



Report of the Director of Environments & Neighbourhoods

Inner South Area Committee

Date: Tuesday 18th September 2007

Subject: Conservation Areas – proposals for Area Well Being funding

Electoral Wards Affected:

Beeston & Holbeck
City & Hunslet
Middleton Park

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Council Function

Delegated Executive Function available for Call In

Delegated Executive Function not available for Call In Details set out in the report

Executive Summary

This report outlines proposals for each ward in Inner South on how to spend £50,000 allocated to the Area Committee to spend on schemes within conservation areas.

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide suggestions for the Area Committee to consider for spend of additional monies allocated in 2007/08 to be used for projects within conservation areas.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 For 2007/08 financial year, all Area Committees across the city were allocated an additional £50,000 from General Fund Reserves. Executive Board identified priorities which the funding should be spent on – one of the priorities was conservation areas.

2.2 There are a number of conservation areas within the Inner South Area Committee boundary – these are spread across Beeston & Holbeck and City & Hunslet wards, there are no conservation areas within the Middleton Park ward. The majority of conservation areas in Inner South cover the city centre and work on updated conservation area review reports are already underway. The conservation area located within Holbeck Urban Village has recently had an updated conservation area review undertaken.

- 2.3 City Development have produced a report attached at appendix 1 – this report outlines their recommended approach towards undertaking conservation reviews across the city and asks the committee to consider commissioning a conservation area study from the list of conservation areas in Inner South Leeds. A map is attached to their report (appendix 3) highlighting conservation areas across the city.

3.0 Proposals for conservation area funding

- 3.1 Listed below are three project proposals for each ward – the projects outlined provide to contributions towards projects in conservation areas, areas of archeological interest or Grade II listed buildings.

3.2.1 **Beeston & Holbeck** – It is suggested that £15,000 should be allocated towards improvements at St Matthews Community Centre. St Matthews is a Grade II listed building and is located just outside the Holbeck conservation area. It is proposed that a programme of complimentary works is drawn up to support a planned lighting scheme at the centre which is to be funded through Yorkshire Forward.

3.2.2 **City and Hunslet** – Within the City & Hunslet ward, there are a couple of suggested schemes to consider which fall within the conservation theme. Potential projects include further replacement of street nameplates to compliment an existing scheme that's already been funded through the Area Committee and the Intensive Neighbourhood Management monies or a contribution towards a scheme at Thwaite Mill to improve the visitor attraction further or the surrounding waterway.

3.2.3 **Middleton Park** – It is proposed that £10,000 is allocated towards the provision of an outdoor classroom in Middleton Park. The idea of the outdoor classroom has been formulated around the collapse of the second oldest tree in Leeds, the Monarch, which was blown down in the heavy wind / rain in June. It's felt that the Monarch tree should be used as a focal point to educate young people further on the heritage of Middleton Park. The outdoor classroom also provides a base for various horticultural and environmental education sessions which are being run with pupils from local schools in the area. This will also link into work currently being proposed for a medieval mine that has been discovered by an archeologist that has been employed by the Friends of Middleton Park – a bid to the lottery is currently being drawn up for the development of a heritage centre to preserve the mines and allow visitors to see the ancient findings. Links have already been made with the National Mining Museum in Wakefield who are backing the progression of this scheme.

4.0 Implications For Council Policy and Governance

- 4.1 There are no implications for Council policy and governance.

5.0 Legal and Resource Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal or resource implications associated with this report.

6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 The details above provide various options for ward members to consider on how to allocate the monies provided this year. Members are asked to come forward with any other project ideas which should be drawn up into firmer project proposals and presented at the next Area Committee meeting.

7.0 Recommendations

7.1 Members are asked to note this report and comment on the proposals outlined.