

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME FOR 2014/15
REPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE (COMMUNITY
DIRECTION)



Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

A Borough to be proud of

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL WARDS

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 This report outlines the Environmental Improvement Programme for 2014/15.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 That Scrutiny agrees the enhancement schemes (Appendix 1) to be implemented in the financial year 2014/15 as the Environmental Improvement Programme.

3. **BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT**

3.1 **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME 20013/14**

3.1 For 2014/15 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 20 schemes identified in Appendix 1 which will result in projects costing £59,647 being implemented at a net cost to this Authority of £34,704.

3.2 This year's programme aims to continue the practice to implement schemes identified in the Authority's Conservation Area Management Plan Reviews and provide a good distribution of projects throughout the borough, both in the urban and rural areas. All of the conservation areas have now been reviewed and plaques have been displayed throughout the conservation areas.

Appendix 2 outlines the progress made on the projects included in the 2013/14 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 private 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 (SJE)

4.1 The council approved a net budget of £35,000 for 2014/2015 (Expenditure of £50,000 of which £15,000 is to be externally funded). However, the attached appendix 1 outlines the cost of the implementation of the schemes at £59,647 and £24,944 to be externally funded. The net cost to HBBC is £34,704 which is within the approved budget of £35,000. The additional £9,944 expenditure budget and £9,944 income budget will need to be approved in accordance with the council financial procedure rules.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (MR)

5.1 The Council has power under the Local Government Act 2000 to promote or improve the environmental well being of its area.

6. CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS

6.1 This report contributes to the following Strategic Aims of the Council

Strategic Aim - Creating a vibrant place to work and live

Strategic Aim – Empowering communities

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
None identified		

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
 - Planning Implications – Permissions sought where required
 - Voluntary Sector – Conservation volunteers used where appropriate on different schemes.
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Background papers: none

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