

Devolved Neighbourhood Highways Budgets

RECOMMENDATION

1. To approve the proposed amendments to the Neighbourhood Boards and Forums Good Practice Guide.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 At its special meeting on 28 April 2009 the Scrutiny Management Commission considered the use of the funding that had been allocated to the devolved highways budgets as part of the Council's 2009/10 budget. At the meeting the Corporate Director Regeneration and Community circulated a paper entitled 'Neighbourhood Board Funding – Proposed use of funding for Highways and Transport Works' which set out some indicative costs of appropriate Highways and Transport works. Questions from the Allestree and Darley Neighbourhood Board about the use of the funding were also considered at the meeting.
- 2.2 The Director advised the Commission that the list of options contained in his paper was not exhaustive but contained items which it was considered could realistically be completed in a financial year. The Director also responded to the questions posed by the Neighbourhood Board.
- 2.3 The issues relating to the use of the funding were considered by the Commission and members resolved to recommend to Council that the Neighbourhood Boards and Forums 'Good Practice Guide' should be amended to include the proposals contained in the Director's paper and the relevant elements of his response to Neighbourhood Board's questions. The information for inclusion in the Good Practice Guide is contained in Appendix 2 which was prepared by the Director of Regeneration and Community following the Commission meeting.

For more information contact: David Romaine 01332 255598 e-mail david.romaine@derby.gov.uk
Background papers: Appendix 1 – Implications
List of appendices: Appendix 2 – Neighbourhood Board Funding – Proposed use of funding for Highways and Transport Works

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. None arising from this report. Funding for the works has been allocated to the Neighbourhood Boards.

Legal

2. None arising from this report.

Personnel

3. None arising from this report

Equalities impact

4. The highways and transport works will be of benefit to Derby people.

Corporate Objectives

5. This report has the potential to link with the following of the Council's Corporate Objectives:
 - Making us proud of our neighbourhoods
 - Leading Derby towards a better environment
 - Giving you extra services and value for money

Neighbourhood Board Funding – Proposed use of funding for Highways and Transport Works

As part of the 2009/10 budget setting process Neighbourhood Boards are to be allocated an additional £10,000 per annum. The funding is being made available to enable Neighbourhood Boards to target pedestrian improvements particularly, but also other Highway and Transport related works, which they believe to be local priorities but which, for whatever reason, are unable to be delivered within existing resources.

The Highways and Transport Division will work constructively with Neighbourhood Managers and Boards to deliver activities/schemes or work in an efficient and effective manner so that the full benefit of this additional funding can be realised. To do this we are setting out those work areas where we believe we are able to respond quickly and positively and where we would encourage Neighbourhood Boards to focus their efforts and expectations. The list is not intended to be exhaustive but will hopefully provide sufficient guidance to assist Neighbourhood Managers and Boards. We have also indicated areas where we would not expect the funding to be targeted.

It is important, in all instances where Neighbourhood Boards wish to consider use of the additional funding, that they obtain input from Highways and Transport officers at an early stage. Highways and Transport officers can and will provide Neighbourhood Managers and Boards with information and advice about a variety of issues, and early engagement will ensure that the most appropriate solutions are identified and that these solutions are delivered efficiently and effectively.

It will be important for Neighbourhood Managers to discuss each Board's possible projects with Highways and Transport officers as soon as practicable so that accurate cost estimates can be provided.

Appropriate Highways and Transport Works

- Dropped Kerbs for pedestrians
- Cycle improvements including cycle parking/ cycle signage/ minor works
- Small surfacing works including hard paving verges or small areas of footway surfacing including slurry seal applications
- One off grass verge maintenance: repairing damaged verge, including soil and seeding
- New street lights, within highway
- Bus stop access kerbs to ease access to public transport
- Replacement/enhancement of existing bus shelters
- Additional parking enforcement activity where this would otherwise be a low priority

- Additional road safety and travel awareness, education, training and publicity initiatives targeted at pedestrians, cyclists, young drivers and identified occupational road risks: including:
 - Pedestrian/ cycle education initiatives
 - School safety competition
 - Child pedestrian safety training
 - Cycle training in schools
 - School travel plan project
 - Young driver safety campaign

Highways and Transport Works – not appropriate for this neighbourhood funding:

- Activities requiring community engagement or consultation unless undertaken by the Neighbourhood Board
- Activities which generate significant ongoing revenue or other liabilities
- Any work which includes the need for Traffic Regulation Orders