

SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 28 JULY 2012

REPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE (COMMUNITY DIRECTION)
RE: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME FOR 2012/13

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 This report outlines the Environmental Improvement Programme for 2012/13

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 The Scrutiny Commission is asked to agree the enhancement schemes comprising Appendix 1 to be implemented in the financial year 2012/13 as the Environmental Improvement Programme.

3. **BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT**

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME 2012/13

3.1 For 2012/13 Council agreed in February capital expenditure of £50,000 of which £15,000 was funded from contributions. If the Borough Council's applications for grant aid are successful and landowners agree to make financial contributions towards projects, as anticipated, it will be possible to finance the 18 schemes identified in Appendix 1 which will result in projects costing £48,842 being implemented at a net cost to this Authority of £34,998.

3.2 This years programme aims to continue the practise to implement schemes identified in the Authority's Conservation Area Management Plan Reviews and provides a good distribution of projects throughout the borough both in the urban and rural areas. To date, all of the conservation areas have been reviewed with the exception of the Hinckley Town Centre Conservation Area that is to be completed this financial year 2012/13. A couple of enhancement schemes are the continuation of projects undertaken in last years programme at Ratby and Markfield. This years proposal to sign the last three conservation areas will complete the adoption of all the Borough's conservation areas.

3.3 Appendix 2 outlines the progress made on the projects included in the 2011/12 programme.

GUIDELINES FOR PRIORITISING SCHEMES

3.4 The agreed guidelines approved by members for prioritising schemes are set out below:

- (a) Implement schemes identified in the Authority's Conservation Area Management Plan Reviews,
- (b) Schemes that generate significant amounts of external funding, or be supported by partnerships involving private sector funding,
- (c) Complete or complement schemes undertaken in previous years' programmes
- (d) Contribute to the Strategic objectives of the Local Authority to provide an attractive environment.
- (e) Be implemented on publicly owned or publicly accessible land
- (f) Be in areas which have not yet benefited significantly in previous years' programmes
- (g) Voluntary organisations are given priority for undertaking appropriate projects providing the work meets the selection guidelines outlined in sub paragraphs (a) to (f).

4. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (CB)**

- 4.1 As Council have already approved a budget of £50,000 there are no new financial implications arising directly from this report.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (AB)**

- 5.1 None raised directly by this report

6. **CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 This report contributes to the following Strategic Aims and Objectives of the Council

Strategic Aim – Proud of our achievements for the Community

Strategic Objective – Secure a healthy, safe, respectful and attractive environment

- 6.2 The report also contributes towards the Community Plan Objective of:

'Protecting our environment, relevant aims, heritage - protecting and enhancing the Borough's heritage'.

7. **CONSULTATION**

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

8. **RISK IMPLICATIONS**

8.1

Management of significant (Net Red) Risks		
Risk Description	Mitigating actions	Owner
Loss of project management resource through retirement.	Look at alternative means to project manage EIP programme	Simon Wood/Sally Smith

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

9.1 Projects put forward in the Environmental Improvement Programme are generally spread over the whole of the Borough and includes the rural area.

10. **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 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
- Human Resources Implications – None directly arising from this report

Contact Officer: Alan Davies, Project Manager ext. 5916