
**REQUEST RELEASE OF CAPITAL FUNDING FROM THE MTFP
FOR REFURBISHMENT OF PARKS**

Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor Stephen Harker, Resources Portfolio

Responsible Director - Cliff Brown, Director of Community Services

Purpose of Report

1. To request release of funding within the Capital Programme for the refurbishment of parks to assist in the delivery the LAA funded projects.

Information and Analysis

2. Through the LAA there is currently £1.360 million capital grant fund being allocated to parks/open space improvements through:
 - (a) Parks for All
 - (b) Area Based Community Engagement
3. The Council has also committed £50,000 from the capital MTFP to this programme of improvements.

Description of the Scheme

4. On 12 September 2006, a report was presented to Cabinet releasing the LAA funding, which identified a number of projects for improvement. A copy of the report is attached as **Appendix 1**. This report requests the release of the capital MTFP funding of £50,000 to support the LAA projects.

Objective and Outcomes of the Scheme Including Performance Measures

5. The overall objective and outcome of the scheme is to contribute to the LAA funding for improvements to parks and public open spaces.
6. The key performance measure associated with this release of funding is residents' satisfaction with parks.

Future Revenue Costs

7. The costs of any improvement to parks and open spaces will be contained within the existing MTFP and where appropriate, utilise existing and new Section 106 Developer Contributions for the maintenance of parks and open spaces.

Outcome of Consultation

8. Detailed consultation has taken place with local residents and Ward Members for individual improvement schemes for parks and open spaces.

Legal Implications

9. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

10. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area.
11. The whole emphasis of this part of the Local Area Agreement is about providing safer, stronger communities. In particular, Increasing Community Capacity Through Street Scene is focused on engaging the community to improve their local environment, thereby significantly impacting on community safety.

Council Policy Framework

12. The issues contained within this report do not represent change to Council policy or the Council's policy framework.

Decision Deadline

13. For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter.

Key Decisions

14. To release capital funding, which is the Council's contribution towards the Local Area Agreement Improvements for Parks and Open Spaces that affects a number of Wards across the Borough.

Recommendation

15. It is recommended that £50,000 be released from the Council's Capital Programme.

Reasons

16. The recommendations are supported to enable the Council to contribute towards the delivery of improvements to parks and open spaces identified in the LAA.

Cliff Brown
Director of Community Services

Background Papers

No Background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Ian Thompson : Extension 4446
CLD