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**REPORT TO:** ENVIRONMENTAL AND  
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES  
COMMITTEE

**AGENDA ITEM:** 7

**DATE OF MEETING:** 18<sup>th</sup> AUGUST, 2005

**CATEGORY:**  
DELEGATED

**REPORT FROM:** DIRECTOR OF  
COMMUNITY SERVICES

OPEN

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**DOC:**s:\cent\_serv\committee  
reports\environmental &  
development\18 august  
2005\groundwork erewash.doc

**SUBJECT:** GROUNDWORK EREWASH

**REF:** MA/PMW

**WARD(S) AFFECTED:** ALL

**TERMS OF REFERENCE:**

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## **1.0 Recommendations**

- 1.1 That Members approve the ODPM bid document for work within South Derbyshire District Council's area.

## **2.0 Purpose of Report**

- 2.1 To inform Members of the proposed programme of short and longer term work within the South Derbyshire district.

## **3.0 Executive Summary**

- 3.1 Members approved the establishment of a Groundwork Erewash expansion into SDDC's area at the last budget setting. This amounts to £30,000 per annum.
- 3.2 The National Forest Company are committing an additional £4,000 per annum, a total of £34,000 per annum being immediately match funded by ODPM core funding to help launch the South Derbyshire area. The money basically pays for Groundwork's Officers time to work on projects. The match funding by ODPM means that £68,000 of support time is available.
- 3.3 A Working Group consisting of the Director of Community Services, staff from Groundwork, Clive Keble from the National Forest Company and Groundwork's Independent Consultant Graham Barrow, have met several times to identify a short-term work programme. Heads of Service from the District Council have been involved in expanding on the initial areas of work.

3.4 The Working Group has identified the following short-term work programme for the South Derbyshire area. These are the projects that would launch the work of the trust in South Derbyshire in the 2006 – 2008 period. This will be additional to the £1.5M per annum of Groundwork activity already taking place in Amber Valley in Erewash. The operational area will be called Erewash Valley and South Derbyshire.

#### **4.0 Detail**

##### **4.1 Short-term programme 2006 – 2008**

###### **Project 1**

###### **Capacity Building in the Environmental Sector in South Derbyshire**

To provide a focus and professional service to the proposed Local Strategic Partnership Environmental Forum and in particular to:-

Chair and provide the secretariat to the Forum  
Carry out an overall audit of the "State of the Environment" in the District  
Develop better communication about environmental issues with the public  
To help set targets for enhancing the environment

Budget: From the Service Level Agreement

###### **Project 2**

###### **Implementation of Open/Green Space Strategy**

Deliver a number of projects identified in a strategy. Includes:-

Public consultation  
Design and physical improvements/renovation of sites  
Enhancement of parks, green corridors and wedges and the  
Designation and management of Local Nature Reserves  
Development of long-term management through local community involvement

Possible Budget: £120,000 over 2 years  
Funding Sources: SDDC, Lottery, Landfill Tax Credits, national Forest, Children in Need, Spaces for Sport, Groundwork, English Nature

###### **Project 3**

###### **Town Centre Improvements - Swadlincote**

Work in partnership to help deliver improvements to:

gateway sites  
neglected street corner sites  
boundary improvements and  
high profile town sites identified via the above vision and strategy study

Also to produce and help implement an urban forestry plan

Possible Budget: £300,000 over 2 years  
Funding Sources: DDEP, EMDA, SDDC, E.M Arts, Private Sector including S106 Agreements, NFC, FC, Lottery

#### **Project 4** **Industrial Estates Greening Programme**

Working with SDDC and the private sector to set up Estate Resident Associations and identify improvement projects. Could include greening derelict areas, estate signage and frontage improvements.

Possible Budget: £180,000 over 2 years  
Funding Sources: DDEP, EMDA, SDDC, Private Sector

#### **Project 5** **Housing Area Enhancements**

Consultation, design and environmental enhancement of vacant sites in housing areas.

Possible Budget: £150,000 over 2 years  
Funding Sources: SDDC, DDEP, LSP, Lottery, Landfill Tax Credits

#### **Project 6** **Waste and Recycling**

Promotion of the SDDC recycling scheme. Includes community consultation, environmental awareness campaigns and the production of educational videos/DVDs.

Possible Budget: £120,000 over 2 years  
Funding Sources: Landfill Tax Credits SDDC, Lottery

#### **Project 7** **National Forest Developments**

Design, consultation, community involvement and development of sites linked to healthy living and social inclusion in conjunction with the National Forest Company.

