

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

24 APRIL 2008

**REPORT OF
CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

**Regeneration & Transport – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Cook
Environment – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Mrs Beaumont**

**SMALL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET 2007/08 – COMMUNITY
PARTICIPATION IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET 2008/09**

1. Summary

This report provides details of the delivery of the Small Environmental Improvements Budget in 2007/08. The report outlines what projects were implemented in each ward and highlights comments and feedback received from Ward Members, officers and members of the public.

2. Recommendations

1. Members are asked to note the progress made with delivery of the Small Environmental Improvements in 2007/08.
2. Members are asked to note the feedback received from other Members, officers and members of the public.
3. Members are asked to endorse and support the process for the Small Environmental Improvements Budget.
4. Members are asked to approve the use of combining annual allocations of funding to implement larger schemes. With a maximum of 2 years allocations being combined, except during any year prior to an election. Any “one off” special projects that, for instance, combine contributions across several wards can be considered subject to the appropriateness of the project and the agreement of all ward members affected.
5. Members are asked to recognise the changes in ward populations and the impact on the budget allocations, effective from 1st April 2009.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

To report progress made on the delivery of first year of the Small Environmental Improvements Budget with Members asked to note the amendments to the procedure for future years.

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members with voting rights) should consider whether they have a personal interest in the item as defined in the Council's code of conduct (**paragraph 8**) and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with paragraph 9 of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest in the item, he/she must then consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest (**paragraphs 10 and 11 of the code of conduct**).

A Member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the room where the meeting considering the business is being held -

- in a case where the Member is attending a meeting (including a meeting of a select committee) but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under statutory right or otherwise, immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence as the case may be;
- in any other case, whenever it becomes apparent that the business is being considered at the meeting;

and must not exercise executive functions in relation to the matter and not seek improperly to influence the decision about the matter (**paragraph 12 of the Code**).

Further to the above, it should be noted that any Member attending a meeting of Cabinet, Select Committee etc; whether or not they are a Member of the Cabinet or Select Committee concerned, must declare any personal interest which they have in the business being considered at the meeting (unless the interest arises solely from the Member's membership of, or position of control or management on any other body to which the Member was appointed or nominated by the Council, or on any other body exercising functions of a public nature, when the interest only needs to be declared if and when the Member speaks on the matter), and if their interest is prejudicial, they must also leave the meeting room, subject to and in accordance with the provisions referred to above.

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CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

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SUMMARY

This report provides details of the delivery of the Small Environmental Improvements Budget in 2007/08. The report outlines what projects were implemented in each ward and highlights comments and feedback received from Ward Members, officers and members of the public.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Members are asked to note the progress made with delivery of the Small Environmental Improvements in 2007/08.
2. Members are asked to note the feedback received from other Members, officers and members of the public.
3. Members are asked to endorse and support the process for the Small Environmental Improvements Budget.
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5. Members are asked to recognise the changes in ward populations and the impact on the budget allocations, effective from 1st April 2009.

DETAIL

Background

1. Prior to the Small Environmental Improvements Budget the budget allocation for small environmental improvements has had a multitude of names over the years; Minor Highway Improvements, Environmental Improvements and Safety Schemes.

2. The budget allocation for these programmes has varied across the years and in some years due to other pressures no allocation was approved. This has led to an extended list of projects across the Borough.
3. In February 2007 the Members Advisory Panel approved the protocol for the Small Environmental Improvements Budget and the dividing of the Capital Programme budget allocation of £400,000 per year for 2 years (2007/08 & 2008/09) between the wards on the basis of population per ward. (The original guidance notes for 2007/08 are attached as Background Papers to this report). It should be noted that the total value of requests at that time amounted to over £1.7m. To ensure that the SEIB allocation only funded projects that, otherwise would not have any resource, other Council budgets continued to be allocated to highway maintenance, street lighting and local transport Capital in line with Council priorities. Local Transport Capital includes casualty reduction schemes, cycling, walking, traffic management and public transport schemes.
4. This approach represented a significant change in the delivery of local priorities and services, in that communities, through their ward councillors, were able to influence the public realm improvements in their own areas. To reflect that change in emphasis the programme will now be referred to as the "Community Participation Improvements Budget". It is appropriate that, subject to the approval of the recommendations within this report, an updated Members guidance be issued in the near future.
5. In February 2008 a further allocation of £400,000 per year was approved for a further 2 years – 2009/10 & 2010/11.

