

**REPORT TO:** POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 14 MARCH 2005

**REPORT ON:** APPLICATION FOR BETTER NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES FUNDING - ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS IN HILLTOWN PARK

**REPORT BY:** ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (COMMUNITY PLANNING) AND HEAD OF COMMUNITIES

**REPORT NO:** 144 - 2005

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 This report seeks approval for a funding proposal to be met from the Better Neighbourhood Services Fund.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Committee:

2.1 Approve the funding proposal set out in this report.

**3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 The full cost of the proposal detailed in this report is £75,000, which will be met from the extension to the Better Neighbourhood Services Fund 2004/05 allocation to Dundee City Council from the Scottish Executive.

**4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Eligibility for access to funding under the Better Neighbourhood Services Fund is determined by the Scottish Executive on the basis of need. There is a close relationship between the Local Agenda 21 targets and the outcome agreement approved by the Scottish Executive in response to Dundee's Better Neighbourhood Services Fund proposals.

4.2 The proposal contained within this report responds to local concerns and needs, and will assist with the implementation of the Local Community Plan for the targeted neighbourhood. The measures contained within this report will have a positive impact on a number of Agenda 21 targets.

**5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The resources made available through the Better Neighbourhood Services Fund for geographic neighbourhoods are targeted on those areas which fall within the most disadvantaged 10% of enumeration districts at the time of the 1991 Census. The funding is also targeted on those areas which already have Social Inclusion Partnership status, and is intended to have the effect of equalising opportunities and enabling local authorities and their partners to sustain a higher level of public sector investment in these neighbourhoods than might otherwise have been possible.

**6 BACKGROUND**

6.1 The Better Neighbourhood Services Fund Co-ordinated Neighbourhood Management Initiative is focused on the two communities of Hilltown and Kirkton. To date more than £2million has been allocated for specific project investment in these two areas. The majority of that funding has been directed towards addressing community safety issues e.g. improved street lighting, CCTV, off-street car parking, road safety, shed alarms, issue of a community safety booklet to all households etc, and environmental improvements to open plan areas.

The proposal outlined in this report, if approved, would be met from the extension to the Better Neighbourhood Services Fund announced by the Scottish Executive in December 2003. Also, the proposal seeks to build on previous and ongoing initiatives and will respond directly to the expressed wishes of local people.

## 7 FUNDING PROPOSAL

7.1 Environmental Improvements in Hilltown Park – A strategic programme of environmental improvements that will create a place of specific identity to attract residents and visitors to use the area.

7.2 Council staff have worked with local community representatives on a re-design that will:

- Enhance the visual amenity through sympathetic planting and increase residents' satisfaction with their environment
- Upgrade footpaths and lighting to encourage use of open space
- Address the lack of specific definition within the park
- Enhance feelings of safety

7.3 The anticipated expenditure is £75,000 and the lead DCC Department will be Planning & Transportation.

## 8 CONSULTATION

8.1 Consultation has taken place with the Chief Executive, the Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), the Directors of Housing, Leisure and Arts, Economic Development, Education, Planning and Transportation, Dundee Contract Services, Head of Waste Management, and the CRF Co-ordinator.

8.2 The elected member for this area has been consulted on the development of this proposal, as have community representatives and local residents.

8.3 The recommendation is based on issues identified by local communities and will contribute towards achieving the targets set out in the BNSF Local Outcome Agreement. Further consultation will take place once approval to progress has been agreed.

## 9 BACKGROUND PAPERS

NONE

**CHRIS WARD**      **Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning)**      **Date: 03/03/2005**

**STEWART MURDOCH**      **Head of Communities Department**      **Date: 03/03/2005**