



To: North Area Committee 31/03/2016

Report by: Simon Payne,
Director of Environment

Wards affected: West Chesterton, Kings Hedges, East Chesterton,
Arbury

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME (EIP)

1.0 Executive summary

- This report requests that the Committee determine which of the proposed new EIP schemes are allocated funding as part of the 2016-17 Environmental Improvement Programme, from those listed in Appendix A of this report.

2.0 Recommendations

The North Area Committee is recommended:

- 2.1 To note the utilisation of £5,954 of remaining North Area EIP funding to the provision and maintenance of 36 hanging baskets along Chesterton High Street during 2015-16.
- 2.2 To allocate funding in 2016-17 of £5,954 for the annual provision and maintenance of 36 hanging baskets along Chesterton High Street, and £662 for 4 hanging baskets in Campkin Road (due for installation from spring 2016).
- 2.3 To consider the allocation of the remaining £43,704 to the list of proposed projects in Appendix A of this report.
- 2.4 To approve those projects for implementation, subject to the schemes being deliverable, obtaining consents necessary, positive consultation where required and final approval by Ward Councillors.
- 2.5 To note the progress of existing schemes listed in Appendix C of this report.
- 2.6 To consider a second EIP application invitation round during 2016-17 to utilise any funding uncommitted from the present round plus any savings arising from the delivery of previously committed schemes.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 The Environmental Improvement Programme (EIP) funds and delivers small scale projects around the city that make a lasting and noticeable improvement to streets and public places. The programme was reviewed during 2015 to put more emphasis on smaller, community supported applications that can be developed and delivered more quickly. The programme eligibility criteria are attached at **Appendix D**.
- 3.2 The programme is supported up to year 2019-20 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.
- 3.3 There were no new EIP projects adopted during 2015-16. However, £30,000 was provided in order to enable Cambridgeshire County Council to undertake a programme of Local Highways Improvements (LHI) across the city, and in North area some £5,954 of remaining funding from previous years was utilised in order to continue to provide summer hanging baskets in Chesterton High Street.
- 3.4 Progress in implementing previous programme commitments is outlined in **Appendix C**. Some of these have been dependent on staffing availability within the County Council's highways service, and regrettably there have been delays in the completion of some projects. Liaison is continuing in order to expedite delivery.
- 3.5 Appendix C includes details of some schemes aimed at improving damage to verges caused by vehicular parking and access to off-street parking facilities. A significant number of areas across Cambridge are suffering similar problems, many of which have been subject to bids for improvements through EIP rounds. A review is underway of the effectiveness of the most recent work undertaken.

4.0 2016-17 Year Applications

- 4.1 The budget available to develop and deliver new EIP projects across North area has been reduced from £59,200 in 2014-15 to £50,320 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.

- 4.2 The revised annual budget available in 2016-17 has two existing funding commitments; £5,954 for the annual provision of summer hanging baskets in Chesterton High Street, plus a further £662 for the provision of new summer hanging baskets adjacent to the shops in Campkin Road from spring 2016. This leaves a final budget available for the application to new projects of some £43,704.
- 4.3 Preliminary feasibility work has been carried out on each of the schemes that have been suggested for the 2016-17 Environmental Improvement Programme. This included an initial assessment of the likely costs involved in delivering those projects considered, at this stage, to be potentially feasible.
- 4.4 The table in **Appendix A** lists all of the schemes that could be feasibly considered as part of this year's EIP Programme, should they be allocated funding by North Area Committee. Copies of all completed application forms received are included at **Appendix B**.
- 4.5 The total anticipated cost of the schemes listed in Appendix A (£23,000) is some £20,704 less than the budget available for application to new schemes in 2016-17 (£43,704). Area Committee is therefore able to support all of the applications received that are considered at this stage to be feasible to implement.
- 4.6 It is possible that there could be further savings arising from the delivery of projects from previous years outlined in Appendix C, which might be carried forward and added to the budget for 2016-17. The precise amount has yet to be quantified and is dependent on final out-turn costs of projects currently being completed. It might however provide some contingency for any unforeseen costs incurred in delivering those new projects adopted this round from those listed in Appendix A.
- 4.7 Following the review of EIP operating process in 2015, Area Committees are now able to consider more than one application round each year; depending on resource availability. Given the anticipated programme financial position outlined above, it is suggested that a further application round might be considered this autumn in order to fully commit the funding available in 2016-17. The focus would need to be on small, straightforward projects that could be delivered within a time frame of a few months.
- 4.8 One of the schemes that has been suggested for this year's programme has not been included in Appendix A. Table 1.0 below

provides a summary of this along with identified difficulty with progressing this project at the current time.

Scheme	Position
<p>N5</p> <p>Green End Road, East Chesterton, adjacent to Nuffield Road junction.</p> <p>T Replacement for the well-used bus shelter that had to be removed recently following vehicular damage.</p> <p>T Cllr M Abbott, East Chesterton</p>	<p>The removed bus shelter was privately funded and maintained by a commercial company under contract to the City Council (Adshel).</p> <p>This contract is due to conclude in 2019, and the intentions of the company on the replacement of this shelter are being sought.</p> <p>Whilst the current difficulties and aspirations are recognised, unfortunately at the present time it would not appropriate be to consider committing EIP funding to its replacement.</p>
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Table 1.0; Schemes in development, to be delivered by others, or not feasible.

5.0 Background papers

None

6.0 Appendices

APPENDIX A

Summary of Feasible EIP Schemes for 2016-17.

APPENDIX B

Further Details of EIP Scheme Applications Received.

APPENDIX C

Progress on Existing EIP Schemes.

APPENDIX D

EIP Eligibility Criteria.

7.0 Inspection of papers

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

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