Progress

5. The Small Environmental Improvement Budget (SEIB) has an allocation £400,000 per year. This sum is divided between the 26 wards on the basis of population. (**Appendix 1**)
6. Across the 26 wards a total of 92 projects were carried out, these projects varied in size from the installation of a single waste bin to the creation of additional car parking areas. (**Appendix 2**)
7. From the allocation of £400,000 for 2007/08 the projects implemented are projected to expend £370,000 by the end of March 2008, leaving £30,000. The remaining funding is to be rolled forward into 2008/09 and will be added to the appropriate wards allocation.

Feedback

8. Several Members have highlighted the size of the available budget as a major constraint for the SEIB programme given the amount of requests received. In addition to the list of previous requests included with the guidance supplied at the start of the year, several requests have been received throughout the year.
9. Following the delivery of a project in an area it has been noticed that members of the public from neighbouring areas make contact to request

similar schemes for where they live. This is noticeable with the schemes for the provision additional parking.

10. Requests for additional parking provision is the most popular request received from members of the public.
11. Officers have requested that project requests are submitted as soon as possible to assist in the smooth operating of the relevant work programmes throughout the year.
12. Certain schemes require a greater level of investigation, involving several sections/disciplines of the Council and the development of a detailed design to ensure the scheme meets the necessary specifications for adoption. In some cases it is necessary to apply for details of the locations of utility apparatus, this can take up to 8 weeks.
13. Officers have requested that Members supply as much detail as possible for requested schemes. This will assist in the assessment of the feasibility of a scheme and also to ensure an accurate cost is provided.
14. In addition to the constraints for seasonal, bulb and tree planting etc, there are certain highway improvements works for which it is appropriate to implement the works during the drier summer months. For example it is preferable to implement the construction of parking schemes in grass verges during the drier summer months to minimise the inconvenience of mud on the highway.
15. Several Members identified large scheme, which exceeded the annual allocation for their ward. They welcomed the opportunity to use the following years allocation to ensure that these schemes could be implemented.
16. It is proposed to continue to allow the combining of annual allocations, but to allow no more that 2 years allocations to be combined. The combining of annual allocations will not be considered appropriate when there is an election scheduled in the following year.
17. Issues have arisen where Members had not evidenced robust consultation; this has lead to challenge by some local residents. Therefore the need for Members to indicate the level of consultation is essential prior to requests being processed.
18. Requests were received for items throughout the year, which were previously seen to be ineligible. Further discussion have been undertaken and it would be seen that the following items would be now eligible items
 - a. Mobile CCTV
 - b. Notice Boards

The cost and parameter details of these items is currently being investigated. As soon as these are established Members will be updated.

Population Changes

19. The Small Environmental Improvements Budget is allocated on a ward-by-ward population basis. The allocations for 2007/08 and 2008/09 were based on the up to date population information supplied by the Joint Strategy Unit (JSU). This information was for 2004.
20. The most up to date information from the JSU shows that the population across the Borough has increased from 185,880 in 2004 to 187,215 in 2006. This increase has not been uniform across the wards.
21. Changes in ward population results in a change of funding allocation, effective from 1st April 2009 (**Appendix 3**). This will be reviewed every 2 years.

Procurement

22. It is important to appreciate that the type of works for the Small Environmental Improvements Budget carry significant legal and liability issues, simply because such works will exist within the public domain. Contractors that are used must be properly covered in legal, insurance and quality terms. In addition, construction regulations, highway and traffic law (including accredited Street Works status) must be adhered to. Maintenance liabilities, procurement practices and Health and Safety regulations must also be understood. The Council remains liable for these works and activities within the public domain. Consequently, any schemes should be **agreed and delivered** through the Council professional services of both Direct and/or Technical services as appropriate.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

23. Resources of £400,000 per annum have been allocated from the Capital Programme for the Small Environmental Improvements Budget for the following 3 years – 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11.
24. Certain eligible projects have an ongoing resource implication of maintenance, e.g. bulb planting, planting displays and planter tubs. This resource will be deducted from ward allocations in subsequent years.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

25. There are no immediate legal implications associated with the eligible projects for the Small Environmental Improvements Budget.

RISK ASSESSMENT

26. The Small Environmental Improvements Budget is categorised as a low risk. Existing management systems will be sufficient to control and reduce any risk.

COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

27. The Small Environmental Improvements Budget impacts, particularly on the liveability objectives of the Community Strategy.

