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## Report of the Director of Resources

**Report to:** Executive Board

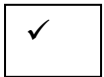
**Date:** 11 JUNE 2008

**Subject:** WARD BASED INITIATIVE GRANTS

**Capital Scheme Number :- 14236 / 000 / 000**

### Electoral Wards Affected:

City Wide



Ward Members consulted  
(referred to in report)

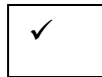
### Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call In



Not Eligible for Call In  
(recommendation 7.1(a))



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## Executive Summary

The Capital Programme Report to Executive Board dated 8 February 2008 included as one of the key projects, the Ward Based Initiatives (WBI) scheme – the provision of £10,000 per ward member for a two year WBI scheme commencing in 2008/09 to allow Members to promote minor capital schemes within their wards.

### 1.0 Purpose Of This Report

1.1 This purpose of this report is to seek approval to an updated Ward Based Initiative scheme which allows elected members to sponsor capital projects within their respective wards, and to give authority to spend for the scheme of £990,000

### 2.0 Background Information

2.1 The capital programme approved in February 2008 makes provision of £990,000 (£10,000 for each elected member) for Ward Based Initiatives, commencing in 2008/09. Members will recall that a WBI scheme was originally introduced in 1994/95 and continued for 10 years, finally ending in 2004. The scheme allowed elected members to sponsor locally determined capital projects within their wards and detailed operating guidance was drawn up for the scheme.

### **3.0 Main Issues**

- 3.1 For this new WBI scheme, the operating guidance has been reviewed and updated. The new scheme guidance is attached at Appendix A. The main features of the WBI scheme are set out below:
- a. projects must relate to Council assets only, and these must fall within the definition of capital expenditure as set out in the Capital Finance Regulations.
  - b. Schemes should generally result in no additional revenue costs for the Council;
  - c. The Ward Based Initiative element of the scheme will be a minimum value of £10,000; however joint sponsorship of projects can be made with other ward members.
  - d. It is essential that proposals complement existing departmental service plans and strategies and as such should be fully discussed with the Head of Service or a nominated officer. The guidance includes a contact list showing areas of responsibility (see Guidance Notes Appendix A).
  - e. A full set of Guidance Notes is attached at Appendix A. These give comprehensive directions on the scheme eligibility and operational procedures.
- 3.2 For this new WBI scheme and to support the sustainability agenda, members are encouraged to consider schemes which contribute to environmental efficiency. To supplement the WBI funding, an environmental efficiency reserve is available to match fund projects which meet certain criteria. The guidance notes for Councillors explain how projects should be initiated.

### **4.0 Legal and Resource Implications**

- 4.1 All approved schemes will form part of the Council's overall capital programme and will be subject to the same checks and processes that apply to all capital schemes.

### **5.0 Recommendations**

- 5.1 Members are requested to:
- 5.1.1 note the contents of this report;
  - 5.1.2 authorise expenditure of £990,000, subject to approvals in line with procedures set out in the attached Guidance Notes.
  - 5.1.3 authorise the revised Guidance Notes as per Appendix A.