

**REPORT TO:** POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 9<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2006

**REPORT ON:** APPLICATION FOR BETTER NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES FUNDING – PHASE 2 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS IN HILLTOWN PARK

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

**REPORT NO:** 19 - 2006

## 1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report seeks approval for a funding proposal to be met from the Better Neighbourhood Services Fund. Dundee City Council and the European Regional Development Fund will also provide funding.

## 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 Better Neighbourhood Services Fund contribution will be £100,000, which can be met from the BNSF 2005/2006 budget.

## 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 £2.5million has been allocated for specific project investment in these two areas. The majority of that funding has been directed towards addressing issues such as community safety e.g. improved street lighting, CCTV, off-street car parking, road safety, the provision of disabled parking bays, shed alarms, the distribution of a community safety booklet to all households etc, and environmental improvements to open plan areas and streetscapes e.g. Gillburn Nature Park, Strathmartine Road and Hilltown Clock.

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.

- 6.2 £75,000 was previously allocated to assist with the completion of Phase 1 of a strategic programme of environmental improvements to Hilltown Park, which was agreed by the Policy and Resources Committee in a previous committee report, 144 - 2005.

## 7 FUNDING PROPOSAL

- 7.1 The overall aim of this proposal is to provide a strategic programme of environmental improvements, which will create a place of specific identity to attract residents and visitors to use the area and should be seen as an important strand of early regeneration in the Hilltown and Bowbridge areas. BNSF's contribution of £100,000 together with £125,000 mainstream funding from Planning and Transportation has attracted ERDF funding of £125,000.
- 7.2 Specifically, Phase two will provide, new formal entrances to all entry points to the park and positively contribute to the streetscape of the Hilltown spine, a strong, modern, tree planting layout using ornamental trees of seasonal interest and structure making the park a place of high recreational value and visual aesthetics. Also, upgrading to all the footways and lighting within the park will be undertaken to ensure clear directional routes, thereby reducing perceived fear of crime. Approval of this application for BNSF funding will allow the park to be completed under one contract and will remain as a key legacy of BNSF in the Hilltown.
- 7.3 This proposal will set the agenda for a new urban park in Dundee, will make the physical connections between the existing and the future social, commercial and residential areas of the Hilltown. As a community asset and framework the first stage proposals for the park have engaged with the 'working and learning' community groups namely Hilltown Horizons and Hilltown Mosaic group as a place for the permanent record of their chosen works e.g. the "Living Wall". Also, it is conceded that the revamped park will provide a development stimulus to potential development sites within the area as the neighbourhood prepares for progressive future change.
- 7.4 The present park has no real identity as a strong community asset and never has, since its creation, been subject to a comprehensive landscape plan. The proposed alterations will provide a new urban park whose recreational assets will take it beyond being seen as a mere connection between residential and commercial sectors.
- 7.5 The proposed BNSF expenditure is £100,000 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, 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

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Date: 22/12/2005

**STEWART MURDOCH**  
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Date: 22/12/2005