Investigation of the potential for training developments at the Rosliston Centre.

Possible Budget: £100,000 over 2 years  
Funding Sources: National Forest Company, Lottery, Aggregates Levy Forestry Commission, Private Sponsors

#### **Additional Joint Working Areas**

- 4.2 The following are longer-term areas of work for Groundwork in the South Derbyshire area.

#### **Programme Area 1** **Regeneration and capacity building in areas with social and physical enhancement needs**

This would involve close working with the local authorities, housing associations and other partners to tackle issues in the most deprived wards in Swadlincote and the former coalfield settlements in particular. The work could include:-

- The preparation of estate improvement plans
- The design and enhancement of open spaces and play areas
- Garden and house maintenance for the aged and disabled
- Creation of local voluntary groups and their support
- Management of community centres
- Support to tenants associations
- Provision of specialist training opportunities

### Programme Area 2

#### Landscape design and enhancement

The provision of specialist landscape design services could assist in the:-

- Enhancement of existing open spaces and parks, particularly in the main settlements
- Creation and improvement of children's play areas
- Industrial estate enhancements
- Town gateway and road and rail corridor enhancement
- Town centre enhancements in, for example, Swadlincote
- Quarry and industrial site landscape screening
- Creation of local areas of natural habitat and amenity
- Creation of new woodlands that contribute to the National Forest Strategy

### Programme Area 3

#### Support and Growing the Environmental Sector

Becoming involved in the work of the LSP Environmental Initiative Group to:-

- Help create and support an Environmental Forum for the District
- Raise the profile of environmental matters with local communities
- Work with schools to raise awareness

### Programme Area 4

#### Assistance to Parish Councils and other voluntary sector organisations

Specifically, the following could be considered:-

- Assistance to Town and Parish Councils to help them access funds and realise projects
- Partnerships with the BTCV to provide more volunteer opportunities on worthwhile local outdoor projects including physical work on open spaces, woodlands and wetlands
- Support for the local Council for Voluntary Services to help local voluntary groups access resources and realise projects
- Provision of suitable projects as an outlet for the activities of some existing voluntary organisations

## **Programme Area 5** **Heritage Interpretation and Arts Activities**

This programme will assist the development of the tourist economy as well as support local community sense of place and identity,

- Making better use of the heritage resources of the area through the provision of specialist heritage interpretation design services
- The use of video and film to help local communities study, celebrate and promote their heritage
- Assisting local communities develop local heritage centres and activities

## **Programme Area 6** **Health and the Environment**

Preventative measures could encourage better diet and exercise through partnerships with the Primary Care Trusts and the Environmental Health Departments of the local authorities. Some projects could include:-

- Creation of cycling strategies and associated infrastructure
- Promotion of walking and physical work, such as gardening and voluntary clean ups in problem areas
- Supporting local walking and cycling clubs
- Encouragement of participation in activity for young people

## **Programme Area 7** **Raising civic pride and environmental awareness, particularly with the youth**

Organisations such as youth groups, local heritage societies and schools could be assisted through:-

- Running awareness campaigns for recycling and energy saving
- Tackling litter and tidy business standards
- Helping to establish Civic Societies in those towns without them
- Working with youth groups to help them develop facilities
- Using the experience of the Groundwork media lab at Somercotes to work with local communities to make films and videos/DVDs
- Developing appropriate training opportunities

## **Programme Area 8** **Forestry and Woodlands**

In partnership with the National Forest Company and the District Council to:-

- Support the development of urban forestry initiatives in particular settlements
- Consult with local communities about woodlands and tree-planting and maintenance issues
- Help to implement any proposals
- Develop appropriate training programmes

## Programme Area 9

### Environmental Business Services

Working with the local Chamber of Commerce and other private sector interest to:-

- Carry out green audits of companies to help reduce waste and energy consumption
- Work with companies to improve particular industrial estates
- Form green business clubs

## Programme Area 10

### Improvements to Housing

- Improve the environment in housing areas
- Renovate and maintain properties
- Improve energy efficiency
- Establish local training programmes
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### Organisational Plan

