

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 9 December 2002

REPORT ON: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BETTER NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES FUND

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD RESOURCES & DEVELOPMENT AND DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE PLANNING

REPORT NO: 867/2002

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report provides members with an update on progress with implementation of the Co-ordinated Neighbourhood Management element of the Better Neighbourhood Services Fund, and seeks approval for a range of funding proposals.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:-

2.1 approve the funding proposals set out in Appendix 1 of this document.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The full cost of the initiatives detailed in this report is £605,104 which will be met from the Better Neighbourhood Services Fund 2002/03 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 output agreement approved by the Scottish Executive in response to Dundee's Better Neighbourhood Services Fund proposals.

4.2 The 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. A Co-ordinator has been appointed to the programme and has been in post since 1st May 2002. Other key staff have been recruited over the summer months and are now also in post. A series of briefing meetings have been held with residents in the two areas and also with the Dundee City Council officers who will operate within the framework of the Neighbourhood Management Initiative.

7.0 PROPOSALS

Kirkton BNSF Funding Proposals: 2002/2003

Car Parking in Kirkton

The street layout of parts of Kirkton is such that, in a number of pockets, householders are unable to park their cars outside of their house. There are also issues connected to congested and inappropriate car parking especially regarding the safety of children on the streets. As a matter of preference the majority of people wish their vehicles to be parked immediately outside their homes for convenience, safety and security. In addition, in some areas where there is only footpath access to houses, residents who are frustrated by the parking arrangements have taken to driving over or parking on the grass outside of their homes. The following three projects are designed to eliminate these problems. Local people have been consulted and are in agreement with the proposals.

7.1 **Car Parking, Kirkton Avenue**

This project will remove a square area of open grass, which cuts householders off from direct access to vehicles parked on Kirkton Avenue. The square will then be properly prepared as a car park.

Cost £97,300
Lead Dept. DCC Housing

7.2 **Car Parking, Duncan Terrace**

This project will create a lay-by parking facility to ease parking congestion created by narrow roadway. It will allow householders direct access to vehicles.

Cost £46,200
Lead Dept. DCC Housing

7.3 **Car Parking, Prieston Road**

This project will address problems created by grassed area, which prevents householders accessing vehicles parked in the turning area of a small cul-de-sac.

Cost £50,000
Lead Dept. DCC Housing

7.4 **Kirkton Neighbourhood Centre and Library, Environmental Improvements**

As part of the Kirkton Central Core environmental programme, this proposal will part-fund measures to improve car parking, security, public access and the external appearance of the Kirkton Neighbourhood Centre environs. The principal aim of these measures is to attract greater use by the community of these facilities. The total cost of this project is £145,000 with the majority cost met by Scottish Enterprise Tayside.

Contribution Cost £35,000
Lead Dept. DCC Planning & Transportation

7.5

Dunmore Street, Refurbishment of vandalised access

This item was reported to the Policy and Resources Committee on 11th March 2002 in Committee Report 217-2002 and the sum of up to £8000 allocated on the basis of effecting temporary repairs. However, a subsequent survey identified problems with the embankment and recommended that only full refurbishment, including reducing the adjacent retaining wall and embankment, would have the effect of safely reinstating the stairway and footpath for public use. The sum of £8000 previously allocated is included within the amended cost.

***Cost £30,000
Lead Dept. DCC Housing***

7.6

Kirkton Community Support, Building upgrade

Kirkton Community Support is the revised title for the building previously known as Kirkton Community Lounge. The management of this facility has transferred from the Neighbourhood Resources and Development Department to an independent body formed by local residents and who have, as a group, achieved Limited Company charitable status. The purpose of this application is to renovate an adjacent shop unit to provide additional activity and resource space. This expansion will allow programme development to meet increasing demand and the consolidation of toilet, kitchen and office facilities.

This facility has been funded by the Social Inclusion Partnership since its inception. That funding is due to terminate in March 2003 and the management group is currently pursuing alternative revenue funding arrangements.

It would be a condition of grant that this project secures no less than three years revenue costs from another source and that any such funding is available from March 2003.

***Cost £49,730
Lead Dept. DCC Neighbourhood Resources and Development
Lead Agency, Kirkton Community Support***

7.7

Hilltown BNSF Funding Proposals: 2003/2004

Hilltown Facade Enhancement Grant Scheme

This proposal seeks to extend the existing Facade Enhancement Grant Scheme into Strathmartine Road. The viability of the Hilltown District shopping centre relies on its ability to attract shoppers to the area. With a perceived decline in the physical fabric of the local shops the Planning and Transportation Department have developed a scheme to improve the area by offering grants to shopkeepers to upgrade shop fronts. To date, 10 shops have been improved. This proposal will improve the physical appearance of the shopping area making it more attractive to local residents and shoppers. By achieving such improvement it is anticipated that the quality of the local environmental will be considerably enhanced.

***Cost up to £37,500
Lead Dept DCC Planning and Transportation***

7.8 Highwayman Youth & Community Centre

The Highwayman delivers a wide ranging programme and specifically addresses a number of key social, health and employment issues aimed at all age groups.

