
REPORT TO:	COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 10
DATE OF MEETING:	29 TH AUGUST 2002	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	CHRIS MASON 5794	DOC:
SUBJECT:	IMPROVEMENT WORK – NEWHALL PARK	REF: e:\leisure\committee reports\newhallpark2.doc
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	NEWHALL & MIDWAY	TERMS OF REFERENCE:CS07

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 That Members note the additional external finance that has been attracted to the project and approve the re-allocation of £1040 of capital funding to the improvement works.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 To report on progress and to advise Members of the attraction of additional external funding.

2.2 To seek approval to re-allocate an additional £1040 to the project from last year's capital allocation for play equipment.

3.0 Executive Summary

3.1 Applications for additional funding from SRB6 and the allocation of a relatively small amount of additional capital monies will mean it will be possible to deliver a project that meets the needs of all of the partners involved.

4.0 Detail

4.1 Members may recall that the partnership with the 'Friends of Newhall Park' obtained £67,500 of external funding to deliver the following projects:

- two new play areas
- the creation of a 'quiet area'
- the provision of new footpaths linking the park's facilities

4.2 Annexe A details the initial estimates for this work together with a breakdown of the sources of external funding attracted to the project.

4.3 To date the new play areas have been successfully completed and have been well received by the local community. Competitive tenders have been sought for the

creation of the 'quiet area' and work is scheduled to start on this project in the second week of September 2002.

- 4.4 In order to deliver a quality project it has been necessary to allocate additional funding to both the installation of the new play areas and the creation of the 'quiet area'. These additional costs are also detailed in Annexe A. These two projects were identified as priorities by the 'Friends of Newhall Park'. Unfortunately, while some work has been undertaken creating footpath links the financial shortfall means that it has not been possible to deliver all of the elements of this project. These will now be completed as and when funding is available.
- 4.5 In addition to these projects, consultation with the 'Friends of Newhall Park' and the wider community, identified concerns over the lack of lighting on the footpath between Parliament Street and Main Street. A further funding application to provide lighting was submitted to 'Making the Links' the SRB6 scheme. In late July 2002 the excellent news was received that £7,426 had been allocated to fund this work and the necessary work orders have now been placed.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 Because estimates for SRB applications tend to be made some way in advance there is provision in the scheme that allows for additional spending providing a good case can be made. An application was made to overspend the SRB6 funding by 10% and this was approved at the July 2002 meeting of the SRB board.
- 5.2 The Council's original contribution to the scheme of £15,000, was allocated from last year's capital allocation for new play equipment. Allowing for the additional SRB6 funding there is still a shortfall of £1040. To ensure that the project is delivered within the timescales identified by the funding bodies, permission is sought to allocate this money from the £1,640 left in the capital budget for new play equipment.
- 5.3 The new play areas replace older equipment so there are no immediate revenue implications. As previously reported, provision of the 'quiet area' is likely to have revenue implications in the region of £400 to £500 per annum. Provision of new lighting will have ongoing revenue implications in the region of £100 per annum

6.0 Corporate Implications

- 6.1 None

7.0 Community Implications

- 7.1 The development of this project is very much about community involvement and the benefits that can arise from this involvement.

8.0 Conclusions

- 8.1 The report outlines a way forward based on the priorities identified by the 'Friends of Newhall Park' and the funding available from the project's funding partners.

9.0 Background Papers

- 9.1 None