

**WARDS AFFECTED:**  
ALL

**ITEM No .....**

**WEST AREA COMMITTEE**  
**15 MARCH 2006**

**JOINT REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTORS OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES  
AND LEISURE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**TRANSFORMING NEIGHBOURHOODS – CLEAN, GREEN AND PROUD**

**1 SUMMARY**

This report seeks to involve Area Committees in a variety of ways in improving the quality and appearance of the local environment.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Area Committee: -

- (i) identifies its top ten priorities that would make the greatest difference in improving the cleanliness, appearance and quality of the Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces;
- (ii) suggests specific actions and initiatives to address priorities;
- (iii) agrees the allocation of a £10,000 environmental improvement fund for 2006/7;
- (iv) agrees the allocation of £10,000 funding to support Neighbourhood Spectacolour activities;
- (v) suggests any local initiatives for inclusion in the 2006 Spring Clean Campaign;
- (vi) suggests locations for the provision of additional litter bins

**3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Improving the quality and appearance of the local environment is a local and national priority. Next to crime, 'liveability' issues are frequently identified by local people as their top priority.
- 3.2 It is for this reason that the Government has set Councils and their partners new liveability targets as their contribution towards achieving a national outcome of creating 'cleaner and greener' public spaces.
- 3.3 Despite good progress over the past two years, there is considerable scope for further improvement.
- 3.4 Area Committees have a key role to play – highlighting priorities, identifying solutions and actions, allocating resources, holding service providers to account for performance and, crucially, helping to promote personal responsibility and influence attitudes and behaviours.
- 3.5 Over the next 5 years, our ambition is to transform the image and appearance of the environment under the banner of 'clean, green and proud' (tbc). 2006 will be the start of a sustained programme of environmental improvements, building on the success of Nottingham in Bloom, the 100 Day Clean-up, Green Flag and other initiatives.

## 4 PROPOSALS

### 4.1 Identification of Priorities, actions and initiatives

Nottingham is committed to achieving a number of Neighbourhood Renewal and Local Area Agreement targets that are focussed on liveability issues. Specifically: -

- § Reducing levels of litter and detritus
- § Improving customer satisfaction with parks and open spaces
- § Reducing incidents of fly-tipping, graffiti and abandoned cars
- § Narrowing the gap between the 'best' and 'worst' wards.

Focusing on these targets, the Area Committee is asked to identify its top ten priorities for action along with any specific initiatives/solutions.

Subject to assessing the feasibility of different proposals, it is the intention that they are progressed with either mainstream resources or specific grant funding where appropriate.

### 4.2 Environmental Improvement Fund

In order to involve Area Committees more actively in the use of mainstream resources, £90,000 is being allocated from Street Scene budgets to create an environmental improvement fund.

Each Area Committee is being allocated £10,000 to support environmental improvements aligned to the target areas in 4.1. Part of the reason for doing this is to encourage operational staff to think about longer-term improvements as well as day to day maintenance. Therefore, it would be particularly valuable to identify ideas that improve the environment and reduce maintenance costs e.g. tackling a regular fly-tipping hot spot, designing out a litter trap etc.

### 4.3 Neighbourhood Spectacolour

£90,000 has been included as a revenue development item for 2006/7 and beyond - £10,000 per Area Committee to support initiatives that brighten up and smarten up the local environment. This is just one element of a wider package of measures that fall under the umbrella of Nottingham in Bloom and include: -

- § One million bulbs initiative
- § Improvements to gateways into the City
- § Wild flowers project

There are no specific guidelines attached to this £10,000 however, Area Committees could consider: -

- § Hanging baskets
- § Bedding schemes
- § Community/schools initiatives
- § (What else?)

#### 4.4 Spring Clean 2006

Following the success of previous years, it has been agreed to have an annual Spring Clean Campaign as a regular feature on the calendar.

This year's campaign will be just one part of a broader, 'clean, green and proud' programme and run from 3 April – 26 May 2006.

At the time of preparing this report, a draft programme is being developed and the Area Committee is invited to suggest items for inclusion within its 'patch'. Over the course of the campaign, it is proposed to focus on five main themes: -

- § Road, rail and water routes
- § Businesses
- § Students
- § Schools
- § Community clean-ups

#### 4.5 Litter Bins

Nottingham has significantly fewer litter bins than other comparable cities and it has been agreed to increase the existing stock by 1000 extra bins.

The allocation of extra bins will be based on a combination of factors including the current number of bins per household and cleanliness of different areas. A plan showing the location of existing bins is attached and the Committee is invited to identify locations for additional bins.

### 5 TIMESCALE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF PROPOSALS

	<b>Deadline</b>
Identification of top 10 priorities, actions and initiatives.	1 May 2006
Agree allocation of £10,000 environmental improvement fund.	1 June 2006
Agree allocation of £10,000 Neighbourhood Spectacolour fund.	10 April 2006
Suggest items for inclusion in Spring Clean campaign.	March Area Committee
Identification of locations for additional litter bins.	1 May 2006

### 6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The cost of providing 1000 bins and £10,000 per Area Committee for Neighbourhood Spectacolour is being met from revenue developments agreed as part of the 2006/7 budget.

6.2 The cost of the Spring Clean Campaign and environmental improvement fund is being met from mainstream resources.

## **7 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 Improving the quality of the environment has a major bearing on improving residents' quality of life overall, especially in disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

## **8 STRATEGIC AIMS**

8.1 This report is consistent with the Community Strategy and Corporate Plan objectives to transform the quality of life in local neighbourhoods.

## **9 List of background papers other than published works or those disclosing confidential or exempt information**

None

## **10 Published documents referred to in compiling this report**

- § Local Area Agreement
- § Neighbourhood Renewal Floor Targets

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