

# Cambridge City Council

## Record of Executive Decision

### Environmental Improvements Programme 2023-24

Decision of: Councillor Sam Carling, Executive Councillor for Open Spaces and City Services.

**Reference:** 23/URGENCY/E&C/19

**Date of decision:** 4 January 2024

**Date Published on website:** 4 January 2024

**Decision Type:** Non-Key

**Matter for Decision:** To approve the allocation of funding to new Environmental Improvements Programme (EIP) applications for 2023-24 following consideration by Area Committees.

#### **Why the Decision had to be made (and any alternative options):**

A further round of project applications was invited in Late Summer and early Autumn of 2023. Some 74 viable submissions were received and 31 nonviable, not all the viable projects were affordable within the capital funding available – so a mechanism for prioritisation was needed and officers gave an indicative guide on a red/amber/green scale. When EIP applications were sought in 2019/20 (prior to the Covid pandemic) Area Committees were able to approve the local area programmes, since they met in person. With Area Committee meetings in 2023, now continuing to take place digitally that is no longer possible, with the decisions required to be taken by the appropriate Executive Councillor (Open Spaces and City Services). The views of all local ward councillors were sought through the Area Committees where they were asked to consider project submissions within their areas and asked to consider the area-based lists of recommended priority projects for consideration by the Executive Councillor for approval decision, the Executive Councillor approved these priority projects.

#### **The Executive Councillor's decision:**

To approve for development and delivery the local area and strategic environmental improvement programme projects as listed in the **Appendix A**.

**Reason for the decision:** As Area Committees are currently not meeting in person the Executive Councillor for Open Spaces and City Services is needed to approve the local area and strategic allocation EIP project programmes.

**Scrutiny Consideration:** The Chair and Spokesperson of Environment and Community Scrutiny Committee were consulted prior to the action being authorised.

**Report:** The attached addended at Appendix A, identifies the prioritised projects within the Area and Strategic Environmental Improvement Programmes, these are to be developed subject to budgets, resource availability, the outcomes of local consultation, and any further processes and approvals required.

**Conflict of interest:** [None].

**Comments:** The City Council has a budget of £170,000 (£100,000 for local area and £70,000 for strategic city-wide projects) for Environmental Improvements during 2023/24. North, South and East Area Committees supported the Officer recommendations and following consideration the Executive Councillor approved these. West Central Area Committees members discussed an alternative recommendation to the Officer report, following the Committee; Officers investigated these recommendations and adapted the recommendation following further investigation and after consideration the Executive Councillor approved the adapted recommendation. The committee members have been informed of this decision, and the reasoning as to why has been communicated to the appropriate project applicants and where deemed necessary this has been discussed further with the Executive Councillor.

In addition, note that £10,000 EIP Strategic Funding has at present been allocated to sN3 – 2024 - Biodiversity Improvements on St Alban's Recreation Space, with the expectation that further money will be allocated from s106 to supplement this project, subject to local member consultation.

## Appendix A

Project Number	Scheme Title	Project Values £	Funding Available £
N2 - 2024	A second wildflower meadow in Five Trees, off Fen Road	5,000	
N6 - 2024	Support Mayfield School to increase biodiversity & habitat for pollinators	4,500	
N12 - 2024	Water Street Preservation Plan	3,000	
N14 - 2024	Boosting Biodiversity in Happy Bee Streets	2,000	
N15 - 2024	Raised Beds on Hazelwood Close	1,000	
N17 - 2024	Ramsden Square Rec biodiversity improvement	1,000	
N22 -2024	Improve biodiversity and safety for children and dogs at Chesterton Rec	3,000	
N23 -2024	Protection of grassy areas and biodiversity increase at front of Rutland Close	3,000	
N24 - 2024	Building Biodiversity at Alexandra Gardens	4,600	
<b>TOTAL NORTH AREA EIP</b>		<b>£27,100</b>	<b>£27,184</b>
WC2 - 2024	Protect a beautiful ancient willow and help biodiversity recover	4,750	
WC6 - 2024	Histon Road Rec Biodiversity Improvements	7,000	
WC8 - 2024	Biodiversity in Ascension Parish Burial Ground	4,250	
WC10 - 2024	Creation of a Biodiversity Hub at St Clement's Church in central Cambridge	4,350	
<b>TOTAL WEST CENTRAL AREA EIP</b>		<b>£20,350</b>	<b>£20,373</b>
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	
<b>TOTAL SOUTH AREA EIP</b>		<b>£23,350</b>	<b>£23,329</b>
E1 - 2024	Rainwater collection for Millennium Gardens, Petersfield	2,300	
E2 - 2024	Creating Spaces to Meet on Coleridge Rec.	5,000	
E7 - 2024	Rawlyn Corner bench	2,000	
E8 - 2024	Plantings around Equiano Bridge.	2,000	
E9 - 2024	Extend the successful Green the Streets scheme in Petersfield ward	2,000	
E10 - 2024	Blind corner needs` safety measures	3,000	
E11 - 2024	Community Noticeboard needed	1,800	
E12 - 2024	Riverside shrub bed planting	2,500	
E21 - 2024	Aberdeen Avenue garden, Accordia, or similar location	3,500	
E22- 2024	Install bench in front of St Thomas Hall	2,000	
E23 - 2024	2 x Community Information Noticeboards in Romsey	3,000	
<b>TOTAL EAST AREA EIP</b>		<b>£29,100</b>	<b>£29,114</b>
<b>TOTAL OVERALL AREA FUNDED EIP PROJECTS</b>		<b>£99,850</b>	<b>£100,000</b>

### Strategic Schemes

Project Number	Scheme Title	Approved Value £
sE18 - 2024	Increase biodiversity and tree cover on Cherry Hinton Road	20,000
sN3 - 2024	Biodiversity Improvements on St Alban's Recreation Space	10,000
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	10,000
<b>TOTAL OVERALL STRATEGIC EIP PROJECTS</b>		<b>£70,000</b>

