

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

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REPORT OF: Director of Environment

TO: South Area Committee

09/5/2013

WARDS: Cherry Hinton, Queen Edith's, Trumpington

**DEVOLVED DECISION-MAKING AND DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS:  
PROGRESS ON SOUTH AREA PRIORITY PROJECTS**

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**1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Area Committees now have devolved decision-making powers over how certain types of developer (S106) contributions are used. In this Area, residents and community groups were consulted at a workshop last October on local needs and ideas for new/improved local facilities to help address the impact of development.
- 1.2 Having considered the range of options that were eligible for developer contributions, last November's South Area Committee identified the five priority projects in the first round, plus an additional community facilities grant (for stage 1 of the Cherry Hinton community centre project). The priority projects are:
- ▶ Cherry Hinton Recreation Ground Improvements, comprising
    - ▷ More sophisticated skate park
    - ▷ Upgrade play equipment for young children
    - ▷ Smaller (five-a-side) football goals
  - ▶ Outdoor fitness equipment/trim trail at Nightingale Avenue Recreation Ground
  - ▶ Convert Hanover Court/Princess Court laundry into community meeting space.
- 1.3 In line with a commitment to give progress reports to each of the area committees, Section 4 of this report provides a short update on the progress in finalising and delivering the Area's priority projects.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 To note the steps being taken to deliver the South Area Committee's priority projects funded by devolved developer contributions.

### 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The delivery of priority projects agreed by the South Area Committee under devolved decision-making needs to be placed in the wider context of the delivery of....
- a. the area-specific priority projects chosen by the East, North and West/Central area committees: in the first prioritisation round, 16 priority projects (worth over £550,000 in total) were identified across all four area committees.
  - b. strategic priority projects (benefiting more than one area of the city): the Executive Councillors last January approved 10 strategic projects totalling over £900,000 of city-wide developer contributions; their first round priorities included a community facilities grant for the Centre at St Paul's re-development (phase 3), which was completed in April 2013.
  - c. around 20 on-going projects funded from developer contributions which have already been appraised and approved: this includes the Cherry Hinton Hall ground improvements [phase 1] (completed in April 2013) and the Southern Connections public art project.
- 3.2 The Area Committee's consideration of developer contributions and devolved decision-making last November concluded that their five projects (see paragraph 1.2) have equal priority and that the three in Cherry Hinton should be viewed as one priority.
- 3.3 In the context of the overall project delivery programme and available staffing resources (see paragraph 3.1), the Director of Environment wrote to the Chair of the South Area Committee in January, proposing arrangements for taking forward all five projects with:
- three projects (the skate park in Cherry Hinton, the trim trail in Queen Edith's and the community meeting space in Trumpington) to be delivered in 2013/14; and
  - the other two (five-a-side goals and additional, new play area equipment at Cherry Hinton) to be delivered in 2014/15.
- 3.4 On this basis, the table on the next page of this report provides an outline of the arrangements under way for those projects being delivered in 2013/14. At the same time, officers appreciate that the Area Committee is keen for the three projects at Cherry Hinton Recreation Ground to be delivered together. Officers are exploring alternative options to enable this to happen and will attend the Area Committee to advise on the earliest date within 2014/15 when the skate park, new play equipment and 5-a-side goals could be completed as a package.

#### 4. UPDATE ON SOUTH AREA PRIORITIES (to be funded from devolved developer contributions)

4.1 Planned milestones (in order of expected completion date) in line with approach set out in paragraph 3.3:

	Description	Ward	S106 funding	Consult	Project Appraisal	Delivery start	Expected completion
a.	Cherry Hinton community centre (stage 1 at library)	Cherry Hinton	£9,000	DONE March 13	DONE January 13	June 13	July 13
b.	Outdoor fitness equipment/ trim trail at Nightingale Avenue Rec. Ground	Queen Edith's	£30,000	9 <sup>th</sup> May 2013 onwards	July 13	August 13	Sept 13
c.	More sophisticated skate park at Cherry Hinton Rec. Ground	Cherry Hinton	£65,000	June/ July 13	July/Aug 13	October 13	March14
d.	Convert Hanover Court/ Princess Court laundry into a community space	Trumpington	£100,000	DONE March 13	June 13	August 13	March14

4.2 Based on the approach set out in paragraph 3.3, it is proposed to report the planned milestones for the following projects for delivery in 2014/15 in a further update to the Area Committee later this autumn.

e.	Smaller (five-a-side) football goals at Cherry Hinton Rec. Ground	Cherry Hinton	£7,000	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	June14
f	Upgrade play equipment for young children at Cherry Hinton Rec. Ground	Cherry Hinton	£50,000	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	2014/15

#### Commentary:

4.3 The County Council has consulted library users about proposals to create a community meeting space within Cherry Hinton library. Feedback has been very positive and work to create the community meeting space is due to be completed in July.

- 4.4 Prior to providing new play equipment at Cherry Hinton Recreation Ground in 2014/15, the refurbishment of existing equipment (from repairs and renewals funding) is due to be completed in May 2013. This is expected to make a significant difference to the enjoyment of the play area in the meantime.
- 4.5 The consultation on the type and location of outdoor fitness items for Nightingale Avenue Recreation Ground will be launched at this Area Committee meeting.
- 4.6 **Next steps:**
- a. More details on consultation arrangements for this and other projects will be provided to the Area Committee and will be publicised via the Developer Contributions web page ([www.cambridge.gov.uk/s106](http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/s106)). Area workshop participants, local community groups and local councillors will also be notified of consultations by email (where up-to-date addresses are known).
  - b. In line with the Council's Constitution, project appraisals for area committee devolved priorities under £75,000 will be considered by the Area Chair, Vice Chair and Opposition Spokes.
  - c. To avoid duplication of reports to committees, the project appraisal for the Hanover Court & Princess Court community room will be presented to the Housing Management Board on 4 June: the new building will remain a Housing Revenue Account asset and the Council's City Homes service will be responsible for the running and maintenance costs. Officers will report any comments received from local ward councillors and any other members of the South Area Committee to the Housing Management Board so that they can inform the decision on the project appraisal.

## 5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following papers on devolved decision-making and developer contributions were used in the preparation of this report.

- Report to South Area Committee, 1/11/2012 (and minutes)
- Report to Community Services Scrutiny Committee, 17/1/13

This and other background information can be found on the Council's Developer Contributions web page ([www.cambridge.gov.uk/S106](http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/S106)).

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report, please contact:

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