

**Decision Maker:** Environment Portfolio Holder

**For pre-decision scrutiny at the Environment PDS Committee on**

**Date:** 3 July 2012

**Decision Type:** Non-Urgent Executive Key

**Title:** ONE OFF SPENDS – MEMBER INITIATIVES

**Contact Officer:** Dan Jones, Assistant Director Street Scene and Green Space  
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**Chief Officer:** Nigel Davies, Director Environmental Services

**Ward:** Borough Wide

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1. Reason for report

This report outlines the actions and work to be carried out against the Member Priority Initiatives relevant to the Environment Portfolio, as agreed by Council on 26 March 2012. There are four such Initiatives:

- £750k for footways, highways and general improvement projects;
  - £250k relating to support for 'Friends' Groups;
  - £150k to renew/replace the Council's community recycling sites; and
  - £70k to encourage physical activities in parks
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2. **RECOMMENDATIONS: That the Environment Portfolio Holder agrees:**

- 2.1 To the completion of the highways maintenance schemes identified in para 3.5 within the financial year 2012/13; and that the allocation for any resources remaining from the £750k should be the subject of a further report in September 2012;
- 2.2 To the proposed areas of spend relating to Friends identified in para. 3.8;
- 2.3 To the improvement of Bring Sites within the borough identified in para. 3.11, following consultation with appropriate Ward Councillors; and
- 2.4 To delegate authority to the Director of Environmental Services, in consultation with the Environment Portfolio Holder, to implement delivery of the investment in Bring Sites (£150k) and Friends (£250k), as set out in paras 3.7 to 3.12.

### Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy:
  2. BBB Priority: Quality Environment
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### Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Estimated Cost : £1,220k
  2. Ongoing costs: Non-Recurring Cost: n/a
  3. Budget head/performance centre: Earmarked Reserve for Member Priority Initiatives
  4. Total current budget for this head: £2,260k
  5. Source of funding: Earmarked Reserve for Member Priority Initiatives
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### Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): n/a
  2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: n/a
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### Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Non-Statutory - Government Guidance
  2. Call-in: Applicable
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### Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): n/a
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### Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? No
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: N/A

### 3. COMMENTARY

3.1 Council on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2012 approved the setting aside of £2,260k in an earmarked reserve for Member priority initiatives. The original report provided a breakdown of schemes as set out below.

- 3.2 (i) £750k for footways, highways and general improvement projects;  
 (ii) £250k relating to support for “Friends” Groups;  
 (iii) £150k to renew/replace the Council’s community recycling sites;  
 (iv) £400k for investing in small shopping parades and targeted neighbourhood activity;  
 (v) £500k to support tackling youth unemployment amongst young people;  
 (vi) £250k to support immediate Beckenham Town Centre improvements and support a bid to Transport for London for traffic and public realm improvements;  
 (vii) £250k for community based initiatives;  
 (viii) £70k to encourage physical activities in parks

3.3 Items (i), (ii) and (iii) fall within the remit of the Environment Portfolio. Item (viii) is a Public Health lead, but the scheme would be managed by Environmental Services.

3.4 A summary of the proposed actions against each item are outlined below:

#### Item (i) - Highways Maintenance (£750k)

3.5 Bromley’s highway network comprises 856 miles (1370 km) of footway and 552 miles (884 km) of carriageway. Each year the carriageway and footway networks are inspected to determine their condition, identify those areas that are in most need of planned maintenance, and prioritise these against available resources. The latest survey indicated a backlog of carriageway maintenance schemes and it is proposed that the one-off funding is used to address a number of these roads. The schemes listed below would form the first phase of the programme for completion during the third quarter of 2012/13;

ROAD NAME & DISTRICT	SECTION of ROAD	WARDS
Chislehurst Road, Chislehurst	St Georges Road West to Pine Road	Chislehurst/Bickley
Stone Park Avenue, Beckenham	H. No 36 to H No 30 even side only. Manor Way (Bus Stop) to Chinese Roundabout full width.	Kelsey & Eden Park
Manor Way, Beckenham	No 84 to Stone Park Avenue. (Heading to be done with Stone Park Avenue)	Kelsey and Eden Park
Blakeney Road, Beckenham	Hayne Road to Lamp Column (B-18- 17) opposite H. No 40 excluding recently patched section	Clock House
New Street Hill, Bromley	Complete Length	Plaistow & Sundridge
Portland Road, Bromley	Complete Length	Plaistow and Sundridge
Stowe Road, Orpington	Complete Length	Orpington
Wayside Grove, Mottingham	Complete Length	Mottingham & Chislehurst North
Elwill Way, Beckenham	Whitecroft Way to Wickham Way	Shortlands

3.6 Condition assessment surveys are currently being completed. These will be used to prepare the 2013/14 planned highway maintenance programme, which will be considered by Members in the autumn of 2012. It is therefore proposed that allocations for the remainder of the one-off funding are considered at that time, to allow for maintenance works on the highest priority sites to be completed during the final quarter of 2012/13.

