

# ***Report to the Council***

**Committee:** Cabinet

**Date:** 21 February 2006

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor J Knapman

**Item:** 5(a)

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## **1. SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES - 2005/06**

### **Recommending:**

- (1) That a DDF supplementary estimate of £9,000 be approved for 2005/06 in order to offset the loss of income and meet the costs associated with providing free car parking spaces at the Quaker Lane Car Park in Waltham Abbey;
  - (2) That a DDF supplementary estimate of £110,000 be approved for 2005/06 to enable a one-off payment to be made to the Council's waste management contractor, South Herts Waste Management, relating to end of lease vehicle costs and monthly payments to the contractor in relation to the collection of garden waste; and
  - (3) That a CSB supplementary estimate of £8,000 be approved for 2005/06 to enable graffiti removal services to be undertaken during the remainder of the municipal year.
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### **Quaker Lane Car Park, Waltham Abbey**

- 1.1 At its meeting on 13 December 2005, the Council resolved to provide 24 free car parking spaces at the Quaker Lane Car Park in Waltham Abbey.
- 1.2 At current levels of usage, this will result in a loss of income to the Council of approximately £18,500 per annum with the loss for the remainder of the current financial year estimated to be £4,625. In addition to the reduction in income, there are also costs arising during this financial year associated with making the necessary changes, which are estimated to be £4,000.
- 1.3 A bid has been made for CSB growth in the sum of £19,000 for 2006/07. A supplementary estimate of £9,000 is required for the current financial year.

### **Waste Management Contract**

- 1.4 The Council's waste management contractor, South Herts Waste Management (SHWM), has sought financial assistance from the Council in relation to a number of issues associated with the contract.
- 1.5 A review is to be undertaken by a new Cabinet Committee on the current financial position of the contract with SHWM. Without prejudicing that review it seems reasonably clear that the Council has some financial liability in respect of:
  - (a) costs associated with the return of leased vehicles to the lessors and the split responsibility between the company and the Council for meeting those costs; and

(b) the costs of providing a garden waste collection service above that contractually agreed.

- 1.6 A DDF supplementary estimate of £110,000 is sought for a one-off £50,000 payment relating to end of lease vehicle costs and a monthly payment of £20,000 over a three month period to deal with the collection of garden waste. These payments will be made on a without prejudice basis and be taken into account as part of the overall review process.

### **Graffiti Removal**

- 1.7 The budget for the removal of graffiti currently stands at £20,000 comprising £10,000 from the Council and £10,000 from the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund made available by the Home Office.
- 1.8 The level of demand for the service remains high and the current year's funding was fully utilised by the autumn 2005 resulting in the service being suspended.
- 1.9 The removal of graffiti and fly posting are included within Best Value Performance Indicator 199 (condition of street scene) in recognition of the priority given to local environmental conditions by the Government. It is clear that at the current spend the existing budget is not sufficient to meet the demand. A bid is being made to increase the budget for 2006/07 and a supplementary estimate is sought to enable the service to be resumed for the remainder of the current financial year.