Item

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

To: South Area Committee: 27 November 2023

Report by:

James Ogle, Project Officer, Tel: 01223 457354; Email james.ogle@cambridge.gov.uk or John Richards, Public Realm Engineering & Project Delivery Team Leader Tel:01223 458525; Email: john.richards@cambridge.gov.uk

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 2024 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 and City Services, 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 2023/24 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 Table 1),
- iii. Consider the recommendations made in the Appendix B; Tables 1 and 2, discuss, and clearly outline the committee's priorities in line with the available area EIP funding, for consideration by the Executive Councillor for Open Spaces and City Services.

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, Environment and Community Scrutiny Committee approved restructuring the programme budget, allocating £70,000 pa to a Strategic programme (which all Area Committees can bid towards) and £100,000 pa devolved between the four Area Committees (on a per capita basis) for Local project bids with the decision on both Area and Strategic bids now devolved to the Executive Councillor for Open Spaces and City Services. 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 which 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 such as the Tree and Biodiversity Strategies, plus the Herbicide Reduction Plan. This includes enhancing tree canopy, improving biodiversity and benches (that promote community/ social interaction).
- 3.4 Based on the devolved Area Committee Local budget, there is a total of £23,329 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 28th June 2023 and closed on the 17th August 2023. There was also an opportunity to select any ideas put forward and like or comment on them, this ran until the 28th September 2023. The opportunities to submit project bids was advertised, via a press release and on the Council's website through the current consultations page with links through to Citizenlab (the Council's 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 priority projects for the area EIP funding, to be considered by the Executive Councillor.
- 3.7 Recommendations will be included in the final recommendation report and include both EIP Local area funded projects and Strategic projects.
- 3.8 Following consideration of the final recommendation report by the Executive Councillor for Open Spaces and City Services the approved bids will be published in early 2024.

- 3.9 Following publication of approved projects, project delivery will commence through the Environmental Services - Project Delivery Team throughout 2024, in liaison with project proposers and local ward councillors.
- 3.10 Those unsuccessful Area 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 if reapplied for (subject to annual budget setting/ any available budget underspends), alongside any new applications received.
- 3.11 The current status of EIP projects in the South Area and other areas can be viewed here.

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, 2022/23 and 2023/24 to 2024/25 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 21st March 2019.
 - https://democracy.cambridge.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cld=476& Mld=3566&Ver=4
- Current status of EIP funded projects included in: https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/environmental-improvement-programme

7. Appendices

Appendix A – EIP application form and eligibility criteria,

Appendix B – Appendix B – EIP project submissions, recommendations for 2024 South Area, and strategic programme information.

8. Inspection of papers

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

James Ogle, Project Officer,

Tel: 01223 457354

Email james.ogle@cambridge.gov.uk

or

John Richards, Public Realm Engineering and Project Delivery Team Leader,

Tel: 01223 458525

Email: john.richards@cambridge.gov.uk

Appendix A

Environmental Improvement Programme (EIP) 2024 Year Project Ideas

Proposal/ideas are open from the 28th June 2023 until the 17 August 2023. Submission ideas are unlikely to be accepted following the 17 August 2023. Following this ideas submission phase through our <u>engagement platform</u>, you can select any ideas put forward and either like or dislike them to a maximum of 10. This stage will run from the 22nd of August until the 28th September 2023.

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who: Please outline who or which Group or local Councillors are supporting the project group of residents are likely to be engaged and assist in establishing the project for examildflowers when initially planted they need some intensive looking after for first two or months e.g., watering and weeding until they get established.	ample for
months e.g., watering and weeding until they get established.	
Proposed Budget - Not compulsory - But may outline items required, and possibly an approximate cost of these giving an approx. budget requirement - note Officers may adestimate costs or change any costs inputted based on experience of delivering projects	

Eligibility Criteria for Environmental Improvements

Environmental Improvement Programme (EIP): Eligibility Criteria

Essential Criteria:

- Projects should have a direct, lasting, and noticeable improvement to the appearance of a street or area.
- · Projects should be publicly visible and accessible.
- 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.
- Projects must ensure low future maintenance costs / liabilities.

