



To: East Area Committee 7/04/2016

Report by: Simon Payne,
Director of Environment

Wards affected: Petersfield, Abbey, Romsey, Coleridge

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 East Area Committee is recommended:

- 2.1 To note the utilisation of £10,890 of remaining North Area EIP funding to the provision and maintenance of 66 hanging baskets along Mill Road during 2015-16.
- 2.2 To allocate funding in 2016-17 of £10,890 for the annual provision and maintenance of 66 hanging baskets along Mill Road.
- 2.3 To consider the allocation of the remaining £38,880 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 East area some £10,890 of remaining funding from previous years was utilised in order to continue to provide summer hanging baskets in Mill Road.
- 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 East area has been reduced from £56,200 in 2014-15 to £47,770 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 an existing funding commitment; £10,890 for the annual provision of summer hanging baskets in Mill Road. This leaves a final budget available for application to new projects of some £38,880.
- 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 East Area Committee. The table includes comments on each scheme as submitted by applicants and added to by officers. Copies of the front page of all completed application forms received, providing further detail, are included at **Appendix B**.
- 4.5 The total anticipated cost of the schemes listed in Appendix A (£78,000) is some £39,120 greater than the budget available for application to new schemes in 2016-17 (£38,880). The Area Committee therefore needs to choose those projects to support from 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 will be up to East Area Committee to determine whether to allocate the currently known budget available (£38,880) entirely now, or hold a proportion back for further allocation later in 2016-17. Should the latter option be favoured, the focus would need to be on small, straightforward projects that could be delivered within a time frame of a few months.

4.8 Two of the schemes that have been suggested for this year's programme have been estimated to cost more than the £5,000 maximum ceiling suggested during the EIP review in 2015. Area Committees are able to over-rule this maximum value (if desired), subject to a majority vote. Table 1.0 below provides a summary of these schemes.

| Scheme | Position |
|--|---|
| <p>Glisson Road Provision of landscaping at the Hills Road end of the street, via suitable new planting bed(s) and possibly new street trees</p> | <p>Provisional sum of £10,000 in order to introduce low level planting and / or one or two new trees. Based upon the cost of providing new street trees and tree pits recently in Ross Street, and proposed for Bateman Street nearby.</p> |
| <p>St. Matthew's Street Environmental enhancement of area opposite New Street junction, including two new parking bays - to compliment recent improvement undertaken by Housing services.</p> | <p>Applicant estimated full project cost of £20,000, to continue work undertaken by Housing services. Seeking additional funding availability elsewhere, or further EIP funding in a subsequent year, to complete.</p> |

Table 1.0; Schemes expected to cost more than £5,000

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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