

Item

## **Environmental Improvement Programme Project Submission Summary Report (2023) for Discussion**

**To:** South Area Committee: 28 November 2022

**Report by:**

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**Wards affected:**

Cherry Hinton, Queen Edith's and Trumpington

**Key Decision: No**

### **1. Executive Summary**

- 1.1 This report details the Environmental Improvement (EIP) applications and ideas received for 2023 funding for projects in the South Area. The Area Committee can comment on the applications and make recommendations. The area-based recommendations made by all the area committees and those put forward for city-wide strategic funding will be included in an overall recommendations report to be considered by the Executive Councillor for Open Spaces, Food Justice and Community Development, for an out of cycle decision on behalf of the Environment and Community Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.2 The report provides information on eligibility, funding criteria and funding budgets for the Environmental Improvement Programme.

## 2. Recommendations

The South Area Committee is recommended to:

- i. To note the EIP budget allocation for South Area for 2022/23 and for Strategic EIP see 3.4,
- ii. To consider the new EIP ideas and project submitted for South Area, against the EIP Funding availability and the eligibility criteria (Appendix A),
- iii. Consider the recommendations made in Appendix B, discuss and clearly outline the committees' priorities in line with the available funding for consideration by the Executive Councillor for Open Spaces, Food Justice and Community Development.

## 3. Background

- 3.1. The Council's Environmental Improvement Programme (EIP) has been operating as a rolling programme since 2004. The programme budget, which has been £170,000 per annum for the most recent period up to 2020/21. In 2020/21, Committee approved restructuring the programme budget, allocating £100,000 pa to a Strategic programme (which all Area Committees can bid towards) with the decision on Area and Strategic bids devolved to Executive Councillor for Open Spaces, Food Justice and Community Development; and £70,000 pa devolved between the four Area Committees (on a per capita basis) for Local project bids. The current EIP eligibility criteria are set out along with the programme application form in **Appendix A**.
- 3.2 The programme has been subject to periodic review to improve flexibility, ensure good value and help speed up project delivery. That said, there have been delivery difficulties with much of the programme was put on hold for 2020/21 and 2021/22, due to the impact of the Covid pandemic and the need to redirect resources towards Covid response and recovery.
- 3.3 As referred to in 3.1 above, there are now two forms of EIP funding:
  - **Local Area:** With a budget of £100,000 pa, which is devolved and divided between the four Area Committees (South, East, West/Central and North), in proportion to the size of each Area's population. Committees consider which projects in their area they recommend for funding, up to a project value of £5,000 (or £10,000 if strongly supported).

- **Strategic:** With a budget of £70,000 pa, this element of the programme is dedicated to priorities the Council has identified as being important across all areas of the city and which are aligned to the Corporate Plan and supporting strategies including Tree / Biodiversity / herbicide reduction plan, long grass policy etc. This includes making better use of roadside verges, enhancing tree canopy, improving biodiversity, benches (that promote community/ social interaction) and providing free public drinking water points.

- 3.4 Based on the devolved Area Committee Local budget, there is a total of £25,529 available for South Area as a proportion to the size of its population and £70,000 for citywide Strategic EIP.
- 3.5 An open application process for project bids within the city was started on the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022 and closed on the 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022. The opportunity to submit project bids was advertised on the Council's website through the current consultations page with links through to Citizenlab (the Council's new community consultation and engagement platform).
- 3.6 South Area Committee members are asked to consider the projects included in Appendix B and after considering the funding parameters, eligibility and known public support (indicated from the Citizenlab platform) to make clear recommendations on priorities to be considered by the Executive Councillor.
- 3.7 Priority recommendations will be included in the final recommendation report and include both EIP Local area funded projects and Strategic projects.
- 3.8 Following consideration by the Executive Councillor for Open Spaces, Food Justice and Community Development of the final recommendation report the approved bids will be published in early 2023.
- 3.9 Following publication of approved projects, project delivery will commence through the Environmental Services - Project Delivery Team

throughout 2023, in liaison with project proposers and local ward councillors.

3.10 Those unsuccessful Local project bids, along with any Strategic project bids, supported by Area Committees but unable to be afforded this year, might be considered in any further available funding round in 2023 (subject to annual budget setting/ any available budget underspends), alongside any new applications received.

3.11 Note, current status of EIP projects, already approved in the South Area and other area programmes can be viewed at [link](#).

## **4. Implications**

### **(a) Financial Implications**

The current EIP has an approved capital budget allocation of £170,000 per annum from 2021/22 (funding re-phasing from 2021/22 and 2022/23 to 2023/24 subject to annual budget setting).

### **(b) Staffing Implications**

Historically a small number of projects have proven difficult to develop and deliver and have had a disproportionate impact on staffing resource in comparison with other programme work. The programme needs to be managed and delivered within the existing funded EIP programme management staffing resource (2 FTE).

