



Report of the South East Leeds Area Manager

East Outer Area Committee

Date: 8 December 2009

Subject: Outer East Area Committee Capital Budget 2009/10

Electoral Wards Affected: All Outer East Wards

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

The Area Committee capital budget allocation for 2009/10 is £160,200. This is made up of the annual allocation and previous years underspend. The budget has been split evenly across the 4 Outer East Wards.

This report requests that Area Committee supports several new projects.

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

1.1 This report outlines project proposals requiring funding from the capital budget.

1.2 It also updates Members on breakdown of spend by Ward.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 The Outer East Area Committee has a capital budget allocation of £160,200 in 2009/10.

2.2 This report recommends that Area Committee supports projects in the area from the capital budget.

3.0 Main Issues

3.1 Christmas Tree Display in Garforth

3.1.1 This is a proposal from 'Garforth in Bloom' to provide a permanent site for a tree; install electrical connections; and purchase Christmas Tree lights that will be for stored for annual use. The tree itself has been purchased from a Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) application and in future years most likely from Ward Member MICE funds.

3.1.2 The cost of this project is as follows:

- the electrical connection is a 'one off' payment of £403 and will be installed by Leeds Lights
- The cost of the tree base, which will also be installed by Leeds Lights, is £400
- The cost of 2 sets of electric lights is £500

3.1.3 The cost of the tree is estimated at £200. This cannot be paid from capital funds as projects funded from this source require longevity and not be replaced on an annual basis. This cost of the tree has now been met by POCA funds.

3.1.4 Through working with Garforth 'in bloom' this proposal supports the following local improvement priority of the Area Delivery Plan:

Culture – Increase the sense of pride in communities across Outer East Leeds.

3.2 CCTV to Fieldhead Carr Shopping area (Whinmoor)

3.2.1 This is a proposal from South East Area Management Team for a commissioned project to install a CCTV surveillance system at Fieldhead shops on Whitelaithe Approach.

3.2.2 This shopping precinct has been a hotspot for crime and ASB for a number of years. In 2008 there were 7 ASBO's served on individuals who were causing problems in and around this area. A crime analysis completed by West Yorkshire Police detailing the past 12 month period shows that the greatest number of offences and ASB calls have been on Whitelaithe Approach equating to 37% of calls in the area and 24% of the neighbourhoods crime. The ASB calls were all classified as 'Rowdy or Inconsiderate Behaviour'. The majority of these calls refer to groups of youths congregating around the shops at this location.

3.2.3 The issue is a regular item at the Whinmoor Forum and always features as one of the main problem areas in the ward at Cross Gates & Whinmoor 'tasking' meeting

3.2.4 The scheme includes 5 cameras covering the front of the shops, footpath/ bus terminal area, ginnels and rear of the shops, pub and car park. The cost of the project is £9,842.

3.2.5 The system would enable agencies such as the Police and ASBU to link into the footage remotely and retrieve information. It would also have the capacity to link into the Leeds Watch system should we wish to further down the line.

3.2.6 The shopkeepers will pay any future maintenance costs to the system.

3.2.7 This proposal supports the following local improvement priorities of the Area Delivery Plan:

Thriving Places – Create safer environments by tackling crime and anti-social behaviour

3.3 The Allerton Bywater Colliery Memorial Fund

3.3.1 This project is being led by Allerton Bywater Parish Council Regeneration Group to install a structure in the village commemorating the ex-colliery.

3.3.3 Leeds City Council has confirmed that it will take responsibility for the landscaping around the memorial and the Regeneration Group within the Parish Council will maintain the structure.

3.3.4 The cost of the project is £55,000 and Area Committee is asked to award £5,000 towards the cost. The remainder of funding is not yet in place but there are various bids pending. The Area Committee funding is subject to Allerton Bywater Parish Council acquiring the remaining £50,000.

3.3.5 This proposal supports the following local improvement priority of the Area Delivery Plan:

Culture – Increase the sense of pride in communities across Outer East Leeds.

3.4 Youth Offending Service – Temple Newsam

3.4.1 This application has been received from the Youth Offending Service in Halton Moor/Osmondthorpe to deliver out an environmental project at the Halton Moor Community House.

3.4.2 The Halton Moor Community House is a much needed resource in East Leeds and is currently being used by a wide range of agencies and organisations. Over the last 8 months, young people from the Youth Offending Service (YOS) & the Youth Inclusion Programme (YIP) have worked hard to regenerate the back garden into a community space and small allotment. This is an ongoing project that enables young people from the YOS to do reparation work within their own community and attempt to make amends for their offending behaviour.

3.4.3 The aim of this project is to create an outside space that can be used by the whole community and the different organisations that already use the house. This project is

also a reparation activity and will be accessed by young people who are involved with the YOS and live in the Halton Moor area.

