newnham	2017-18	5,000	Completed Spring 2018	Whilst such way-finders have proven effective and popular where employed thus far, there are environmental and ecological sensitivities. Further such proposals therefore require careful development. Effectiveness and benefit under review.

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No.	Scheme Title	Scheme Description	Promoted by	Ward	Year Allocated	Approved Budget £	Completion Expected	Comments
11	Merton Street / Derby Street corner bollard	Provision of suitable bollard(s) on the footway at the junction between these two streets to prevent over-run by vehicles.	Cllr R Cantrill	Newnham	2017-18	1,500	Autumn 2018	Practicality dependent upon maintaining adequate access for pedestrians and vehicular traffic, and the location of public utility apparatus. Proposal under development in conjunction with County Council. County Local Highways Improvements (LHI) programme more suited to this type of work than EIP.

TOTAL 58,250