

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 10 November 2003

REPORT ON: APPLICATIONS FOR BETTER NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES FUNDING

REPORT BY: ASSIST CHIEF EXECUTIVE (COMMUNITY PLANNING) AND HEAD OF COMMUNITIES DEPARTMENT

REPORT NO: 710-2003

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report seeks approval for a range of funding proposals to be met from the Better Neighbourhood Services Fund.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:-

- 2.1 Approve the funding proposals outlined in this report.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The full cost of the proposals amounts to £455,456 which will be met from the Better Neighbourhood Services Fund 2003/04 allocation to Dundee City Council from the Scottish Executive.

4.0 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 specific proposals contained within this report respond to local concerns and needs, and will assist with implementation of the Area Regeneration Plans for the targeted neighbourhoods. The measures contained within this report will have a positive impact on a number of Agenda 21 targets.

5.0 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 equalling 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.

6.0 BACKGROUND

6.1 The BNSF Co-ordinated Neighbourhood Management Initiative is focused on the two communities of Hilltown and Kirkton. To date approximately £1.62 M has been approved by Committee for specific project investment in these two areas. The proposals outlined in this report represent the latest round of BNSF spending and have been the subject of extensive community consultation.

7.0 PROPOSALS

Kirkton BNSF Funding Proposals

7.1 Landscaping at Various Sites

There are a few key sites, identified by residents as requiring urgent attention and these are listed below;

- Balgowan Avenue; carry out landscaping once the last remaining shop unit has been demolished.
- Hillocks Area; priority being to tidy up and erect robust fencing to prevent vehicle access.
- Gateway Roundabouts; work is required to enhance the two circles at the convergence of Old Glamis Road/Gillburn Road and Old Glamis Road/Balgowan Ave.

Total Cost up to £50,000
Lead Dept DCC Contract Services (Parks)

Hilltown BNSF Funding Proposals

7.2 Environmental Improvements

The Hilltown contains many relatively small but prominent landscaped areas. The vast majority of these, especially those actually situated on the Hilltown and Strathmartine Road, look very unattractive and often attract litter due to the 'prickly' type of planting employed.

A survey of these sites was undertaken and, in consultation with local people a number of improvement proposals were identified.

These improvements have three principal aims,

- To enhance the visual amenity through sympathetic planting
- To reduce the opportunities for litter to gather in bushes and ease litter picking
- To reduce overall maintenance costs

Also, it is hoped that these improvements will increase residents satisfaction with their environment which is one of the BNSF's core outcomes

A full list of sites and specific proposals is available from the BNSF Neighbourhood Services Co-ordinator

Cost up to £145,000
Lead Dept DCC Contract Services (Parks)

7.3 Butterburn Square Environs

Residents have for a considerable time complained about a number of safety and environmental issues including, poor lighting in the access corridors, disused cellars being vandalised and the very poor condition of shrub beds.

This proposal seeks to address these issues and reduce residents fear of crime and improve their satisfaction with their environment both of which are BNSF core outcomes

Cost £25,533
Lead Dept DCC Contract Services

7.4 Dallfield MSD Car Environs

For some time residents have voiced concerns at the condition of the landscaping in this area.

Such concerns have concentrated on both aesthetic and safety issues. This proposal seeks to enhance both the visual amenity and reduce the fear of crime in line with the BNSF Local Outcome Agreement.

Cost £34,923
Lead Dept DCC Contract Services (Parks)

Footpath/Pavements Repairs Kirkton/Hilltown

- 7.5** A recent survey indicated that approximately £400,000 of repair work to footpaths/pavements was required throughout the Hilltown and Kirkton areas. At this time there is no identified budget for this necessary work and it is suggested that BNSF should contribute approximately 50% of the costs to be directed at those specific sites in most need of repair. This work should also tackle any lighting issues.

Cost up to £200,000
Lead Dept DCC Planning & Transportation
inconjunction with Housing

- 7.6** In total this report seeks approval to fund projects with a total value up to £455,456

8.0 CONSULTATION

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

- 8.2** The elected members for both areas have been party to the development of the list of proposals, as have community representatives and local people directly affected by specific projects.

- 8.3** These recommendations are based on issues raised by local communities and will contribute towards achieving the targets set out in the BNSF Local Outcome Agreement. Ongoing consultation will take place once approval to progress has been agreed.

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers, as defined by section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning:) **CHRIS WARD**
Date: **27/10/03**

Head of Communities Department: **STEWART MURDOCH**
Date: **27/10/03**