3.4.4 The main outputs of this project are to improve the outside space of the community house:

- Build a patio & 'chill-out area'
- Lay down turf and create a small garden area
- Build some more raised beds for planting vegetables
- Create a compost area
- Build a shed for storing equipment
- Put up screening around the garden
- Build a bench / seating area

3.4.5 The main achievements of this project will be improving an area that is used by the community and hopefully increasing the amount of people that will access the Community House. This project will also give young people the opportunity to do something constructive and have a shared positive experience. The young people who will be involved with this project will also develop new skills and gain practical work experience. It is also anticipated that if one garden on the Halton Moor estate can be improved, it may encourage other residents to improve their own gardens and raise the aspirations of the wider community.

3.4.6 The project will hopefully encourage members of the community to get involved and promote the project to organisations, such as The Halton Moor & Osmondthorpe Project for Elders. This adds an inter generational angle to the project.

3.4.7 The timescale for this project is:

- Lay patio & turf – Jan / Feb 2010
- Erect shed – Feb
- Build raised beds – March / April
- Put up screens around fence – April / May
- Plant vegetables - May /June
- General maintenance - ongoing

3.4.8 The cost of the project is £2,480 and Area Committee is asked to meet the full cost. A breakdown of cost is detailed on **Appendix 1**.

3.4.9 This proposal supports the following local improvement priority of the Area Delivery Plan:

Thriving Places – Create safer environments by tackling crime and anti-social behaviour

Culture – Increase the sense of pride in communities across Outer East Leeds.

3.5 St Mary's Church Hall (Whitkirk) renewal of kitchen

- 3.5.1 An application has been received from the Parochial Church Council of St Mary's, Whitkirk requesting funding to renew the church hall kitchen.
- 3.5.2 The Church Hall is used as a community facility for local groups and private hire for events. The community groups that use the kitchen include:
- Silver Lining Lunch Group for Elderly
 - Guides, Brownies, Rainbow Group
 - Arts Guild amateur theatre group
 - Coffee morning drop ins
- 3.5.3 The church is providing no match and has requested the full cost of the work which is £13,500.
- 3.5.4 St Mary's have been contacted and advised that South East Area Management would not be recommending that Area Committee support the full costs of the project for a number of reasons:
- There is an expectancy that external agencies provide some match funding for projects
 - All previous awards for work in Church Halls have been agreed once the respective church have acquired match funding
 - The relatively modest capital allocation should not be seen as a source of funding that can pay the full costs of project proposals from external organisations
 - To fund this project in full could set a dangerous precedent when considering the number of Church Hall's that exist in Outer East
 - There are alternative funding opportunities (including Church Funding opportunities) that are available that the applicant has been made aware of.
- 3.5.5 Area Committee is therefore asked to support this project with an award of £5,000 subject to the church acquiring the rest of the funds to carry out this work.
- 3.5.6 This proposal supports the following local improvement priority of the Area Delivery Plan:
- Culture** - Improve community facilities and increasing the use of community facilities.

3.6 Floodlights to Fieldhead Carr rugby pitches (Whinmoor)

- 3.6.1 In September 2006 Area Committee awarded £4,500 to install new floodlights at Fieldhead Carr. At that time this was agreed in order to provide some match funding towards the Town & District Centre bid for Fieldhead Carr. The bid was unsuccessful and the subsequent decision to convert the pitch from regdra to grass meant that the new lighting could not go ahead until 2009. Since that estimate was provided Parks & Countryside have re-assessed the provision of floodlighting and recommend that a new type of floodlighting be installed that will also cover adjacent pitches.

- 3.6.2 Parks & Countryside estimates that a further £9,000 is required to carry out this project. At the Area Committee meeting held in September 2009 Members deferred any decision until a meeting had been arranged with Cross Gates & Whinmoor Ward Members, Whinmoor Warriors JRFC and officers. At that meeting a decision would be agreed on the extent Ward Members were prepared to support this project with additional funds.
- 3.6.3 The meeting was held on Friday 27th of November, which was after the Area Committee papers were dispatched.
- 3.6.4 Area Committee are asked to support the decision made at that meeting and details will be provided at Area Committee.
- 3.6.5 This proposal supports the following local improvement priority of the Area Delivery Plan:
- Culture** – Providing new and improved sports and leisure facilities across Outer East

3.7 Improvements to St Wilfrid's Church Hall (Halton) and associated works.

- 3.7.1 St Wilfrid's Church Hall is sited on Selby Road in Halton. It provides space for a number of community activities and sessions that are enjoyed by residents of the area. These activities are provided for a wide age range and include:
- Yorkshire Theatre Dance
 - Slimming and keep fit clubs
 - Special Kids in Need (SKIN)
 - School holiday programmes for children
 - Private party hire
 - Arts School
 - Girl Guides
- 3.7.2 The condition of the roof has deteriorated over recent years and this has now damaged the ceiling as well as internal fixtures and decorations. Failure to renew the roof to the hall will result in further damage and potentially lead to the building not being usable.
- 3.7.3 The proposal is to renew the roof and ceiling, redecorate and provide new doors and new internal fixtures to the hall. Estimates for this work are between £13,000 and £15,000.
- 3.7.4 Area Committee is asked to award £5,000 towards this project. The remainder of the cost is being met from the fundraising activities of St Wilfrid's. The recommendation to award £5,000 will be subject to St Wilfrid's having acquired this match funding.
- 3.7.5 St Wilfrid's do not anticipate any increase in numbers using the building by carrying out this work but would expect that current activities can continue.