Desirable criteria:

- Active involvement of local people.
- The project will benefit a large number of local people.
- · Additional 'partnership' funding available.
- Ease and simplicity of implementation.
- Potential for meeting key policy objectives (e.g. improves biodiversity, improves community safety or contributes to equal opportunities).

Ineligible for funding:

- Where a readily available alternative source of funding is available.
- Revenue projects (i.e. management and maintenance of existing facilities).
- Projects 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 fund 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

Projects we generally fund and deliver from EIP Area funding are:

Pathways, wayfinding lighting on recreation space, landscaping, Street Trees, benches on recreation space and highway, community noticeboards, fencing.

EIP Strategic project funding key themes:

Strategic EIP allocation is for initiatives to make better use of the city's green amenity spaces and verges, enhancing tree canopy, encouraging social interaction in our open spaces and encouraging biodiversity. Applications of this type are more likely to be funded from Strategic EIP.

Appendix B – EIP project submissions, recommendations for 2024 South Area, and strategic programme information.

Please consider that the funding available is £23,329 and the 9 project submissions for the Area EIP are estimated to cost £37,350, 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 rating based on Officer comments and analysis, table 2 puts the green and green/ amber rated projects into Officer recommendations for approval. 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 may have added or adjusted to appropriate estimated amounts.

Table 1: Summarised project submissions support, and Officer ratings for South Area:

No.	Scheme Title	Scheme Description	Proposed by	Ward	Estimated Cost	Cost Deliverability Eligibility Rating	Persons Support Consultation Tool	Officer Funding Suggestion (Summarised Text)	Link to Application
					£	R/A/G			
S1 - 2024	Junction between Hills road and Queen Ediths Way - make it great not a nightmare	This is an area of land left-over on the edge of a development of 15 flats. On the roadside is a wide verge on which grows non-native species which are getting out of control; acacia (large thorns), lilac, sycamore saplings, other hedging species which grow over the footpath causing problems. Local people have been cutting this undergrowth back. The invasive trees need to be removed planted up with more appropriate native trees species that can support more wildlife and be bee friendly. Members of Cambridge Gardening Club willing to initial planting and maintenance.	Local Resident	Queen Ediths	3,000	Amber	Thumbs up 2	Not recommended -No assets following work more of a revenue tidy up could be undertaken by Community Engagement Team	Link to Application
S2- 2024	Improvement to Cherry Hinton Recreation Ground by adding picnic benches.	Picnic Benches for Cherry Hinton Recreation Ground to allow for additional picnicking areas in the field, improving the facilities for all residents and providing better spaces for a variety of residents to gather outdoors. These benches would improve the ability of residents to gather in comfort and enjoy the outdoors and would improve the accessibility of Cherry Hinton Recreation Ground for older people and those with reduced mobility by providing additional seating.	(County) Cllr B Goodliffe	Cherry Hinton	4,500	Green/Amber	Thumbs up 5	Recommended – supported & deliverable making the space more socially useable	Link to Application
S3- 2024	Reclaiming Green Space on Church End/Rosemary Lane Through Tree Planting	This area has been converted from a quiet residential street into a parking overspill which is having a detrimental effect on the look and feel of the area as well as a significant impact on the wellbeing of residents. The use of the green spaces (verges) which have long been a feature of this road are being impacted by parking of cars, vans, and other commercial vehicles upon them particularly on the verges at the Church End of Rosemary Lane. Tree planting or a/another biodiversity solution would deter the use of the verges as car parking spots whilst also adding to the City's canopy cover aspirations and the environmental wellbeing of the area.	(County) Cllr B Goodliffe	Cherry Hinton	4,500	Green / Amber	Thumbs up 2	Recommended – Investigate potential to do biodiversity enhancement / tree planting on verge, Cemetery End.	Link to Application
S4- 2024	Benches for Wulfstan Way	Wulfstan Way is a connecting residential road in Queen Edith's, and a key walking route for residents of many surrounding streets, as it provides a link to local businesses and community spaces. The road is characterised by wide verges and trees throughout, making it a very pleasant route. However, there is a notable lack of seating along the road, which limits enjoyment of the space. By installing benches at appropriate locations along Wulfstan Way, public enjoyment of the green space could be made more accessible to everyone.	Local Resident	Queen Ediths	6,000	Green/Amber	Thumbs up 10	Recommended - supported deliverable making the space more socially useable	Link to Application

