

REPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE (CORPORATE DIRECTION)

RE: HINCKLEY (SPECIAL EXPENSES) BALANCES AND RESERVES – FUTURE USE



Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

A Borough to be proud of

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To consider options for future use of the balances and reserves held by the Special Expense Area

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 That the Committee notes the current levels of reserves and balances available

2.2 That the Committee considers for approval proposed schemes to be funded from reserves and balances as outlined in Appendix 1

3. **BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT**

3.1 The 2013/14 budget for the Special Expense Area was approved by the Committee at the meeting held on 28th January 2013. At this meeting, the Committees current and forecast levels of reserves and balances were noted and it was resolved that consideration would be given to future schemes/projects that could be funded from these amounts going forward.

3.2 The Committees levels of reserves and balances have been detailed in the 2012/2013 outturn paper presented to this meeting and have been summarised below for reference:

3.3 It is forecast that the Special Expense Area will hold £163,764 in balances as at 31st March 2012. The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) details that minimum balances should be held at 10% of Net Budget Requirement. On this basis, it is forecast that the Special Expense Area will hold £102,718 of "excess" balances. It is recommended these are transferred to reserves to fund future spend.

	£
Balance at 1 st April 2012	224,000
Transfer from Balances 2012/13	-60,236
Estimated balance at 31 st March 2012	<u>163,764</u>
Net budget requirement	<u>61,046</u>
Excess balances	<u><u>102,718</u></u>

3.4 Earmarked reserves have been set aside for the Special Expense Area to meet the cost of Green Space projects within Hinckley. Taking into account in

year spend, it is forecast that this reserve will have a balance of £153,176 as at 31st March 2013 before any transfer from balances:

	£
Balance at 1 st April 2012	47,881
Transfer to Reserves 2012/13	177,000
Proposed carry forward	2,293
Transfer from Reserves 2012/2013	<u>-73,998</u>
Estimated balance at 31 st March 2012	<u>153,176</u>

3.5 The emerging Green Space Delivery Plan has identified key themes and priorities to be delivered between 2013-2018. These are improving green space quality, health and activity, green infrastructure and biodiversity and environmental impact. Projects identified in Hinckley include:-

- Improvements to amenity green spaces
- Improving the Battling Brook corridor for biodiversity
- Creating a green infrastructure link along the Harrow Brook corridor
- Creating a green infrastructure link from the battling Brook to the Canal
- Redeveloping the green space at Argents Mead as part of the Leisure centre relocation
- Investigating new play areas in the Westfield's and Derby road areas.
- Additional play equipment on parks.
- Tree and bulb planting and creating wildflower meadows on parks.
- Redevelopment of Clarendon Park.
- Investigate new pitch provision (NE and SW Hinckley).
- Seek access to non HBBC owned natural green spaces.
- Adoption of open spaces from developers.
- Improvements to the Hinckley/Barwell/Burbage/Earl Shilton green wedge.

3.6 A full assessment of available Section 106 will be undertaken this year, and projects phased to maximise use of S106 and external funding. The reserve will be utilised for projects where no s106 is available, or additional funding is required. Projects previously discussed with Hinckley members (October 2012) are detailed in Appendix 1 and should be considered by the Committee for funding by the available reserves.

3.7 In addition to the schemes identified, the 2013/2014 budget has been adjusted to reflect the cost and future maintenance of a mobile speed camera for use by West Hinckley Neighbourhood Watch. This supplementary budget of £5,000 has been approved in line with financial regulations.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [KB]

Contained in the body of the report

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [AB]

None raised directly by this report

6. **CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

Expenditure incurred to achieve an attractive 'green' borough that minimises its impact on the environment.

7. **CONSULTATION**

None

8. **RISK IMPLICATIONS**

It is the Council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

Management of significant (Net Red) Risks		
Risk Description	Mitigating actions	Owner
None		

9. **KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS**

The proposed budget will have an impact on those within the Special Expenses Area.

