



Report for:

ACTION

Item Number: 4

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| Contains Confidential or Exempt Information | NO |
| Title | Hanger Hill Ward Forum 2014-15 Spending Recommendations |
| Responsible Officer(s) | Keith Townsend, Executive Director Environment and Customer Services |
| Author(s) | Neighbourhood Co-ordinator Kofi Nyamah (East) |
| Portfolio(s) | Neighbourhood Governance |
| For Consideration By | Leader of the Council |
| Date to be Considered | 22 July 2014 |
| Implementation Date if Not Called In | 30 July 2014 |
| Affected Wards | Hanger Hill Ward Forum |
| Keywords/Index | Hanger Hill Ward Forum, ward forum, ward spend recommendations, Neighbourhood Governance, Neighbourhood Spend, electoral ward improvement, local area spend recommendations, participatory budgeting, Recycling reward |

Purpose of Report:

This report lists 2014-15 projects recommended for spend by Hanger Hill Ward Forum. The Leader of the Council is invited to approve their spending recommendations.

1. Recommendations

That the Leader of the Council:

- i) Notes the ward's proposed projects for 2014-15, detailed in the attached Appendix 1.
- ii) Notes that the projects were discussed and agreed at Hanger Hill ward – at their ward forum on 6 March 2014.
- iii) Notes that the budget includes a small contingency, to allow for minor cost variances and project amendments agreed at further ward forums during the year.
- iv) Agrees that the projects can be implemented, subject to any preliminary feasibility or technical surveys that are advised by officers and any licenses or statutory consultation that may be required.

- v) Authorises the Executive Director Environment & Customer Services to approve amendments to the agreed projects and the allocation of the contingency funds and any changes to the ward budget required as a result of changes to the project following consultation with the Leader and the appropriate ward councillors.
- vi) Notes that these projects are scheduled for implementation in the municipal year 2014-15.

2. Reason for Decision and Options Considered

On 13 November 2007 Cabinet agreed to a new structure for neighbourhood governance in the borough, centred around ward councillors and that £40k of capital funding would be made available to each ward. This is to be spent taking into account the recommendations of those ward councillors, who would utilise and develop informal and formal networks to consult local people.

For the 2010-11 financial year Cabinet agreed a further allocation per ward of £37.5k – comprising £30k capital and £7.5K revenue. As part of the 2012-13 Star Chamber process Cabinet approved switching the annual £7.5k revenue allocation with a one off funding allocation from the Ealing Civic Improvement Fund (ECIF). Each Ward has now been allocated a total of £22.5k to fund projects from 2012/13 to 2014/15. This funding can be used to fund both capital and revenue schemes.

Since the first round of ward forum meetings, held during September 2008, ward councillors have continued to conduct consultations to collate a set of spending proposals for subsequent financial years. The consultation mechanisms used have been through various meetings with residents, initial assessment of those proposals with council officers and selection of those to be recommended to the relevant portfolio holder for spend in the current 2012-13 financial year. These recommendations were presented at ward forums to which all residents within the ward were invited. At these public meetings ward councillors outlined the proposals and the public was invited to make comments or representations. Where required, the ward councillors gave further clarity.

These publicly supported recommendations now need to be approved for spend via an Individual Cabinet Member Decision.

3. Key Implications

This approach places ward councillors at the centre of an informal system of local involvement in, and influence on, decision-making, but keeps bureaucracy to a minimum. It builds on the Councillors' local knowledge and enthusiasm, and ensures funding will be directed towards local projects.

To ensure that the £37.5k earmarked for each ward is spent efficiently and effectively, detailed technical advice and support will now be required if the recommended projects are agreed for implementation. This has reduced preparation work spent on schemes that do not proceed due to lack of local support.

4. Financial

The small contingency referred to in 1 iii) above amounts to 10% of the total ward budget (revenue and capital). This will allow for minor variances in projected costs and also changes to particular projects agreed at subsequent ward forums during the financial year.

To further enhance ward forum flexibility, wards are able to exchange capital or revenue funds. Any transfer must be agreed by consensus between the relevant ward councillors. This has enabled wards to commission projects that meet residents' needs more effectively.

a) Financial impact on the budget

See attached Appendix 1 for a summary of the projects to be funded. The following tables illustrate the spending profile of the ward recommended projects.

Table 1: The capital and revenue budget for Hanger Hill 2014-15 (Appendix 1)

Capital budget summary

| Hanger Hill | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 |
|----------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | £000s | £000s | £000s |
| Budget Bfwd | 7.9 | 7.2 | 0.7 |
| In Year Budget | 30.0 | 30.0 | 30.0 |
| Allocated schemes | (33.0) | (41.5) | (28.9) |
| Under / (Over) Spend | 2.3 | 5.0 | - |
| Surplus/ (Deficit) | 7.2 | 0.7 | 1.8 |

Hanger Hill has a total capital budget of £30.7k available in 2014-15. Approval is now requested for a sum of £28.87k allocated for capital spend, leaving a balance of £1.83k.