No.	Scheme Title	Scheme Description	Proposed by	Ward	Estimated Cost	Cost Deliverability Eligibility Rating	Persons Support Consultation Tool	Officer Funding Suggestion (Summarised Text)	Link to Application
S5- 2024	Benches for Beaumont Road	Beaumont Road is an extended residential road in Queen Edith's, and features verges and trees throughout. However, there is a notable lack of seating along the road, and adding benches at two locations would significantly increase the ability of pedestrians to enjoy the space, as well as benefitting residents.	Local Resident	Queen Ediths	4,500	Amber	Thumbs up 3	Not recommended – Not main routes for large/area population to access community facilities.	Link to Application
S6- 2024	Picnic Benches for George V Playing Field	The King George V Playing Field is a key community green space in Trumpington and is enjoyed by individuals as well as families with children. However, there are very few seating areas on the field which limits accessibility of the site, adding 3 or 4 picnic benches could significantly improve the value of the area for families and other small groups.	Cllr K Thornburrow	Trumpington	6,000	Amber	Thumbs up 6	Not recommended – Number of picnic benches added in 2022 could be funded from remaining s106.	Link to Application
S7- 2024	Community Development Opportunities at Clay Farm Community Garden	The community garden has been designed, planted, and run by residents. There is an educational element with the local junior school. By providing benches for families and friends to use, we can encourage more people and improve them for existing users.	Cllr K Thornburrow	Trumpington	4,000	Green/Amber	Thumbs up 1	Recommended - Deliverable will make the space more socially useable.	Link to Application
S8- 2024	Growing Nightingale Garden Community' by increasing biodiversity and engagement	For nearly a decade the community garden attached to Nightingale Recreation Ground, has been led by two inspired individuals, helped by a large group of volunteers, with advice and support from the Council. Recently a new committee have taken on managing the garden and, after consulting with the existing volunteers and new recruits from a wide range of residents in the Queen Edith ward, recognise that the community would like a more biodiverse garden. Objectives were identified from the consultation including the need for less day-to-day maintenance which can be achieved by letting the garden become wilder. To achieve success we need to increase the security of the garden by planting some very prickly native hedging to deter the increasing amount of anti-social behaviour at night. Planting more wildflowers and have more resources (e.g. books, games, pond dipping equipment) to educate visitors about biodiversity.	Nightingale Community Garden Group	Queen Ediths	4,350	Green/Amber	Thumbs up 101	Recommended – Highly supported. Only elements applicable to EIP, wildflowers, hedges not ASB prevention elements.	Link to Application
S9 - 2024	Bin for Dog fouling, litter and new signage in greenspace, just off Church End	New and prominent signage at the four entrances to the glade area and a new dog bin at the entrance by Teversham Drift no 8.	Cllr R McPherson	Cherry Hinton	1,000	Amber	Thumbs up 1	Not recommended - Doesn't fit with the litter strategy plus need to keep revenue costs down across council.	Link to Application

Table 2: Officer recommendations for project approval from the South Area EIP (Green/ amber rated projects):

Project Number	Scheme Title	Approved Value £	Available £
S2- 2024	Improvement to Cherry Hinton Recreation Ground by adding picnic benches.	4,500	
S3- 2024	Reclaiming Green Space on Church End/Rosemary Lane Through Tree Planting	4,500	
S4- 2024	Benches for Wulfstan Way	6,000	
S7- 2024	Community Development Opportunities at Clay Farm Community Garden	4,000	
S8- 2024	Growing Nightingale Garden Community' by increasing biodiversity and engagement	4,350	
TOTAL SOUTH	AREA EIP	£23,350	£23,329