The Centre has for example,

- Undertaken Youth Work via, a young people's information point, street working and weekly art workshops, etc.
- Provided Child Care via, children's club, holiday programmes, crèche facilities, etc.
- Provided Adult Learning and Guidance via, computer classes, essential skills classes i.e. numeracy and literacy including English as a second language, a Job Shop with Dundee Employment & Aftercare Project, personal development courses, etc.
- Tackled Health & Drug issues via, the use of the Highwayman by health visitors as a focal meeting point, delivered a range of programmes aimed at reducing the reliance on drugs amongst young people etc.

In addition the Highwayman offers a drop in café, which is well used especially by older members of the local community.

A recent independent evaluation report speaks very positively about the Centre and its achievements especially its ability to attract disadvantaged people to use the facilities on offer.

The Highwayman is currently funded via SIP's. This funding finishes at the end of March 2003.

The Management Committee of the Highwayman have submitted an application for specific programme funding, amounting to £47,079 pa to the SIP Board. To ensure the continuance of the Centre however, all other costs some £87,647 pa would need to be funded elsewhere. Dundee City Council make a contribution of £20,248 pa by, not charging a rental fee, paying the building insurance and providing various payroll and other management services.

The Highwayman Management Committee have applied to BNSF for the balance of the core management costs that is, £67,399pa.

The loss of this well used community facility would have a detrimental effect on the lives of many people who are in most need of the support, assistance and social contact provided. A petition has been received supporting the continuance of the Highwayman and the Dundee Partnership through the SIP Board support these proposals.

It is suggested therefore that funding is provided for the financial year 2003/04 during which time a comprehensive review will be undertaken of the current community service provision including the identification of community needs in the Hilltown area. Following this a Committee report will be prepared outlining future service provision and funding arrangements.

Cost £67,399
Lead Dept. DCC Neighbourhood Resources and Development
Lead Agency. The Highwayman Youth and Community Centre Management
Committee

7.9 **Maxwelltown Information Centre (MIC)**

M.I.C currently provides accommodation and support to voluntary, statutory and community organisations. Through these, advice and information surgeries are delivered for example, Dundee North Law Centre, Money Advice, Citizens Advice, Dundee Employment and Aftercare Project, the Hilltown Outreach Translation Service etc.

Centre staff have, amongst other activities, been heavily involved in working with other agencies for example, to support ethnic minority groups, to assist with the Energy Advice Project etc.

A recent evaluation report speaks highly about the provision of services available from M.I.C including its work with ethnic minorities.

However, like the 'Highwayman' the SIP funding of MIC finishes at the end of March 2003.

The Management Committee of MIC have applied for SIP and a range of external funding but the final outcome of these applications will not be known until March 2003. The best case scenario is that all costs will be met, the worst case scenario is likely to be a short-fall of £36,020 per annum.

The loss of this centre and with it the wide range of services that the local people access is likely to have far reaching negative effects for example, the worsening of debt, lost job opportunities etc. Also, this application has the support of a wide range of agencies for example, Commission for Racial Equality in Scotland, Dundee Money Advice Support Team, Dundee Employment and Aftercare Project Ltd, Action Teams for Jobs etc.

It is again suggested that BNSF funding, if required, should be provided up to the value of £36,020 for the financial year 2003/04 during which time the service & needs review mentioned in the Highwayman proposal would be completed and a decision on future service provision and funding made.

Cost up to £36,020

Lead Agency Maxwelltown Information Centre, Management Committee

7.10 **Replacement Street Lighting In Both Kirkton & Hilltown**

Improved street lighting has been shown to achieve reductions in both reported crime and the fear of crime. The replacement of existing street lighting with white lighting also has the support of both communities through area forums and the Neighbourhood Partnership.

BNSF can permit this replacement to be carried out in these two areas a number of years earlier that would otherwise be possible. Importantly, these projects will impact directly on two specific BNSF outcomes contained within the Local Outcome Agreement which will be used by the Scottish Executive to evaluate the BNSF Neighbourhood Management initiative namely:

- Reported anxiety about crime will be expected to drop by 10% per year.
- Levels of recorded crime will equal that of the city average by 2004.

Full details of the streets and associated costs is available on request to the BNSF Better Neighbourhood Services Co-ordinator.

Cost £155,955

Lead Dept DCC Planning and Transportation

At this time additional locations are being identified for replacement during 2003/04 and these will be reported to Committee before the end of the financial year 2002/03.

APPENDIX ONE

BETTER NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES FUND PROPOSALS

<u>KIRKTON</u>	<u>VALUE</u> (£)
Car parking, Kirkton Avenue	97,300
Car parking, Duncan Terrace	46,200
Car parking, Prieston Road	50,000
Kirkton Neighbourhood Centre, Environmental Improvements	35,000
Dunmore Street, Refurbishment of Vandalised Access	30,000
Kirkton Community Support, Building Upgrade	49,730
Street Lighting	78,955
TOTAL:	£387,185
<u>HILLTOWN</u>	<u>VALUE</u> (£)
Hilltown Façade Enhancement Scheme (up to)	37,500
Highwayman Centre	67,399
M.I.C	36,020
Street Lighting	77,000
TOTAL:	£217,919
GRAND TOTAL:	£605,104