Revenue budget summary

| Hanger Hill | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 |
|----------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | £000s | £000s | £000s |
| Budget Bfwd | - | 0.5 | 7.1 |
| Budget | 7.5 | 7.5 | 7.5 |
| Allocated Schemes | (7.1) | (6.7) | (14.2) |
| Under / (Over) Spend | 0.1 | 5.8 | - |
| Budget Cfwd | 0.5 | 7.1 | 0.4 |

Hanger Hill has a total revenue budget of £14.6k available in 2014-15. Approval is now requested for a sum of £14.25k allocated for revenue spend, leaving a balance of £0.35k.

b) Financial background

For further details about the basis of funding for these projects, see the Cabinet Report 13 November 2007, item 22 - and also the Cabinet minute 19 for 13 November 2007.

5. Legal

Ward forums do not have the power to make the decision on how the money is spent. However, the ward forum enables democratically elected representatives to make recommendations to the relevant portfolio holders on how to spend the earmarked money for the benefit of their ward. The process for selecting the recommended projects includes screening for legality, feasibility and conformance with the council's policies and procedures. These recommendations have now been agreed, and require decision as an Individual Cabinet Member Decision.

The council has appropriate statutory powers to implement the recommended projects. Some projects will require traffic orders, which will be subject to statutory consultation before a final decision to implement the order can be made.

6. Value for Money

This is a new and innovative public engagement process, designed to reduce the need for resource intensive administration of public meetings.

7. Sustainability Impact Appraisal

These recommended projects are unlikely to have adverse sustainability impacts and indeed may contribute to residents' feelings of well-being.

8. Risk Management

These recommended projects, if agreed for implementation, will be project managed by a designated Neighbourhood Co-ordinator.

9. Community Safety

There are none.

10. Links to the five Priorities for the Borough

- **Delivering Value for Money**

Many ward forum projects deliver small scale, cost effective local outcomes.

- **Making Ealing Cleaner**

Some of these recommended projects are intended for the collection of waste.

11. Equalities and Community Cohesion

These recommendations have undergone an initial equalities impact assessment and no adverse impacts have been identified.

12. Staffing/Workforce and Accommodation implications:

There are none.

13. Property and Assets

There are none.

14. Any other implications

There are none.

15. Consultation

The ward forums form the basis of the Council's Neighbourhood Governance public consultation described in paragraph 2 – above. Further consultation has been conducted with affected ward members and relevant council officers, and their comments have been incorporated.

16. Timetable for Implementation

If the Leader agrees to the recommendations from the ward councillors for spend, scheduled for his decision on 22 July 2014, this will be subject to a call-in period lasting until 30 July 2014.

17. Appendices

Attached to this report are ward budgets as follows:

- Appendix 1 – Hanger Hill ward budget 2014-15

18. Background Information

- The agenda and notes of 6 March 2014 Hanger Hill Ward Forum is available at www.ealing.gov.uk/wardforum
- Agendas, minutes and reports of the Neighbourhood Governance Specialist Scrutiny Panel 2006/2007
- Final report of the Neighbourhood Governance Specialist Scrutiny Panel 2006/7
- Agendas, minutes and reports of Cabinet 13 November 2007
- Rewarding Residents for Recycling Scheme Report 14 September 2010

Consultation

| Name of consultee | Post held and Department | Date sent to consultee | Date received from consultee | Comments appear in report paragraph: |
|-----------------------|--|------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Internal | | | | |
| Keith Townsend | Executive Director | 2 July 14 | | |
| Jackie Adams | Head of Legal Planning & Property | 2 July 14 | | |
| Jonathan Scholtz | Management Accountant, Finance | 25 June 14 | 07 July 14 | 4a) |
| Cllr Joy Morrissey | Hanger Hill Ward Councillor | 25 June 14 | | |
| Cllr Gregory Stafford | Hanger Hill Ward Councillor | 25 June 14 | | |
| Cllr Nigel Sumner | Hanger Hill Ward Councillor | 25 June 14 | | |
| Lloyd Johnson | Senior Traffic & Transportation Engineer, Highways | 2 July 14 | | |
| Shahid Iqbal | Assistant Director of Highways | 2 July 14 | | |
| Tony Singh | Scheme Design & Implementation Manager, Highways | 2 July 14 | | |
| Sebastian Navranjan | Section Manager, Highways Maintenance | 2 July 14 | | |
| Chris Bunting | Assistant Director of Leisure | 2 July 14 | | |
| Rehana Ruehmann | Landscape Architect | 2 July 14 | | |
| Dale Mortimer | Tree Service Manager | 2 July 14 | | |
| Mark Isles | Project Officer, Economic Regeneration | 2 July 14 | | |
| External | | | | |
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Report History

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| Decision type: | Urgency item? |
| Non-key decision | No |

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