



# **Environmental Budget 2022/2023**

For consideration by: Housing Scrutiny Commission

Date: 28 February 2022

Lead Director: Chris Burgin

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**Report Author:**

Gurjit Minhas – Head of Service, Housing Division

**1. Summary**

- 1.1 This report outlines how the Environmental Budget will fund improvements on estates across the city in 2022/2023. This year 21 schemes are being proposed for the city and the overall cost will be approximately £836,416:
  - 7 schemes in the West area of the city, costing £280,616
  - 8 schemes in the East area of the city, costing £300,800
  - 6 in schemes the South area of the city, costing, £255,000
- 1.2 The annual budget for Environmental Works is £750,000, however due to the pandemic some of the schemes that could not be completed in 2020/2021 are being re-submitted. We are utilising the money that was set aside for these delayed schemes and therefore the proposed spend is £836,416 for the next year.
- 1.3 Ideas for improvements were sought from key stakeholders, which includes tenants, residents and local ward Cllrs. Housing staff have also highlighted improvements based on their local knowledge of issues on estates and key priorities for the service.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 Over the years the environmental budget has been used to invest in estates, to improve parking, green areas, measures to reduce anti-social behaviour and to generally make the environment safer and improve the quality of life for residents, making them places where people want to live.
- 2.2 Housing staff have carried out local consultation and engagement exercises to identify what people like about their local area and what they would like to see improved.
- 2.3 Some of the initiatives have been highlighted on estate walkabouts, ward meetings or as a result of service requests from tenants and residents. E-mail consultation was also carried out with ward Cllrs and opportunities provided for their proposals to be put forward.
- 2.4 For this year's schemes community engagement days have taken place as well as estate visits with the Head of Service and ward Cllrs. Housing staff, the Police and CrASBU have carried out ASB surveys in some areas of the City to engage with residents, which have also been used to identify improvements on estates.
- 2.5 In line with our commitment to tackle the climate emergency we will ensure wherever we install or refurbish parking bays in 2022/2023, we will install electrical charging points, to encourage and facilitate the use of electric cars. the cost of the charging points is included in the cost of the individual proposals.



3.2 In the West area of the city the following 7 schemes have been identified at a cost of £280,616:

- **Westcotes**
  - **Andrewes Close** - Supply and Fit Security Doors – 38 to 52 and 19 to 29 - **£50,000** – Ward Cllrs are aware and supportive of this scheme originally proposed in 2020/2021
- **Western Ward:**
  - **Tatlow Road** - Verge Hardening - **£73,000** – Cllr O'Donnell is particularly supportive of this scheme to help minimise the impact of parking and access for buses near the Braunstone Frith School on Tatlow Road. Cllr Clarke is also very supportive of this proposal
  - **Aikman Close** – Fencing - **£14,880** – This was identified by Cllr O Donnell on an estate walkabout with housing staff to reduce ASB
  - **Crayburn House** - Renew flooring at entrance - **£3,400** – to complete and finalise the improvements to the building
- **Abbey Ward:**
  - **Thurcaston Road** - Painting – 3 Blocks - **£7,000**
  - **Garth Avenue** – Parking Bays - **£68,000** – All ward Cllrs are supportive of both proposals and we will be including electrical charging points
- **Beaumont Leys Ward:**
  - **Butterwick Drive and Grassington Close** – Bin Area Replacement - **£64,336** – all ward Cllrs are supportive of this initiative

3.3 In the East Area of the city, the following 8 schemes have been identified, costing £300,800:

- **Belgrave Ward:**
  - **Donaldson Road** - for flooding prevention work, identified by residents, Cllrs and Highways during a patch walk - **£90,000**
  - **St Marks** - replacing old paladin bins **£1,750**
- **Wycliffe Ward**
  - **St Matthews** - replacing old paladin bins - **£1,750**
- **Humberstone and Hamilton**
  - **Ivychurch Crescent** - Provision of parking, including disabled parking bays and electrical charging points - **£176,000** – proposed by residents
  - **Netherhall** – Painting knee railings - **£11,000** – Both these proposals were identified at an extensive patch walk with Cllr Ali, Cllr Crewe and housing staff.
- **Thurncourt Ward**
  - **Bowhill Grove** – Painting blocks - **£6,150**
  - **Ocean Road** - Knee rail - **£8,000** – proposals supported by ward Cllrs
- **North Evington**
  - **Willowbrook Road** - Painting Blocks - **£6,150** – proposals supported by ward Cllrs



