



To: Executive Councillor for Housing, Councillor Catherine Smart
Report by: Liz Bisset, Director of Customer & Community Services
Relevant scrutiny committees: Housing Management Board 1/10/2013

Wards affected: All Wards

Cambridge Standard Funding Key Decision

1. Executive Summary

1.1 This report presents a proposal for the allocation of £400,000 of the Cambridge Standard fund for the financial years 2013/2014 and 2014/2015. The Cambridge Standard fund is available for environmental improvements on housing estates.

2. Recommendations

The Executive Councillor is recommended:

2.1 To approve the list of projects in appendix 1.

3. Background

3.1 The Cambridge Standard fund originated in 2005 / 2006 following a tenant consultation in 2003 / 2004. This consultation concluded that above the work on Decent Homes, tenants prioritised environmental improvements and better security on Council housing estates. A capital allocation of £200,000 per annum for ten years was initially approved.

3.2 In previous years the budget has been used to improve the grounds maintenance sites around the city, provide parking solutions on estates, and to improve the environment at specific locations such as Maitland Avenue, Ekin Road and Hawkins Road. In addition the fund has included projects to

improve communal lighting, door entry schemes and fencing on housing estates.

3.3 Housing Officers have submitted brief project appraisals outlining their suggestions and these schemes have been considered by the City Homes Management Team as meeting at least one of the priority areas of:

- Environmental Improvements
- Reduction in crime and disorder / ASB
- Health and Safety

3.4 The garage forecourt project has been submitted by the garage project officer who has identified sites that are in need of resurfacing. These sites are in need of improvement to make them more attractive for renting in line with the City Council's Garage strategy. Some of the sites have recently seen the garages refurbished but not the adjacent forecourts.

The Kingsway project has been requested by residents of Kingsway and is an attempt to respond to concerns about Anti-Social Behaviour and security.

Parking projects have been compiled following concerns raised by local residents. An Opendoor survey in 2009 identified local parking problems as a concern for over 50 % of those residents who replied. Some extra provision has already been provided in estates across the city from the Cambridge Standard fund.

3.5 The projects will be managed as part of the Planned Maintenance contract and will be carried out between November 2013 and March 2015.

4. Implications

(a) Financial Implications

The budget for 2013 / 2014 and 2014 / 2015 is £200,000pa.

(b) Staffing Implications

There are no direct staffing implications identified as a consequence of this report.

(c) Equal Opportunities Implications

There are no direct equal opportunity implications of this report.

(d) **Environmental Implications**

There will be environmental improvements to housing estates.

(e) **Procurement**

There are no direct procurement implications associated with this report. All projects will be carried out as part of the Planned Maintenance Contract.

(f) **Consultation and Communication**

Further site specific consultation will be carried out on approved projects.

(g) **Community Safety**

Some of the projects have community safety implications.

5. Background Papers

Cambridge Standard project appraisal forms were used in the preparation of this report:

6. Appendices

Appendix 1 - schemes

7. Inspection of Papers

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

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APPENDIX 1 – SCHEMES

AREA	PROJECT TITLE	NOTES	COST £
Various sites across Housing	Garage forecourts	Various sites some where	200,000

estates	improvements	garages have been refurbished.	
Kingsway flats	Kingsway communal door entry system	Installation of communal doors with a wireless intercom system	60,000
Ashbury close	Ashbury close parking spaces	To provide 6 extra parking bays	30,000
Ekin Rd	Door entry system	Upgrade of door entry system	20,000
Hazelwood & Molewood	Parking improvements	Resurfacing and white lining and bicycle racks	20,000
Langdale	Drying area	Provide a new drying area	20,000
Ditchburn	Landscaping gardens	To remove existing shrubs and replant with low maintenance shrubs	10,000
Various sites on Housing estates	Bulb planting	Bulb planting over two years	20,000
Thorpe Way	Bike racks	Install bike racks at each block in Thorpe Way / Fison Rd estate	15,000
Humphreys Rd	Garage locks	Install two extra padlocks to each garage door	5,000
			TOTAL = £400,000
<i>Other schemes not prioritised</i>			
<i>Langdale</i>	<i>New car park</i>	<i>New car parking area at Langdale</i>	<i>150,000</i>
<i>Godwin Way</i>	<i>Dog agility park</i>	<i>Provision of dog agility equipment and fences</i>	<i>20,000</i>
<i>Ekin Rd</i>	<i>Fencing</i>	<i>Renew fencing for 12 blocks</i>	<i>11,000</i>
<i>Various</i>	<i>Sedum garage roofs</i>	<i>To use sedum garage roofs</i>	<i>10,000</i>