## **Item (ii) – Support for ‘Friends’ Groups (£250k)**

- 3.7 Friends volunteers are local people who work alone or as part of a group to improve their environment, helping to make Bromley a better place in which to live. The work of these individuals has ensured our parks, streets, woodlands and countryside sites are safer, cleaner and greener. The work of Friends inspires civic pride and builds communities, enabling local people to take an active role in making their local environment thrive.
- 3.8 £250k has been allocated to support the work of our Friends. It is proposed that this money is used to enable the continued development of existing groups through appropriate training and support for volunteers, and the provision of tools and equipment to enable them to carry out their work in the most efficient and effective manner. The money will also be used to support the development and expansion of the current schemes in operation, i.e. Parks, Streets and Snow Friends, through recruitment and retention initiatives. Officers will work closely with existing Friends to understand the needs and aspirations of our volunteer so we can best support them in recruiting new Friends, and expand the number of groups in the borough.
- 3.9 Officers are currently liaising with the Friends Forum to identify appropriate and worthwhile initiatives that support the work of the Friends and the objectives of the LBB.
- 3.10 Further to additional work being undertaken by officers in partnership with Friends, it is recommended that the Director of Environment Services is given delegated authority to decide on the appropriate action to take to support the work of Friends, in consultation with the Environment Portfolio Holder.

## **Item (iii) – The Council’s community recycling sites (Bring Sites) (£150k)**

- 3.11 There are 42 existing Bring Sites within the Borough. Waste Services have conducted a survey to determine the current condition of all sites, including appearance, usage, signage, cleanliness and provision of recycling options. In consultation with our contractors for waste and St. cleansing, options for improvements are being formulated to make the most efficient and effective use of the £150k.
- 3.12 It is recommended that the Director of Environment Services is given delegated authority to take appropriate action to improve those Bring Sites identified as being in greatest need of improvement and investment, in consultation with the Environment Portfolio Holder, and following consultation with Ward Councillors.

## **Item (viii) - Encourage physical activities in parks (£70k)**

- 3.13 Officers within Parks and Greenspace, in partnership with colleagues from Public Health, have designed two pilot Outdoor Gym schemes to encourage greater physical activity amongst local residents. The two schemes, in Farnborough Recreation Ground and Betts Park, are pilots and will be monitored and assessed to determine whether they are successful in meeting their aims of promoting and increasing physical activity.
- 3.14 If successful then future schemes may be developed in other locations dependent on funding.

## **4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The proposals set out in this report support the Environment Portfolio Plan aims to:
- Maintain roads, pavements and street lighting in a good condition
  - Increase the proportion of waste recycled

- Promote the activities of Friends groups in enhancing the borough's parks and street scene

## 5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 On 26<sup>th</sup> March 2012 the Council approved the setting aside of £2.26m in an earmarked Reserve for Member Priority Initiatives as detailed in 3.2.

5.2 This report seeks approval to spend £1.15m on the following: -

- £750k for highways maintenance (3.5 – 3.6)
- £250k to support Friends Groups (3.7 – 3.10)
- £150k to improve the Council's community recycling sites (3.11 – 3.12)

In addition, Members are asked to note the proposals to use £70k of funding to encourage physical activities in parks (3.13)

5.3 Ongoing maintenance costs, if any, will be contained within existing budgets.

5.4 Details of actual spend on each of the four schemes will be reported to Members in future budget monitoring reports.

<b>Non-Applicable Sections:</b>	Personnel, Legal Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Council, 26 March 2012, report: <a href="http://sharepoint.bromley.gov.uk/documents/s13925/Council%20260312%20Reference%20Rep2.pdf">http://sharepoint.bromley.gov.uk/documents/s13925/Council%20260312%20Reference%20Rep2.pdf</a>