3.7.6 This proposal supports the following local improvement priority of the Area Delivery Plan:

Culture - Improve community facilities and increasing the use of community facilities.

3.8 Halliday Road Garage Site

3.8.1 An application has been made by Aire Valley Homes to resurface with tarmac the entrance to the garages on Halliday Road, Garforth. The cost of the work is £2,190.

3.8.2 The application was prompted by several residents of Halliday Road requesting the work to be carried out by Aire Valley Homes. Aire Valley Homes are unable to carry out the works due to budget restrictions. They also feel that the work is cosmetic and not a priority.

3.8.3 On receipt of the application an inspection was carried out by South East Area Management. South East Area Management concurs with the view of Aire Valley Homes.

3.8.4 Area Committee is asked not to fund this project for the following reasons:

- It does not meet any priorities within the Area Delivery Plan
- The work is of a cosmetic nature and not essential
- Aire Valley Homes are not providing any match funding
- Aire Valley Homes do not class the work as being necessary
- The work falls under the category of maintenance and the capital budget should not be used for this purpose

3.8 The Grafton Villas Long Footpath

3.8.1 Seven areas within Leeds Metropolitan District were identified in April 2004 as Designation Order Areas by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Three of the seven Designation Order areas are located in East Leeds. One such Designation Order Area in Crossgates, Leeds 15, covers the location of The Grafton Villas Long Footpath. This area had been identified as a place which had high levels of criminal activity in the vicinity of the footpath e.g. burglary, car crime, damage and assault.

3.8.2 In 2006 Outer East Area Committee appointed a CROW Officer (Countryside and Rights of Way Act) in order to pursue the closure of Grafton Villas (as well as looking at other problem ginnels). After much research and public consultation the overwhelming response from residents demanded closure. However, there were a small number of objections from some residents and the Ramblers Association. This led LCC Legal Services and Highways not to support the closure.

3.8.3 A further survey of users was carried out in summer 2008 The purpose of the survey was to:

- Ask people using Grafton Villas how frequently they used it.

- Ask users where they entered and exited Grafton Villas.
- Ask users if there was an alternative route they could use rather than Grafton Villas.
- Ask users if they were prepared to use that alternative route.
- Ask users if they would have any objections to Grafton Villas being closed

3.8.4 The key results were:

- During the course of the two surveys 54 people traveled through Grafton Villas. Some traveled as individuals; others traveled in groups of up to 3 people
- Of the 54, 49 wanted the path to remain open and 5 wanted it closed
- The main reasons for people using Grafton Villas was that it was a short cut to their destination; a safe and attractive route; it was convenient; safer for bicycles etc.
- A number of users felt it needed to be better maintained with concerns about dog fouling, litter and graffiti.

3.8.5 Since this survey was carried out the Police have informed Leeds City Council that although it would have no objection to having the footpath closed it could not support the closure based upon crime statistics or Police calls.

3.8.6 In view of the previous history of this issue, the outcome of the survey and the view of the Police it would appear that the option of closure would be extremely difficult to achieve. Members are therefore recommended to return the previously allocated £15,000, earmarked for the closure of this path from the capital budget, to the Cross Gates & Whinmoor's capital allocation for spend on alternative projects.

4.0 Implications For Council Policy and Governance

4.1 The details described in this report and its recommendations fit with existing Council policy and governance arrangements.

5.0 Legal and Resource Implications

5.1 There are no new legal implications arising from this report.

6.0 Conclusions

6.1 The report requests funding to support several projects across Outer East Wards.

6.2 The report provides details of expenditure to date with a breakdown of funding by Ward on **Appendix 2**.

7.0 Recommendations

7.1 Area Committee is recommended to approve funding for the following projects:

- Garforth in Bloom Christmas Tree project - £1,303
- Fieldhead Carr CCTV - £9,842

- Allerton Bywater Memorial - £5,000
- Youth Offending Service: Halton Moor - £2,480
- St Mary's Church Hall kitchen - £5,000
- Agreement reached on further funding for floodlights at Fieldhead Carr
- St Wilfrid's Church Hall roof - £5,000

7.2 Area Committee is recommended not to approve the proposal to retarmac the entrance to Halliday Road garage site.

7.3 The Committee is asked to agree the cancellation of the Grafton Villas capital order and return the amount of £15,000 to the budget for Cross Gates & Whinmoor.

Background papers

Executive Board Report 16 July 2008 – Area Committee Roles 2008/09

Outer East Area Committee Report 8 July 2008 – Area Delivery Plan 2008-11

Capital report to Outer East Area Committee – September 2006