

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Cabinet **DATE:** 10 March 2014

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WARD(S): All

PORTFOLIO: Cllr Rob Anderson, finance & strategy
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Cllr Sohail Munawar, economic & social inclusion
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Cllr Natasa Pantelic, community & leisure

PART I **NON-KEY DECISION**

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND 2013/14

1 **Purpose of Report**

To inform cabinet of the council projects paid for by the community investment fund in 2013/14 and progress to date.

2 **Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action**

Cabinet is requested to resolve that the progress made to date on the community investment fund projects be noted.

3. **The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Corporate Plan**

The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy (SJWS) is the document that details the priorities agreed for Slough with partner organisations. The SJWS has been developed using a comprehensive evidence base that includes the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).

3a. **Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

This report and the projects detailed link to the following priorities in the Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy (SJWS):

- Health
- Regeneration and Environment
- Safer Communities

Projects within the community investment fund also contribute to the cross cutting themes of the strategy by encouraging civic responsibility and improving the image of the town.

4 **Other Implications**

(a) Financial

The community investment fund formed part of the agreed budget for 2013/14.

The amount budgeted for each project is as follows:

Description	Budget (£)
New and replacement litter bins	150,000
New signs for parks and open spaces	200,000
Multi-use games areas	358,000
Street name plate signs – 2 year programme	200,000
Pavement Parking Policy	350,000
Neighbourhood enhancements / walkabouts	250,000

There are no other financial implications from this report.

(b) Risk Management

Risk	Mitigating action	Opportunities
Legal	None	
Property	None	
Human Rights	None	
Health and Safety	None	
Employment Issues	None	
Equalities Issues	None	
Community Support	None	
Communications	None	
Community Safety	None	
Financial	None	
Timetable for delivery	None	
Project Capacity	None	
Other	None	

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

The report does not have any legal or human rights act implications.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

This report does not have any equalities implications and there is no identified need for the completion of an EIA.

5 **Supporting Information**

- 5.1 The community investment fund was introduced in 2012 to direct funding to smaller street level projects that benefit the local community and improved neighbourhoods.

5.2 In 2013/14 the council chose the following projects to be part of the community investment fund:

- new and replacement litter bins
- new signs for parks and open spaces
- new multi-use games areas
- replacement street name plate signs
- pavement parking policy
- other smaller projects to be bid for by councillors

5.3 New and replacement litter bins

Since April 2013, more than 200 new litter and recycling bins have been placed across the borough with another 150 to 200 being in place by the end of April 2014. The new bins have replaced old bins in high-litter areas as well as being placed in new areas suggested by councillors and local community members.

The old litter bins have been removed and donated to schools.

The new bins enable people to recycle on the go, reducing the council's costs for disposal of street litter.

The cost of collecting both the rubbish and recycling from the new bins has been absorbed by the council environmental contractor Amey leaving the community investment fund to be used entirely on the purchasing of the new bins.

5.4 New signs for parks and open spaces

The project for new parks signs was split into two parts – the first being large axe-head signs for major parks with main road frontages and the second being smaller, newly designed signs for smaller parks and open spaces.

The large axe-head style signs were to be the same as the ones already installed in Upton Court Park and Salt Hill Park, with the smaller newly designed signs being complimentary in shape and colour.

The intellectual property rights for the axe-head style signs are held by the company who originally designed them, bespoke for Slough and 14 more of these were ordered in June and installed late autumn and December at:

- Upton Court Park x 1
- Kedermister Park x 2
- Langley Memorial Ground x 2
- Mercian Recreation Ground x 2
- Cippenham Village Green x 1
- Kennedy Park x 1
- Monksfield Recreation Ground x 1
- Lascelles Park x 1
- Cippenham Recreation Ground x 1
- Chalvey Recreation Ground x 1
- Bloom park x 1

The large sign for Bloom Park is still to be installed when plans for the new entrance are complete.

A full tender was issued for the smaller signs with more than 60 signs being planned in parks across the borough.

The preferred bidder was chosen in December 2013.

Surveys have been done on the sites, the shape, structure and general wording has been agreed and all are expected to be in place by the end of March.

5.5 Multi-use games areas

Community investment funding is bringing four new multi-use games areas (MUGAs) to parks across the borough.

Three existing MUGAs are also being upgraded as part of the project.

MUGAs are designed to accommodate a number of different sports including football, basketball, netball and cricket and are informal and accessible facilities which encourage use by local residents.

The seven locations of the new and upgraded MUGAs are:

- Salt Hill Park – upgrade completed May 2013
- Lascelles Park – upgrade and refurbishment of tennis court area – works to start in March / April 2014
- Mercian Recreation Ground – upgrade in March / April 2014
- Chalvey Recreation Ground – new MUGA in April 2014
- Bowyer Recreation Ground – new MUGA in May 2014
- Maplin Park – new MUGA in May 2014
- Monksfield Recreation Ground – new skate park and flood lit MUGA in May 2014.

All have been designed to integrate with each other and existing park infrastructure, conserving the overall qualities of the existing park environment.

5.6 Street name plate signs

Just less than 700 street name plates have been replaced across Slough as part of the two year project from the community investment fund.

The council teamed up with Amey (formerly Enterprise) and Royal British Legion Industries (RBLI) to replace old concrete posts and rusty and tired name plates with new black posts and signs.

The project also included removing old signs, posts, bollards and other street furniture which were no longer need, clearing the streets of unnecessary clutter, improving the look of neighbourhoods and helping motorists and other road users by simplifying the signs.

RBLI employ ex-military service personal, many of whom have been injured during their service and were involved in the creation of the plates for high-post signs.

5.7 Pavement Parking

To prevent damage to grass verges and pavements, blocking of roads and to leave pavements for pedestrians, the council implemented a ward-by-ward approach to tackling pavement parking.

Central Ward was chosen as the first trial and a ban was put in place under an experimental traffic regulation order.

A blanket ban on pavement parking was introduced and, where pavements were wide enough, bays were marked so people could park with 'two-wheels-up'.

All junctions were protected with double yellow lines along with bends and blind bends.

Technical drawings are now being started for Wexham Ward with the same designs being used.

5.8 Neighbourhood enhancements / walkabouts

Some other smaller projects have also been funded from the community investment fund on the request of members and with the agreement of the assistant director of finance

- Digital information screens for community hubs
Three digital information screens – one each for Langley library and Chalvey and Britwell Centres – have been bought and were delivered on Friday and will be distributed to the hubs and positioned during March.
- Residents' parking bays
Across the town, areas which have suffered from limited on-street parking provision have been given special parking bays with more than 100 more parking

spaces put in over the past year and 50 more planned. Areas to have benefitted include Britwell, Cippenham and Langley.

- **Minor road schemes**

Some minor highway improvements and road schemes have been enabled by using community investment fund money. Residents of Hawthorne Crescent have a new and easier way of reaching their driveways and one area of Cippenham has a new drain to prevent surface water flooding of the road.

- Clean ups and site clearances
- Flytipping prevention measures including bollards and gates – in particular at Westfield Community Centre.
- 450 new trees planted across the town
- Shrub planting on road verges
- Fence works along the Uxbridge Road
- Painting of pedestrian railings

6 **Comments of Other Committees**

This report has not been considered by any other committees.

7 **Conclusion**

The community investment fund projects have been very successful this year and have met the aspirations of the fund – to improve the local environment on a neighbourhood level.

8 **Background Papers**

None.