

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

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REPORT OF: Director of Environment

TO: South Area Committee

23/06/2014

WARDS: Cherry Hinton, Queen Edith's and Trumpington

**UPDATE ON LOCAL S106 PRIORITY PROJECTS**

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**1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 As part of the Council's approach to devolved decision-making over the use of developer contributions, there have been two priority-setting rounds to select local projects. The most recent report to the South Area Committee on this subject was in January 2014.
- 1.2 It is envisaged that an overview of developer contributions and devolved decision-making will be reported to the Community Services Scrutiny Committee in October, with an update on funding availability and arrangements for a third priority-setting round. In the meantime, there are a number of issues to bring to the Area Committee's attention in relation to:
- a the delivery of first round priority projects;
  - b. steps being taken to implement second round priorities;
  - c. opportunities to allocate some further funding to enable a couple of local environmental improvement schemes to move forward.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the South Area Committee:

- 2.1 notes the updates on local priority projects from the first two rounds of devolved decision-making, especially the consultation arrangements & revised timescales for the Accordia scooter project;
- 2.2 allocates up to £17,500 of devolved informal open space S106 contributions to support the delivery of environmental improvements at Trumpington War Memorial and Cherry Hinton War Memorial.

**3. PROJECT UPDATES**

- 3.1 **First round update:** Of the Area Committee's four local priority projects from the first round, which were agreed in November 2012:

- a. the community hub at Cherry Hinton library opened last September;
- b. the trim trail and outdoor fitness equipment at Nightingale Avenue Recreation Ground was installed last October;
- c. the community meeting space at Princess Court/Hanover Court was completed earlier this Spring;
- d. the new play dome and panna goals at Cherry Hinton Recreation Ground are now in place. The construction of the new skateboard park is on-going and is due to be completed by mid-July.

**3.2 Second round update:** The Area Committee last January identified four local priorities, subject to local consultation and project appraisal.

- a. Arts & Recreation officers are working with the local football team to identify specific refurbishment work for the pavilion at Cherry Hinton Recreation Ground, which will take place prior to the new football season. Options for further works being developed and can be considered in the next priority-setting round.
- b. Working with Trumpington Bowls Club, Arts & Recreation is going out to tender for the extension of the bowls club pavilion. Works are scheduled to start in September after the summer season.
- c. Following advice from an architect, Cherry Hinton Baptist Church's proposals for improving its family centre have expanded to enable even better use of the facilities. This has increased the likely overall costs of the scheme. Community Development officers have continued to liaise with the family centre's project manager and the Baptist Church has put in a bid to Wren for additional community facilities funding: the outcome of the bid is expected in July. There will then be greater clarity on how much money the Baptist Church may need to seek from the Council. If this grant (including the Area Committee's existing £63,000 allocation):
  - is less than £75,000, it can be addressed (in the normal way) in a project appraisal report to the Area Chair, Vice Chair and Opposition Spokes;
  - is more than £75,000, this will need to be brought back to for consideration by the Area Committee at a future meeting.

**3.3** There are particular issues with the other South Area second round priority, which encompasses both a scooter park and trim trail at Accordia. It is clear that the estimated timescales for delivering the scooter facility by the end of this July will not now be possible.

- a. Members will recall the petition from young people and representations from Accordia Community and Residents' Association (ACRA) in support of the scooter park proposals. These were summarised on pages 18 and 19 of the report to the Area Committee last January. A follow-up letter was also sent from ACRA to Committee members ahead of that meeting, calling for the scooter park to be taken forward first.
- b. Since then, several Accordia residents have written to express misgivings about the scooter park proposals. These include:
  - queries about the need for a scooter park as there are already large areas of green recreational space on the development;
  - concerns about the impact on the play area and the safety of younger children using the play area;
  - queries about the awareness of the proposals amongst Accordia residents and the arrangements for local consultation.
- c. The Council is in the process of seeking proposals and quotes for the design and construction of a scooting track. The design brief takes account of views expressed by local residents who have contacted the Council in recent months.
- d. There will then be local consultation from mid-July on the proposed designs emerging from the tendering exercise. This will include a leaflet-drop to Accordia residents to raise awareness, publicity on the Council's website and an on-line survey. The consultation will be based on concept drawings to make it easier to answer questions around the need for scooting facilities, what they might look like and where they could be located.
- e. The next steps, in terms of project appraisal, will depend on the response to the consultation.
  - If there is a broad consensus on proposals for taking forward the junior scooter facility, this can be reported (in the normal way) to the Area Chair, Vice Chair and Opposition Spokes without needing to come back to the Area Committee.
  - If, however, there is not a consensus on a way forward for this project or if the estimated costs rise significantly, the project appraisal would be reported back to the Area Committee (probably at next October's meeting) for a decision about how (or whether) to go ahead with this local priority project.

3.4 **Opportunities to allocate further funding:** When the second round local priorities were set last January, the door was left open to prioritise further proposals before the third round if these were 'ready to go' and could be taken forward within existing staffing capacity.

- a. Project appraisals for war memorial improvements at Trumpington and Cherry Hinton are referred to elsewhere in the Area Committee's agenda papers.
- b. These two schemes already have Environmental Improvement Programme and County Council funding, but would benefit from some additional developer contributions funding. This could help with hard and soft landscaping and a bench near both memorials.
- c. Once the project appraisals are approved, the improvement works will start this summer and be completed by this October.
- d. It is estimated that the Cherry Hinton War Memorial improvements would need up to £6,500 of devolved developer contributions and the Trumpington War Memorial up to £11,000 (perhaps less if an on-going bid for external funding is successful).

## 4. IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The implications of particular priority projects are being addressed in project appraisal reports. In line with the Council's Constitution, appraisals for local priority projects under £75,000 are reported to the Area Chair, Vice Chair and Opposition Spokes, while those above £75,000 are reported back to the Area Committee itself.

## 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, 13/01/2014
- Request for quote: concrete scooting track (currently featured at <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/current-tender-opportunities>)

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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