CONSULTATION, INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

28. The Small Environmental Improvements Budget is allocated across the whole Borough on a ward-by-ward basis with the Ward Councillors determining the priorities for their own ward.
29. The Ward Councillors are requested on submission of the project request form to indicate what level of consultation has been carried out for the requested project. Councillors can request that officers carry out a consultation exercise for a suggested project.

Corporate Director of Development & Neighbourhood Services

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Background Papers

Report to Members Advisory Panel (5th February 2007)
Guidance notes and project request form as submitted to members May 2007.

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors

All
Property

Many of the eligible schemes through the Small Environmental Improvements Budget impact on the Councils Highway assets. Full consultation will be carried out with the appropriate sections regarding the relevant schemes.

Appendix 1

WARD	POPULATION	COUNCILLOR		Per 100k based on ward population	Total Ward Allocation	2007/08 allocation	2008/09 allocation (including roll forward from 07/08)
BILLINGHAM CENTRAL	7,040	A McCoy B Woodhouse	Lab Lab	£3,787.39	£30,300	£15,150 (£13,892)	£16,408
BILLINGHAM EAST	7,100	A Cunningham M Stoker	Lab Lab	£3,819.67	£30,564	£15,282 (£14,302)	£8,512
BILLINGHAM NORTH	9,390	L Apedaile H Aggio C Leckonby	Ind Ind Ind	£5,051.65	£40,420	£20,210 (£14,712)	£25,708
BILLINGHAM SOUTH	6,880	J O'Donnell M Smith	Lab Lab	£3,701.31	£29,600	£14,800 (£9,968)	£19,632
BILLINGHAM WEST	6,310	M B Womphrey M E Womphrey	Con Con	£3,394.66	£27,160	£13,580 (£13,099)	£13,838

(Figure in brackets = amount spend in 2007/08)

Sum for 2008/09 includes any deduction for maintenance of schemes, e.g. bulb displays and planter tubs

WARD	POPULATION	COUNCILLOR		Per 100k based on ward population	Total Ward Allocation	2007/08 allocation	2008/09 allocation
BISHOPSGARH & ELM TREE	6,460	S Fletcher MBE J M Roberts	Lib Dem Lib Dem	£3,475.36	£27,800	£13,900 (£14,651)	£13,149
EAGLESCLIFFE	10,400	A Lewis J A Fletcher M Rigg	Lib Dem Lib Dem Lib Dem	£5,595.01	£44,760	£22,380 (£11,185)	£32,562
FAIRFIELD	6,710	M Perry W Woodhead	Con Con	£3,609.86	£28,880	£14,440 (£12,491)	£16,389
GRANGEFIELD	6,630	P Broughton A Cockerill	Con Con	£3,566.82	£28,540	£14,270 (£18,031)	£10,509
HARDWICK	7,350	E A Nesbitt W H Noble	Lab Lab	£3,954.16	£31,640	£15,820 (£18,621)	£13,019
HARTBURN	7,060	K A Lupton T Laing	Con Con	£3,798.15	£30,380	£15,190 (£11,504)	£18,876
INGLEBY BARWICK EAST	7,860	K C Faulks D C Harrington A M Larkin	IBIS IBIS IBIS	£4,228.53	£33,820	£16,910 (£16,910)	£14,891

(Figure in brackets = amount spend in 2007/08)

Sum for 2008/09 includes any deduction for maintenance of schemes, e.g. bulb displays and planter tubs

WARD	POPULATION	COUNCILLOR		Per 100k based on ward population	Total Ward Allocation	2007/08 allocation	2008/09 allocation
INGLEBY BARWICK WEST	8,720	K Dixon L Narroway R Patterson	IBIS IBIS IBIS	£4,691.20	£37,520	£18,760 (£30,250)	£7,270
MANDALE & VICTORIA	9,900	T Large A Trainer S F Walmsley	TIA TIA TIA	£5,326.02	£42,600	£21,300 (£14,909)	£27,691
NEWTOWN	7,170	P W Baker R Gibson OBE	Lab Lab	£3,857.33	£30,860	£15,430 (£10,773)	£20,088
NORTHERN PARISHES	2,500	J Gardner	Con	£1,344.95	£10,760	£5,380 (£2,200)	£7,334
NORTON NORTH	6,750	M Frankland K F Nelson	Lab Lab	£3,631.38	£29,060	£14,530 (£19,414)	£9,646
NORTON SOUTH	7,780	R Cook S Nelson	Lab Lab	£4,185.50	£33,480	£16,740 (£18,299)	£15,181
NORTON WEST	6,400	P A Cains D Cains JP	Lab Lab	£3,443.08	£27,540	£13,770 (£19,247)	£8,293
PARKFIELD & OXBRIDGE	6,810	R Rix J Mohammed	Lab Lab	£3,663.65	£29,300	£14,650 (£12,194)	£17,106
ROSEWORTH	7,540	B Inman J Beall	Lab Lab	£4,056.38	£32,460	£16,230 (£14,576)	£15,823