Table 3: Project submissions for South Area EIP - rejected:

Scheme Title	Scheme Description (Shortened)	Proposed by	Ward	Est. Cost £	Persons in Support and neg. comments	Status	Why Rejected	Link to Application
Improvement playgroundin Nightingale Park, quick repair of zip wire.	The zip wire has long required repair. The play area is well below the standard of those at Cherry Hinton and Coleridge which are not within walking distance of young children here who make frequent use of the Nightingale playground.	Local Resident	Queen Ediths	??k	No Comments or thumbs up	Rejected	The project doesn't fit within the EIP criteria, applicant informed that zip wire replacement is due to be installed in the Autumn.	Link to Application
Improve the public and green areas Clay Farm Drive estate	Improve the public and green areas Clay Farm Drive estate	Local Resident	Trumpingt on	7k	Thumbs up 28, 1 Negative Comments	Rejected	The project doesn't fit as the project idea is for management and maintenance of an existing area and this type of work is classed as revenue funded work, and EIP doesn't fund revenue projects.	Link to Application

Table 4: Projects For Strategic Funding. (The projects recommended are an equal value to the Strategic EIP funding allocation)

No.	Scheme Title	Scheme Description (Summarised)	Proposed by	Ward	Estimated Cost	Cost Deliverability Eligibility Rating	Persons in Support and neg. comments	Status	Link to Application
					£	R/A/G			
sE6 - 2024	Whitehill Estate Green Corners - from "no ball games" to cheerful spaces	Implement a variety of improvements to be shared across several green corners of the Whitehill Estate for the benefit of people and biodiversity. Improvements include seating for relaxation, sensory garden(s) for residents with disabilities, night blooming plants for nocturnal species such as moths, wildflowers to attract pollinators, and communal food growing to promote community cohesion.	Cllr Bennett	Abbey	7,500	Amber	Thumbs up 9	Not recommended	Link to Application
sE13 - 2024	Trees needed in barren streets	Plant trees in the streets of north Petersfield where there are currently none to provide a natural habitat for many animals, birds, and insects, harness storm water, reduce noise and light pollution and improve the overall wellbeing of people, wildlife, the environment, and the street scene.	Cllr R Robertson	Petersfield	15,000	Amber	Thumbs up 53 and 3 negative comments	Not recommended	Link to Application
sE18 - 2024	Increase biodiversity and tree cover on Cherry Hinton Road	To plant a number of trees on Cherry Hinton Road as it has long stretches without trees and between Perne and Coleridge Road has wide pavements on one side. There are also two patches of grass, one outside Kwik-fit and one on the corner of Derwent Close which could have some planting to increase biodiversity and improve the look and feel of the road for residents.	Clir R Moore	Coleridge	15,000	Green / Amber	Thumbs up 31	Recommended	Link to Application
sE26 - 2024	Improve and brighten up the whole area around the roundabout at Cromwell Road	Create colourful, welcoming, and habitat rich areas of planting on several small green spaces in Romsey Place to promote pollinator and other species and provide a sense of wellbeing and community cohesion among residents. Install seating to enable people to sit, relax, and enjoy the space(s)	Cllr Baigent	Romsey	5,000	Amber	Thumbs up 21	Not recommended	Link to Application
sN3 - 2024	Biodiversity Improvements on St Alban's Recreation Space	Improve the biodiversity and amenity value around the boundary edges of St Alban's Recreation Ground. Improvements could include invertebrate and wildflower banks, with the banks creating a wildflower seed bank, bee-mounds, additional tree planting, and social interaction through seating.	Project Development	Arbury	20,000	Green / Amber	Thumbs up 14	Recommended	Link to Application
sN5 and sN8 combi ned 2024	Biodiversity Improvements on Arbury Town Park	Improve the biodiversity and amenity value on the boundary areas of Arbury Town Park. Improvements could include invertebrate and wildflower banks, with the banks creating a wildflower seed bank, hedging along Arbury Road park-edge, beemounds, additional tree planting, and social interaction through seating. An access point created with lockable bollards or similar, to allow authorised vehicles onto the green space.	Project Development and Local Resident	Arbury	20,000	Green / Amber	Combined Thumbs up 51 and 1 Negative Comment	Recommended	Link to Application (1) Link to Application (2)
sN9 - 2024	Hedges for Kings Hedges - for Biodiversity and People Friendly Spaces.	Plant hedgerows to improve green spaces in Kings Hedges and provide a diverse sheltered sanctuary where insects, birds and mammals can thrive. Four locations are proposed (Along the south side of Hanson Court; in Arbury Town Park; The Pulley, close to the old hedging at the Apollo Way end; and grass bordered by Roxburgh Road, Northfield Avenue and Sackville Close).	Local Resident	Kings Hedges	10,000	Green / Amber	Thumbs up 36	Recommended	Link to Application
sN18 - 2024	Greening Gilbert Road Through Tree Planting	Plant trees along the south side of Gilbert Road at the Milton Road end, near The Fellows House Aparthotel to replace lost trees and plant new to re-green and reclaim this end of the road from further unsightly development, and to improve the wellbeing of people, wildlife, the environment, and the street scene.	Cllr S Carling	W Chesterto n	5,000	Green / Amber	Thumbs up 40 and 7 Negative Comments	Recommended	Link to Application