### **(c) Equality and Poverty Implications**

EIP project bids have historically been prioritised across all areas proportionate to population and in accordance with locally identified need. The impact of all EIP projects on Equality Act 'protected groups' is assessed at the design/ planning stage of each approved project. All hard infrastructure schemes are designed to national standards to accommodate the needs of those with physical impairments, including mobility, sight and hearing. The overall impact of the programme is considered positive.

### **(d) Environmental Implications**

The programme aims to preserve and improve the quality of the natural and built public realm environment across Cambridge, in a manner that does not

contribute towards climate change and leaves a positive legacy for future generations. The Council has declared both a Climate and Biodiversity Emergency and there is increased focus on climate change mitigation and adaptation and biodiversity protection and net gain. The overall impact of the programme on the environment within Cambridge is therefore rated as +M (positive; Medium).

### **(e) Procurement Implications**

The programme projects are either delivered in-house, utilising existing internal resource within Environmental Services, or externally, via existing framework contract arrangements. To ensure value for money, the larger Strategic programme schemes may be delivered through competitive tender processes.

### **(f) Community Safety Implications**

The programme is designed to deliver local public realm environmental improvements and foster increased pride of place and community cohesion. Several local area projects have been delivered in association with local community and voluntary groups. As a result, the programme is considered to have a positive impact on community safety.

## **5. Consultation and communication considerations**

The Citizenlab engagement tool has been used to canvass public views directly and further involve and engage all sections of the community in the Council's EIP decision making process. All the programme projects are consulted on at the planning/ design stage, with the level/ type of consultation determined by and proportionate to the nature, scale, and scope of the proposed project. With much of the programme being small-scale projects, it is imperative that the proportionate principle continues to be followed.

## **6. Background papers**

Background papers used in the preparation of this report:

- Environment and Community Scrutiny Committee Agenda and Minutes 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019.  
<https://democracy.cambridge.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=476&MId=3566&Ver=4>
- Current Status of EIP funded projects:  
<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/11531/environmental-improvement-project-summary-2022-23.pdf>

## **7. Appendices**

Appendix A – EIP application form and eligibility criteria,

Appendix B – EIP project submissions and recommendation for 2023 South Area.

## **8. Inspection of papers**

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

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## Appendix A

### Environmental Improvement Programme (EIP) 2023 Year Project Ideas

Proposal/ideas are open from the 21<sup>st</sup> of September 2022, the earlier you submit them the sooner we can post them on Citizenlab and once on their the greater the chance others may support. Submission ideas are unlikely to be accepted following the 28 October 2022.

First Name

Surname

Email Address  
(not to be shared  
with public) so  
we can contact  
you for more  
project details if  
your idea is  
supported

Location of suggested  
Environmental Improvement -  
Street/Greenspace name or  
nearest postcode

**Title - What:** Issue/Problem/Improvement – please give a title to idea and what your idea is likely to achieve:

**Description - How:** Suggested Solution – please outline how you feel your objectives might be best met e.g., improve biodiversity on Joe Street – Plant wildflower grasses on greenspace on corner outside number 1 Joe Street and change grass cutting regime:

**Outcomes - Why:** Joe Street is part of an important Local Nature network corridor, it will help with health and wellbeing of local people, improve the environment, contribute towards secure nature species for the future.

**Who:** Please outline who or which Group is proposing the project or whether local Councillors support?

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**Proposed Budget** - Not compulsory - But may outline items required, and possibly an approximate cost of these giving an approx. budget requirement - note Officers with experience may add in estimate costs or change any costs inputted based on experience of delivering projects.

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## Eligibility Criteria for Environmental Improvements

Please indicate which of these criteria would be met by your application:

| Essential Criteria                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | tick | Desirable Criteria                                                                                                           | tick |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Projects have a direct, lasting and noticeable improvement to the appearance of a street or area                                                                                                                                                               |      | The project will benefit a large number of local people                                                                      |      |
| Projects should publicly visible and accessible                                                                                                                                                                                                                |      | Ease and simplicity of implementation                                                                                        |      |
| Should the scheme be on private land, the owners' permission must be granted – unless there are exceptional circumstances by which the Area Committee may wish to act unilaterally, with full knowledge and responsibility for the implication of such action. |      | It features the active involvement of local people                                                                           |      |
| Projects must ensure low future maintenance costs.                                                                                                                                                                                                             |      | It meets one/more key policy objectives (e.g. improves biodiversity, community safety or contributes to equal opportunities) |      |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |      | There is potential for inclusion of employment training opportunities                                                        |      |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |      | Additional 'partnership' funding is available.                                                                               |      |

### Ineligible for funding:

- Projects costing more than £10,000; without Area Committee authority
- Where an available alternative source of funding is available
- Revenue projects (i.e. management and maintenance of existing facilities)



- Schemes that have already received Council funding (unless it can be clearly demonstrated that this would not be 'top up' funding)
- Works that the City or County Council are under an immediate obligation to carry out (e.g. repair of dangerous footways)
- Play areas (S106 funding should pay for these facilities).