(Figure in brackets = amount spend in 2007/08)

Sum for 2008/09 includes any deduction for maintenance of schemes, e.g. bulb displays and planter tubs

WARD	POPULATION	COUNCILLOR		Per 100k based on ward population	Total Ward Allocation	2007/08 allocation	2008/09 allocation
STAINSBY HILL	6,860	E Craggs S Walmsley	TIA TIA	£3,690.55	£29,520	£14,760 (£8,179)	£19,667
STOCKTON TOWN CENTRE	6,220	D W Coleman P Kirton	Lab Lab	£3,346.24	£26,760	£13,380 (£13,380)	£13,380
VILLAGE	6,440	I J Dalgarno M Eddy	TIA TIA	£3,464.60	£27,720	£13,860 (£17,000)	£10,720
WESTERN PARISHES	3,290	F G Salt	Con	£1,769.96	£14,160	£7,080 (£6,952)	£7,208
YARM	10,310	J Beaumont J Earl A Sherris	Con Con Con	£5,546.59	£44,380	£22,190 (£23,074)	£19,355
TOTAL	185,880						

(Figure in brackets = amount spend in 2007/08)

Sum for 2008/09 includes any deduction for maintenance of schemes, e.g. bulb displays and planter tubs

SEIB Summary of Schemes

Ward	Scheme
Billingham Central	John Whitehead Park CCTV camera
Billingham East	Cowpen Lane - x8 Planter tubs
	Whitton & Shotton - Block Paving
	Cowpen Planter troughs
	Hereford Terrace - Planter Display
	Cowpen Village Trees
Billingham North	Longfellow Rd Verge Treatment - Hard Standing
	Street Light - Pennington Close
Billingham South	Pedestrian Safety Rail - Clarences Primary School
	4 Car Parking bays - Thirlmere Court
Billingham West	Grosvenor Rd - Traffic Calming - ATS Scheme
	Dog bin for Billingham Beck
	Carlton Ave- 5 car parking Lay By
	Planter Tubs on Roseberry Road
Bishopsgarth & Elm Tree	ATS - Darlington Back Lane - Zebra Crossing
	The Vale Footpath - Road Safety Scheme
	Bishopsgarth Beck - Tree Planting
	Bulb planting - Elmtree Ave, Tollerton Close, Barlborough Ave, Chatsworth
	Dropped Kerb Crossing - Lanark Close
	Street lighting - Lauder Close
Eaglescliffe	Bulb planting - Yarm Road/Newsam Road
	Dog Bin - Open space to Langdon Way
	Birchfield/Finchfield - Street Light
	Land at butts lane - Footpath Improvements
	Dinsdale Drive Dog Bin
	Ivy Planting - Yarm Road
	Trees @ Hindhead
Fairfield	ATS - Darlington Back Lane Zebra Crossing
	Block Paving - Glenfield Rd
	Flower Beds at Maria Drive
	Footpath link near 240 Surbiton road
Grangefield	Litter Bins
	Dog bins
	Oxbridge Ave - Block Paving
Hardwick	Grassed verge to Block Paving - Piper Knowle Road
	Additional Car Parking Bays - Scurfield Road
Hartburn	Upsall Grove - Verge Treatment
	Dog Bins