10. **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community Safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications
- Asset Management implications
- Human Resources implications
- Planning Implications
- Voluntary Sector

Background papers: Civica Financials Reports

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Katherine Bennett, Head of Finance

Executive Member: Cllr K Lynch

APPENDIX B: Green Space Projects identified in Hinckley.

No	site name	Improvements
1	Preston Road	Replace infant and junior play area
2	Wykin Park	Create wildflower meadow, new paths and additional allotments/community garden
3	Gowrie Close / Aulton Crescent (Cumbrae open space)	New landscaping, bins and seating
4	Clifton Way / Roston Drive	Create wildflower meadows, tree planting, extra bins and seating
5	Erskine Close	Landscaping
6	Harwood drive	Create allotments or community growing site and increase biodiversity value of the site. Or dispose of site
7	Queen's Park	Increased play facilities for all ages, create wildflower meadows, landscaping, outdoor gym and possibly create junior football pitch (all s106)
8	The Rock Gardens	Improved landscaping
9	Netherley Court	Improved landscaping and biodiversity management of watercourse
10	Play area N of town centre (New street car park)	Create play space on land currently used as a car park on New Street OR Holliers walk school
11	Barlestone Drive	Tree planting, wildflower meadow, landscaping, seating and bins.
12	Wykin Linear Park / Landseer Drive	Create wildflower meadow, additional bins and seating
13	Battling brook corridor incl Odstone Close, Lochmore close, Brenfield drive, Brodick close. not in HBBC ownership)	Create wildflower meadows, tree planting, extra bins and seating. Includes creating link between Odstone and the Canal (steps to Perimeter road)
14	Argents Mead	Redevelop site following relocation of Leisure centre including new equipped play area, landscaping etc

15	Equipped play in Westfields area	Investigate co-use of school fields for equipped play area
16	Sw Hinckley	Investigate land for grass pitch
17	Hinckley Town Centre - tree planting	Tree planting on HBBC town centre sites and free trees to town centre residents.
21	Weston Close	Tree planting, bin and seating
22	Leven Close	Tree planting, bin and seating
23	Clarendon Park	Develop park as a community park with new equipped play, outdoor gym, pathways and tree planting (s106)
24	Hollycroft Park	Create wildflower areas within golf course. Landscaping
25	Amenity green space in NE Hinckley including Barwell Lane, Woburn Close, Warwick Gdns, Ribblesdale Ave, Field Close, Wendover Drive, Saville Close, Newquay Close and swallows green.	Create wildflower areas, tree planting, landscaping, pathways etc
26	Ashby Road Cemetery	Create wildflower meadows, tree planting and works to improve memorial gardens
27	Trinity Vicarage Road	Bulb and tree planting
28	Granville Road Rec Ground & Play area	Bulb planting under trees and boundary improvements
29	Waterside Park green spaces (Beams Meadow, long meadow drive, bund, paddock way etc) (subject to adoption)	Improved landscaping, and biodiversity management. Investigate public access to pond.
30	Waterside park play area (subject to adoption)	Increased play facilities for all ages
31	Canal Way (subject to adoption)	Wildflower meadows and biodiversity management along canalside, seating and bins.
32	Langdale Road FRB/ allotments	NOT in HBBC ownership. Seek access to site for public
33	Langdale Park	Create wildflower meadow
34	Richmond Park	Additional equipped play and tree planting
35	NE Hinckley grass pitch	Investigate co-use of school fields for grass pitch OR create junior pitch on Queens Park

36	Burbage Common	Improve visitor facilities, and increase size of the site
37	Harrowbrook corridor	Biodiversity improvements and informal access. Investigate creating link to Ashby Canal.
38	Hinckley, Burbage, Barwell, Earl Shilton green wedge	Link HBBC owned land, and Burbage Common to begin to create a "country park"
39	countryside sites	Improved visitor information on site.
40	Little pit, paddock, Brodick rd FRB	Seek to increase access to NGS not in HBBC ownership