**Other Information:**

The following categories of work were agreed as being eligible for funding by the Area Committees:

- Works in areas of predominately council owned housing

## Appendix B – EIP project submissions and recommendation for 2023 South Area,

Please consider that the funding available is **£25,529** and the 3 project submissions for the Area EIP are estimated to cost **£7,000**, as set out in the table 1 below.

Prior to the committee the project list and details were sent out to Ward Councillors for the South Area with the advice that Councillors consider the projects put forward giving an opportunity to indicatively prioritise which ones they would wish to proceed. Within the Table below there is an Officer Funding suggestion based on Officer comments and analysis. However, this is to be discussed with the final recommendation for project funding approval coming from Area Committee Board Members. Where applicants have estimated costs of works, or not included, Officers have added or adjusted to appropriate estimated amounts.

**Table 1 - Summarised project submissions for South Area:**

| No.       | Scheme Title                                                                   | Scheme Description (Shortened)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Ward          | Proposed by    | Est. Cost | Cost Deliverability Eligible Rating | Persons in Support | Officer Funding suggestion |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
|           |                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |               |                | £         |                                     |                    |                            |
| S1 - 2023 | Installation of drinking fountains - Hobsons Square                            | Drinking fountains to be installed near the Clay farm Centre on Hobson Square, Trumpington.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Trumpington   | Cllr D Levien  | 2.5k      | Green                               | Thumbs up          | Yes                        |
| S2 - 2023 | Safe Access and Entry to a LEAP                                                | Safer Access and entry to the LEAP between Old Mills Road (CB2 9AJ) and Proctor Drive.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Trumpington   | Local Resident | 1.5k      | Green                               | Thumbs up          | Yes                        |
| S3 - 2023 | Reduce yearly Christmas tree cutting and disposal by installing lights in tree | Reducing CO2 consumption. Queen Edith's, Wulfstan Way, has a Christmas tree which is cut down, transported, installed and removed each year. Lights could be installed as a tree wrap on trees in Wulfstan Way, which will provide the same effect of lighting in a more controlled way through an app system, ensuring that lights are only turned on when it is dark. | Queen Edith's | Local Resident | 3k        | Green                               | Thumbs up          | Yes                        |

**Table 2 - Submissions for Projects Strategic Area Funding.**

| No.    | Scheme Title                                                                    | Scheme Description (Shortened)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Proposed by                                 | Ward | Est. Cost | Cost, Delv, elig, | Persons in Support | Officer Funding suggestion                                                                 |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------|-----------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|        |                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                             |      | £         | R/A/G             |                    |                                                                                            |
| City 1 | Citywide Community Engagement led Biodiversity and Habitat Improvement Projects | Established volunteer work groups led by Environmental Services Community Engagement Team to work with residents to develop local community gardens and food growing spaces on works such as benches (to increase social interaction), local food production, wildflower meadows, trees, and invertebrate (bees) and wildflower bank(s)/features as well as projects that focus on Food Poverty by creating growing spaces – cultivating areas of green space several small scale projects – assisting groups cultivate farm and harvest land for social benefit, during the current national financial crisis. | Environ Services Community Engagemen t Team | All  | circa 15k | Green             | Thumbs up 1        | Yes – Amount dependent on budget pressures                                                 |
| City 2 | Genuine Biodiversity gain                                                       | Work with homeowners street by street, ward by ward, and offer to put green roofs on flat roof extensions, bring back front gardens with as much or as little planting the home owner will allow.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Local Resident                              | All  |           | Amber/ Red        | Thumbs up 6        | Unclear - Deliverability other Council Teams could help delivery, very high time resource. |
| City 3 | Environment al map of Cambridge                                                 | Wildlife need corridors to enable travel around the city. An environmental map would look at the City's open and closed spaces to highlight the spaces that are great for wild birds, reptiles, fish, insects, amphibians and mammals but also the spaces that are used for domesticated animals, pets and farm. It could identify the spaces of travel, for these creatures plus showing areas which may need more corridors created.                                                                                                                                                                          | Local Resident                              | All  |           | Red               | Thumbs up 1        | No - ineligible                                                                            |

**Table 3 - Submissions of Project Ideas for South Area EIP or Strategic EIP that more appropriately funded through Other Funding such as LHI, S106, and or others.**

| Scheme Title                                        | Scheme Description (Shortened)                                                                                             | Proposed by    | Ward     |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------|
| Introduce electric auto rickshaws in Cambridge City | An Auto electric Rikshaw solution: People could use auto rikshaws to reach the boarding points for buses/railway stations. | Local Resident | Citywide |