

## **Report to the Cabinet**

**Report reference: C-118-2007/08.**  
**Date of meeting: 10 March 2008.**



**Portfolio: Finance, Performance Management and Corporate Support Services.**

**Subject: Youth Initiatives Scheme - Work Programme.**

**Responsible Officer: Chris Overend (01992-564247).**

**Democratic Services Officer: Gary Woodhall (01992-564470).**

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### **Recommendations:**

- (1) That the arrangements for the completion of the Youth Initiatives Scheme programme, including the possibility of works on the Buckhurst Hill and Waltham Abbey Schemes extending into the 2008/09 financial year, be noted;**
- (2) That the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Performance Management and Corporate Support Services be authorised to release funds for approved schemes on an ongoing basis in accordance with the timetables of works provided by the Parish/Town Councils.**

### **Report:**

1. The District Council has included within the Capital Programme a Youth Initiatives Scheme budget of approximately £100,000 per annum for the financial years 2005/06, 2006/07 and 2007/08.
2. The schemes were put forward by Town/Parish Councils and assessed by the previous Portfolio Holder for their suitability based on the following criteria:
  - (a) provision of a detailed plan and drawings illustrating what facility is to be provided;
  - (b) planning and building regulation approval to be obtained where required;
  - (c) the need to be able to demonstrate that scheme will enhance the activities for young people in the area and thus assist the District Council's aims within the Best Value Plan;
  - (d) financial details illustrating how the costs of the project are made up;
  - (e) scheme to have been discussed with District Council officers and received their approval for "go ahead";
  - (f) a £40,000 maximum grant;
  - (g) evidence of joint funding where appropriate and possible;
  - (h) evidence of some measure of support for scheme locally; and
  - (i) No retrospective approvals – applications to relate to new schemes or enhancement/further development aspects of existing schemes.

**2005/06 Programme:**

3. Details of the 2005/06 programme are set out below:

<b>SCHEME</b>	<b>AMOUNT £</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
Epping Town Council – Refurbishment Recreation Area, Parklands, Coopersale	11,965	Works completed September 2005
Chigwell Parish Council – Youth Shelter, Chigwell Row	6,850	Works in the sum of £6,825 completed September 2005
Fyfield Parish Council – Sports System – Field Rear of School	17,074	Works completed October 2005
Fyfield Parish Council – Cricket Panels	354	Installed June 2006
Lambourne Parish Council – Sports Area, Abridge	-	Planning permission refused May 2006. A scheme is now being considered as part of more extensive children/ youth provision in the area, (see paragraph 6 below)
Loughton Town Council – Teen Shelters, Roding Valley and Willingale Road	13,510	Works totalling £9,968 completed June 2006. Consideration to be given to use of remainder of initial allocation
Waltham Abbey Town Council – Games Area Resurfacing, Town Mead, Youth Shelter, Ninefields	39,169	Works to Games Area in Town Mead completed. £33,981 released. Alternative schemes for Ninefields being considered with a view to completion by end March 2008
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>88,922</b>	

4. Details of progress in respect of the 2006/07 programme are set out below:

<b>SCHEME</b>	<b>AMOUNT £</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
Epping Town Council – Renovation of Skateboard Area	12,000	Works completed September 2006.
Epping Upland Parish Council – Teenage Youth Facilities	35,000	Works completed September 2006.
Ongar Parish Council – Refurbishment of Skateboard Area	10,000	Works completed November 2006.
Sheering Parish Council – Youth initiatives/equipment – Upper and Lower Sheering	31,412	Works completed October 2006.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>88,412</b>	

5. Details of progress in respect of the 2007/08 programme are set out below:

<b>SCHEME</b>	<b>AMOUNT £</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
Buckhurst Hill Parish Council – Teenage Ball Park, Roding Valley Recreation Area	35,000	Completion of works due by end of or soon after end of 2007/08 financial year. Timetable to be provided.
Chigwell Parish Council – Upgrade of Equipment, Chigwell Station Green Area	20,000	Initial allocation of £10,000 increase by £10,000 in view of safety surface required. Works completed. Inspection to be carried out.
Matching Parish Council – Upgrading of facilities, Jubilee Field.	28,000	Works completed. Inspection to be carried out.
Roydon Parish Council – Multi Sport Ball Court, Roydon Playing Fields.	40,000	Works completed November 2007 apart from ‘snagging’. £20,000 released. Further £20,000 to be released on completion of snagging works.
	<b>123,000</b>	

**Financial Position:**

6. The total funds already released or ‘earmarked’ amount to £296,767 leaving £3,233 from the original allocation. It is suggested that this amount be set aside and carried over into 2008/09 for use on suitable schemes as determined by the Portfolio Holder, one such scheme being, potentially the scheme at Lambourne referred to in paragraph (3) above.

7. There are also two schemes still to be completed, namely those at Buckhurst Hill and Ninefields, Waltham Abbey. Completion of these schemes is anticipated within or shortly after the end of the current financial year. Should it prove impossible to carry out these works, for whatever reason, the Portfolio Holder has the discretion to use the money for suitable alternative schemes. Any adjustments required to the programme will be reported to members via the Council Bulletin.

**Statement in Support of Recommended Action:**

8. There is a suggestion that the provision of youth facilities helps reduce youth nuisance and anti-social behaviour. Such facilities are required throughout the District, but particularly in the more remote rural areas. The projects put forward have the support of the Parish/Town Councils and residents in the localities concerned.

9. A consultation exercise is being carried out in respect of the impact of the schemes and the results of that exercise will be reported to the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Panel later in 2008.

**Other Options for Action:**

10. To agree or reject the proposed schemes. To agree the suggested funding or increase/decrease the amounts within the overall annual budget.

**Consultation Undertaken:**

11. Parish and Town Councils within the District.

**Resource Implications:**

**Budget provision:** Capital provision of £100,000 per annum for each of the three financial years 2005/06, 2006/07 and 2007/08.

**Personnel:** Existing provision.

**Land:** To be provided by Parish/Town Councils.

**Community Plan/BVPP references:** Nil.

**Relevant statutory powers:** Local Government Act 2000.

**Background papers:** None.

**Environmental/Human Rights Act/Crime and Disorder Act Implications:** The indications are that the provision of these facilities helps reduce youth nuisance and anti-social behaviour.

**Key Decision Reference (if required):** Not a key decision.