

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 8 NOVEMBER 2004

REPORT ON: APPLICATION FOR BETTER NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES FUNDING

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

REPORT NO: 723-2004

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

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee;

- approves the funding proposal set out in this report;
- authorises the City Engineer to extend the Partnering Agreement with Tayside Contracts for Footpath and Lighting works up to a value of £40,000; and
- Approves the extension of the Contract with Dundee Contract Services for Environmental Improvement works up to a value of £70,000.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The full cost of the proposal detailed in this report is £110,000, 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 respond to local concerns and needs, and will assist with the implementation of the Local Community Plan for the targeted neighbourhoods. 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 including extensive work to footpaths/footways.

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 –DALLFIELD MULTI-STORY DEVELOPMENT AND DUDHOPE STREET FLATS

7.1 The surrounding environment at these locations is in urgent need of attention. The planned work will include

- Repairs to/replacement of footpaths
- The removal of overgrown and untidy shrub beds
- The introduction of more 'disabled' car parking
- Improvements to the lighting on footpaths including the erection of additional lamp standards
- Repairs to/resurface of the Dudhope Street car park where there is also an area of subsidence
- Resurfacing of the roadway servicing Hilltown & Bonnethill Courts

7.2 This work responds directly to requests from local people, will improve the general amenity within the area and increase residents feelings of personal safety.

7.3 The overall anticipated expenditure is £110,000 with £40,000 allocated to the footpath and lighting works and £70,000 to the other environmental improvements.

7.4 Reference is made to Article XVII of the Planning and Transportation Committee of 1 December 2003 which approved a Partnering Agreement with Tayside Contracts for Footpath Repairs in Hilltown and Kirkton. It is recommended that the City Engineer be instructed to extend this successful Partnering Agreement to undertake the improvements to lighting and footpaths up to a maximum of £40,000. The continued use of recycling techniques will provide both a financial and environmental benefit to the city.

7.5 It is recommended that the soft landscaping and provision of additional disabled parking spaces be completed by Dundee Contract Services in Spring 2005 as a continuation of their earlier works to improve the environment around Dallfield MSD up to a value of £70,000.

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, Education, Planning and Transportation, Dundee Contract Services, Head of Waste Management, and the SIP Co-ordinator.

8.2 The elected member for this area has been consulted on the development of this proposal as have community representatives. In addition all residents were advised of the proposals and given an opportunity to comment.

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: 29 October 2004**

STEWART MURDOCH **Head of Communities Department**

Date: 29 October 2004