3.4 In the South area of the City the following 6 schemes have been identified costing £255,000:

- **In all wards for the South Area:**
  - **Estate Landscape team - £135,000** - on a trees and shrubs team to carry out works to tidy the estates and cutback trees not in the current maintenance contract. This is a continuation of the project identified by District Manager Nick Griffiths. All ward Cllrs are in support of this initiative
  - **Community Food Growing Pilot - £5,000** - this is part of a city wide initiative supported by Cllr Vi Dempster
  - **Saffron, Braunstone, Eyres Monsell and Aylestone - Bungalow external PIR lighting - £15,000** - Supported by Cllr Clarke and Cllr Pickering

### Escape Landscape Team 2021/2022



**The work of the landscape team 2021/2022, changes to the garden to the rear of the flats on Henray / Wensley Rise – a vast improvement**

- **Aylestone Ward**
  - **Aylestone Road** – courtyard improvements - **£35,000** supported by Cllr Clarke, Improvement around Glenhills Boulevard, ideas identified during a community engagement day to tarmac and make the area more user friendly.
- **Eyres Monsell Ward**
  - **Gilmorton – Bike Stores** - **£15,000**- supported by Cllr Clarke
- **Saffron Ward:**
  - **Neston Gardens** – Estate improvement work to tackle ASB - **£50,000** – Multi agency action group involving ward Cllr and ASB survey with residents, the Police and CrASBU have also been involved in identifying this work.

3.5 Consultation was carried out by Team Leaders and District Managers who contacted Cllrs initially asking for their suggestions and input, then further contact was made for feedback on firmed up proposals. We received many suggestions directly from Cllrs and residents as detailed above on the many joint estate visits and meetings that have taken place over the last year.

#### 4. Other Housing Estate Improvement Work

4.1 The Neighbourhood Improvement Team helps to bring people back into employment, by offering 6 to 12-month work placements. The team works across the city carrying out work such as clearing communal garage sites, edging path and walkways, cutting back overgrown trees, hedges and bushes that can be a hazard in public areas.

4.2 At the request of housing officers, the team will clear and tidy gardens of vulnerable tenants who are unable to do it themselves. One team has also recently helped to decorate a property ready for Afghan refugees. Teams from Probation also help with this work.



**Before**



**After**



4.3 The Housing Division also contribute over £900,000 towards the estate warden service. Teams work on housing estates across the city clearing rubbish, fly tipping and maintaining the estates to keep them tidy.

4.4 In the East of the city the City Mayor has committed to invest £5m over three years to carry out work to improve the public realm on the St Matthews and St Peters estates. We have employed a Green Team to maintain both estates and are in the process of awarding a contract for major improvements to some of the court yards in the St Matthews area.



**Before**

**After**

**An example of how the courtyard will be transformed**

4.5 We are working closely with tenants and residents on both estates to get their input into any improvements we are making. A recent consultation exercise has been held with residents in St Peters which will feed into the improvements work for this area. The Tenants and Residents Associations on both estates are closely involved in all stages of the work, from design to approval.

## **5. Financial, legal and other implications**

### **5.1 Financial implications**

The total cost of the schemes identified within this report is £836k. The HRA Capital Programme for 2022/23 includes £750k for Communal and Environmental work, plus an additional amount for schemes included in the report but which were originally budgeted for within the 2021/22 programme. The schemes are not anticipated to have a significant impact on revenue costs for the Council.

Julie Robinson -Accountant

## 5.2 Legal implications

There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

Jeremy Rainbow – Principal Lawyer (Litigation)

## 5.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction Implications

A number of schemes identified within this report may have carbon emission-related impacts, although these are anticipated to be relatively minor. Impacts should be addressed through applying the council's sustainable procurement guidance, including for lighting, materials and paints, as appropriate and avoiding the loss of trees in work on green spaces, or ensuring they are replaced in line with the council's Trees Strategy. A number of the schemes could also have a positive impact, including through enabling local food growing and providing cycle storage which will enable sustainable travel.

Aidan Davis, Sustainability Officer, Ext 37 2284

## 5.4 Equalities Implications

Under the Equality Act 2010, public authorities have a Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which means that, in carrying out their functions, they have a statutory duty to pay due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't.

Protected Characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

The report outlines how the environmental budget will fund improvements on estates across the City in 2022/2023.

There are no direct equality implications arising from the report, however works that improve security for residents and visitors should lead to positive impacts for people from across all protected characteristics, such as the provision of additional parking including disabled parking bays.

Sukhi Biring, Equalities Officer, 454 4175