Ingleby Barwick East	Litter bins
	Bulb Planting - Ingleby Way/St Francis
	Maltby Bins - x1 Litter x1 Dog Bin
	Dropped Kerbs - Farm Lane junction & Thornwood Ave
	Romano Park Dog Bins
Ingleby Barwick West	Bromlee Close Footpath Improvements
	Sober Hall Ave - Hard Standing
Mandale & Victoria	Elizabeth St & Easton Street planter removal
	Driveway Crossing for 81 Thorntree Road
Newtown	Farndale Green - Additional 4 car parking bays
	Patterdale Ave - trial holes
Northern Parishes	Thorpe Thewles - Planter Tubs
	Thorpe Thewles - Xmas Tree
Norton North	Norton Grange Land
	Flower bed near the Norton Community Resource Centre
	Shrubbery Bed Somerset Road
	Clements Rise - Block Paving
Norton South	Surrey Road Shop parking - x4 Car parking Spaces
	Leicester Road parking - Block Paving
Norton West	Dog bin
	Seat - Junction Road outside the Education Centre
	Dropped Kerbs - Fife Rd/Milner Rd/Seaham Close
	Litter Bins
	Fulthorpe Rd - Green space improvements Fulthorpe Rd - x8 Trees
Parkfield & Oxbridge	Marlborough Rd - AST - Traffic Calming
	Litter bins
	Dog Bins
	Xmas lights - Yarm Road
	Street lights - Walter Street/The Groves
Roseworth	Retford Close parking - Additional 3 Parking bays
	Dorchester Close - Additional 3 Parking bays
	Durham Rd/Redhill Rd Entrance Landscaping
	Street lighting - Dorchester Close
	Street lighting - Rostrevor Ave
Stainsby Hill	Bulb Planting – Kinloss Close
	Planter removal - Vulcan Way
	Ternbeck Way - 3 Flower tubs
	Flower tubs - Haviland Rd
	Manning Way - Dropped Kerbs Crossing
	Contribution to residents groups
	Watton Road - Hard Standing
Stockton Town Centre	Dog Bins - Dovecot St/Stamp St/Mill Lane Field
	Litter Bins - Mill Street West/Railway Footbridge
	Stamp Street - Street Lighting
	Dropped crossing - Mill St west/Russell St/Palmerston St
Village	Thornaby Rd Verge Treatment
Western Parishes	Stillington Dropped Crossing

Yarm	Planter Tubs for Yarm/Kirk
	Dog Bins & litter bins
	Bulb Planting
	Dog bins Conyers Footpath
	Conyers Close Car Parking
	Kirk Road - Bench

**Small Environmental
Improvements Budget**

**Changes in Budget
Allocation**

	Population 2004	Population 2006	2007/08 - 2008/09 annual allocations	2009/10 - 2010/11 annual allocations	Change
01 Billingham Central	7,040	6,795	£15,150	£14,518	-£632
02 Billingham East	7,100	6,815	£15,290	£14,561	-£729
03 Billingham North	9,390	9,565	£20,210	£20,436	£226
04 Billingham South	6,880	6,655	£14,800	£14,219	-£581
05 Billingham West	6,310	5,935	£13,580	£12,681	-£899
06 Bishopsgarth & Elm Tree	6,460	6,520	£13,900	£13,931	£31
07 Eaglescliffe	10,400	10,555	£22,380	£22,552	£172
08 Fairfield	6,710	6,150	£14,440	£13,140	-£1,300
09 Grangefield	6,630	6,605	£14,270	£14,112	-£158
10 Hardwick	7,350	6,820	£15,820	£14,571	-£1,249
11 Hartburn	7,060	6,785	£15,190	£14,497	-£693
12 Ingleby Barwick East	7,860	9,405	£16,910	£20,095	£3,185
13 Ingleby Barwick West	8,720	10,620	£18,760	£22,690	£3,930
14 Mandale & Victoria	9,900	10,375	£21,300	£22,167	£867
15 Newtown	7,170	7,250	£15,430	£15,490	£60
16 Northern Parishes	2,500	3,250	£5,380	£6,944	£1,564
17 Norton North	6,750	6,660	£14,530	£14,230	-£300
18 Norton South	7,780	7,580	£16,740	£16,195	-£545
19 Norton West	6,400	6,335	£13,770	£13,535	-£235
20 Parkfield & Oxbridge	6,810	7,010	£14,650	£14,977	£327
21 Roseworth	7,540	7,240	£16,230	£15,469	-£761
22 Stainsby Hill	6,860	6,715	£14,760	£14,347	-£413
23 Stockton Town Centre	6,220	6,530	£13,380	£13,952	£572
24 Village	6,440	6,315	£13,860	£13,493	-£367
25 Western Parishes	3,290	3,205	£7,080	£6,848	-£232
26 Yarm	10,310	9,525	£22,190	£20,351	-£1,839
TOTAL	185,880	187,215	£400,000	£400,000	£0