No.	Scheme Title	Scheme Description (Summarised)	Proposed by	Ward	Estimated Cost	Cost Deliverability Eligibility Rating	Persons in Support and neg. comments	Status	Link to Application
City 4 - 2024	Citywide Happy Bee Street Biodiversity and Habitat Creation Projects	Create opportunity for residents to be able to undertake and manage small scale biodiversity improvements in their neighbourhoods across the city, including creation of wildflower meadows, benches, habitats (bees, invertebrates, and hedgehogs), tree planting, bulb planting and community garden areas (such as raised planters). This will involve making increasing use of green assets to reduce climate impacts, improve biodiversity, and promote social well-being.	Community Engagement Team	All	10,000	Amber	Thumbs up 11	Not recommended	Link to Application
City 5 - 2024	Citywide led Biodiversity, Habitat and Green Infrastructure Improvement Projects	Community led volunteer groups working with residents, businesses, and organisations to develop and enhance local community areas and growing spaces ensuring better value for money and reducing environmental impact by utilising local resources. Measures will reduce climate impacts, improve biodiversity, and promote social well-being and include benches (to increase social interaction), wildflower meadows, trees, and invertebrate (bees) and wildflower bank(s)/features, as well enhancing existing areas to support wildlife corridors. Many of these project interventions will incorporate and improve the availability of hedgehog habitats and highways across the city.	Community Engagement Team	All	10,000	Amber	Thumbs up 6	Not recommended	Link to Application
City 7 - 2024	Fingerposts advising the public of the locations of City Centre public toilets	Install directional signage to enable residents and visitors to access public facilities/conveniences easily and quickly ensuring their visit to the city centre is a comfortable one. Signage will improve the offer of the city, enable people to navigate external spaces more easily and efficiently, improve pedestrian flow, and create a more pleasant experience for all.	Parks Assets Team	City Centre	7,500	Amber	Thumbs up 6	Not recommended	Link to Application

Table 5: Officer recommendations for project approval from the Strategic Funding (Green/amber rated projects):

Project Number	Scheme Title	Approved Value £
sE18 - 2024	Increase biodiversity and tree cover on Cherry Hinton Road	15,000
sN3/8 - 2024	Biodiversity Improvements on St Alban's Recreation Space	20,000
sN5 - 2024	Biodiversity Improvements on Arbury Town Park	20,000
sN9 - 2024	Hedges for Kings Hedges - for Biodiversity and People Friendly Spaces.	10,000
sN18 - 2024	Greening Gilbert Road Through Tree Planting	5,000

TOTAL OVERALL STRATEGIC EIP PROJECTS	£70,000

*Note: Several projects were rejected as being ineligible for EIP funding if you wish to see a list of these please contact us and we will be happy to share these.