- 4.3 The sub-area of Erewash and South Derbyshire district will have a Committee which will report to the main Groundwork Derby and Derbyshire Board of the Trust and have at least two members who will also sit on the main Board.
- 4.4 It is envisaged that the Erewash Valley and South Derbyshire Committee will have eleven members with the following composition:-
- Chair (Private Sector)
  - 3 other Private Sector representatives
  - 4 offices, one each from Erewash BC, Amber Valley BC, South Derbyshire DC and Derbyshire County Council
  - A nominated person from the National Forest Company
  - 2 voluntary sector/academic representatives
- 4.5 Regular presentations to elected members of the Local Authorities will keep them informed of progress with the Trust.
- 4.6 The role of the Area Committee will be:-
- to identify a balanced future work programme for the Trust
  - to receive reports on progress from the Area Manager of the Trust
  - to feed any recommendations about the functioning of the Trust in the Erewash Valley and South Derbyshire area to the main Board
  - to assist the Trust identify and make appropriate partnerships in the operational area
  - to assist the Area Manager and the area staff with publicity and public relations matters

- 4.7 The main Board of Groundwork Derby and Derbyshire will have private sector, voluntary sector and elected member representation from all of the local authorities. It will be the legal body that will manage and steer the strategic development of the Trust and be responsible for overseeing the trust's financial performance. They will employ the Executive Director and approve an annual report and a Groundwork Derby and Derbyshire business plan. They will also be responsible for reporting performance to the ODPM and other partners.
- 4.8 The new Groundwork Derby and Derbyshire will operate a core staff team and operational area teams in each of the three sub areas. The Erewash Valley and South Derbyshire area already has the offices of the existing Groundwork Erewash Valley. It will probably open a further local office in South Derbyshire. The staff of the Local Area team will consist of:-
- Area Manager
  - Office/Administrative Assistant
  - Project Manager
  - Assistant Project Manager

#### Staff Skills

- 4.9 Staff skills in the Area team will include:-
- Project management
  - Funding procurement
  - Community consultation and involvement
- 4.10 The financial and human resources management will be provided by the main trust office and specialist staff will also be available from the central staff team. Groundwork Derby and Derbyshire's central staff team will have skills in:-
- Landscape Design
  - Graphics, graphic design and audio-visual production
  - Ecology and biodiversity
  - Heritage and environmental interpretation
  - Environmental business services (green audits etc)
  - Financial procurement and management

#### **5.0 Financial Implications**

- 5.1 A single financial profile for the proposed Groundwork Derby and Derbyshire is being prepared to accompany the full ODPM bid document. It will show an income and expenditure spreadsheet for the first 6 years and act as a business plan target for the new trust as a whole.
- 5.2 The Amber Valley and South Derbyshire operational area will commence with a turnover in Year 1 of around £2 mill (based on the existing and forward work programme of Groundwork Erewash Valley plus the new projects identified for South Derbyshire).

5.3 Income in Year 1 would come from the following:-

- £118,000 (annual funding) from the 4 local authorities - including the County Council
- £4,000 from the National Forest Company
- £160,000 of ODPM funding (a proportional share of the total granted to Groundwork Derby and Derbyshire)
- £1.5mill of project funding (for the Year 1 work programme of which about £450,000 would be in South Derbyshire)

5.4 The aim is to grow Groundwork Derby and Derbyshire towards an annual turnover in excess of £4mill pa. It is the intention that the Amber Valley and South Derbyshire operational area could have an annual turnover of around £2.25mill p.a. when fully developed.

5.5 As an indication of the balance of funding income the national picture for all Groundwork Trusts is as follows:-

Central Government	13%
Private Sector	17%
Local Authorities	18%
European Union	12%
National Lottery	3%
Other regeneration funding	37%

5.6 It is likely that the long-term balance of income to the Trust will approximate these figures, although the Amber Valley and South Derbyshire area presents significant opportunities to access aggregates levy and lottery funding at levels higher than the national Groundwork Trust averages shown above.

5.7 Members have already approved £30,000 per annum to support the work of Groundwork Erewash.

5.8 The National Forest Company are contributing another £4,000 per annum.

5.9 Officers of the Council involved in the projects will seek and help to identify funding for projects which will pump prime the match funding. The leverage of match funding can be 5 – 10 times the amounts committed by partner organisations.

## 6.0 Corporate Implications

6.1 None.

## 7.0 Community Implications

7.1 All areas of the Community will benefit from the proposed programme of works.

## 8.0 Conclusions

8.1 The partnership with Groundwork Erewash will enable the Council, on behalf of its residents, to deliver projects which would not in some cases have taken place and in others provide significant fund income.