



Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Scrutiny 9 May 2024

Wards affected: All Wards

Environmental Improvement Programme for 2024/25

Report of Director (Community & Development Services)

1. Purpose of report

1.1 This report outlines the Environmental Improvement Programme for 2024/25.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That Scrutiny notes the enhancement schemes (Appendix 1) to be implemented in the financial year 2024/25 as the Environmental Improvement Programme.

3. Background to the report

3.1 The Borough Councils Environmental Improvement Programme consists of small-scale heritage/conservation related improvement schemes across the whole Borough. The fund aims to improve the heritage/conservation built environment and increase understanding and awareness of important local history. The schemes can be stand-alone, others contribute towards larger comprehensive projects. Examples of the types of projects include heritage trail information boards, repairs to walls, blue plaques and installation of heritage nameplates. This year's programme aims to continue the practice to implement schemes identified in the Council's Conservation Area Management Plan Reviews and provide a good distribution of projects throughout the borough, both in the urban and rural areas. Match funding is sought where appropriate.

3.2 If partners agree to make financial contributions towards projects, as anticipated, it will be possible to finance the 12 schemes identified in Appendix 1. The 12 schemes have an overall estimated cost of £177,348.04.

After taking account of external contributions the net cost to the Council will be £34,970.02 which is within the £35,000 available budget.

3.3 Appendix 2 outlines the progress made on the projects included in the 2023/24 programme. A further Appendix 3 presentation provides photographs of the 2023/24 projects.

3.4 Guidelines for prioritising schemes are set out below:

- a) Implement schemes identified in the Authority's Conservation Area Management Plan Reviews
- b) Enhances the historic environment
- c) Increases understanding and interpretation of heritage
- d) Complete or complement schemes undertaken in previous year's programmes
- e) Be implemented on publicly-owned or private accessible land
- f) Be in areas which have not yet benefited significantly in previous years' programmes

4. Exemptions in accordance with the Access to Information procedure rules

4.1 This report is to be taken in open session.

5. Financial implications [CS]

2024/25

5.1 Details of schemes and associated costs and income are attached in Appendix 1. The estimated cost to the Council for 2024/25 schemes is £34,970 compared to an approved net budget of £35,000.

2023/24

5.2 A carry forward will be requested for any schemes that are not completed by the end of March 2024.

6. Legal implications [MR]

6.1 The Localism Act 2011 empowers the Council to do anything that individuals generally may do including for the benefit of its area or for persons resident or present in its area.

7. Corporate Plan implications

7.1 This report contributes to the following priorities of the Council;

- Places - Creating clean and attractive places to live and work
- Prosperity- Encouraging growth, attracting businesses, improving skills and supporting regeneration.

8. Consultation

- 8.1 Consultations will take place on each project on an individual officer basis with parish councils and other interested parties.

9. Risk implications

- 9.1 It is the council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.
- 9.2 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.
- 9.3 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		

10. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications

- 10.1 Projects put forward in the Environmental Improvement Programme are generally spread over the whole of the Borough and includes the rural area.
- 10.2 It is considered that this report will not have any effect on equality for any of the protected characteristics and therefore no further analysis or action is necessary.

11. Climate implications

- 11.1 We consider climate implications in all initiatives related to the Environmental Improvement Programme, for example, when new heritage lighting is installed this is now done with LED lighting. Many projects are for repair and look to reuse appropriate materials where possible.

12. Corporate implications

- 12.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:
- Community safety implications- yes, improving lighting and the environment will contribute reducing the fear of crime and disorder
 - Environmental implications- yes, protecting and enhancing the Borough's Heritage
 - ICT implications- none directly arising from this report
 - Asset management implications- none directly arising from this report

- Procurement implications- none directly arising from this report
 - Human resources implications- none directly arising from this report
 - Planning implications- permissions sought where required
 - Data protection implications- none directly arising from this report
 - Voluntary sector- conservation volunteers used where appropriate on schemes.
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Background papers: None

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