

Witham Local Committee – Local Priorities and Action Plan for 2009-2010 Results of Workshop held on the 10th June 2009.

Portfolio Area: Customers and Communication
Report Presented by: Kitty Barrett – Locality and Rural Coordinator

Background Papers: “Local Committee Funding Priorities Report” to local Committees May 19th 2009
Corporate Implications: Please refer to table at end of report
Options: To consider the results of the facilitated group session at the extra meeting this was held on 10th June 2009. To approve or not approve the Local priorities, Topics and the allocation of Local Committee Budget for 2009/ 2010.
Risks: None identified

Executive Summary

At the Witham Local Committee Meeting 19th May 2009. It was agreed to hold an extra meeting to identify priorities, develop an action plan and allocate the budget for 2009/2010.

All members of the Committee were invited to submit 3 local priorities for their ward and at least one project to address a priority.

The work was carried out in facilitated groups and this report summarises the results of the sessions, which includes the priorities and an action plan for 2009-2010.

It makes proposals for the way forward which includes the need to identify appropriate monitoring arrangements for each project/theme.

The committee is being asked to consider the Priorities and the Topics within the Action Plan for approval before identifying a lead member for each of the approved Topics to ensure the actions are being progressed and to update the Local Committee.

Decision

To approve the Priorities and Topics within the Action Plan for 2009/20 and consider each project in turn in order to approve the action plan.

To identify the Lead Member for each of the approved Topics for 2009/2010

To identify a Member to work in a sub group to develop a funding system which complies with the Braintree District Local Compact for Funding and Procurement Code of Practice.

Witham Local Committee – Local Priorities and Action Plan for 2009-2010 Results of Workshop held on the 10th June 2009.

1. Introduction

At the Witham Local Committee Meeting 19th May 2009 it was agreed to hold an extra meeting to identify priorities, develop an action plan and allocate the budget for 2009/2010. This took place on the 10th June at Spring Lodge Centre between 2-4pm.

2. Identifying Priorities

Each ward member was invited to submit up to 3 priorities in their ward. These priorities were sorted into themes

Themes	Number of wards	Wards
Parking, Traffic and Highways	5	Witham Chipping Hill & Central Hatfield Peverel Bradwell, Silver End & Rivenhall Black Notley & Terling Kelvedon
Appearance and tidiness	4	Witham West Witham South Hatfield Peverel Bradwell, Silver End & Rivenhall
Crime and Anti-social behaviour	3	Witham West Witham Chipping Hill & Central Hatfield Peverel
Shops and local economy	3	Witham North Witham South Witham Chipping Hill & Central
Community Buildings	3	Black Notley & Terling Kelvedon Bradwell, Silver End & Rivenhall
Sports and leisure facilities	3	Black Notley & Terling Hatfield Peverel Kelvedon
Activities for young people	1	Witham West
Health	1	Witham Chipping Hill & Central

There was no decision regarding the 'top two or three' priorities for the Witham Area although the number of wards with priorities under each theme heading shows where there are common issues across the Witham Area.

3. Developing a Draft Action Plan

Each ward member was invited to submit up to 3 project proposals with estimated costs. The local priority (higher or lower) of each of these project proposals was discussed. These discussions were used as a basis for allocating the budget for 2009/2010. (See Appendix A Draft Action Plan)

4. Allocating the Budget

The table below is a summary of the budget for 2009/2010

	Capital	Revenue	Total
Budget 2009/10			
2008/09 b/fwd	20,449.68	71,870.00	92,319.68
2009/10 approved	45,000.00	18,000.00	63,000.00
Total	65,449.68	89,870.00	155,319.68
Unspent Commitments	53,552.00	0.00	53,552.00
Budget Remaining 09/10	11,897.68	89,870.00	101,767.68

The remaining budget for 2009/10 of £101,767.68 is available to be allocated to meet local priorities through funding local projects.

Topics were identified under each Theme and “Designated Funds” were allocated to some of the topics. Many of the projects submitted by members fell within the designated fund topic. These projects have been included in the Action Plan for approval in principle by the Local Committee.

Once any of the projects have been approved in principle the projects will need to be developed, and accurately costed and accounted for to record capital and revenue costs before finally being allocated funds.

Proposal: To approve the Priorities and Topics within the Action Plan for 2009/2010 and To consider each project in turn in order to approve the action plan.

5. General fund for Community Projects

There will be a need to comply with the principles set out in the Braintree District Local Compact for Funding and Procurement Code of Practice. The three principles are:

- Principle 1. The Funding process should be clear, transparent, open and consistent.
- Principle 2. Organisations in receipt of funding carry a responsibility to ensure it is administered and used in a manner which assures probity and value for money.
- Principle 3. Development of funding programmes should be done in consultation.

Proposal: That the Committee nominates a Member to work in a sub group to develop a funding system which complies with the Braintree District Local Compact for Funding and Procurement Code of Practice.

6. Implementing and Monitoring the Action Plan

Once the Priorities and the Draft Action Plan has been approved it will be important to ensure that each of the chosen projects are developed, costed and implemented. It is also important to keep the Local Committee updated regularly and successes of the local committee promoted.

Depending on the requirements of the task ahead the implementation of the project may need to be led by the appropriate body or organisation. This may be:

- The community it is going to benefit.
- The appropriate partner organisation.
- Braintree District Council.

However the project will need to be monitored to ensure that it is implemented and that the expected outcomes were met.

Proposal: That a lead member and a supporting officer is allocated to each of the Topics.

The lead member will drive the projects through, monitor its progress and update the local Committee.

The supporting officer will help develop and manage the project and budget allocated to that project.

Corporate Implications	
Financial:	A budget has been allocated against each Topic area in the Action Plan.
Legal:	S.2 of the Local Government Act 2000 provides every local authority with the power to do anything which it considers is likely to promote or improve the economic, social or environmental well-being of its area. This includes giving financial assistance to any person and therefore this power can be relied upon in order to operate a fund for community projects provided that it can be shown how the economic, social or environmental well-being is being improved or promoted. Any funding scheme for community projects will therefore need to demonstrate compliance with the terms of this power.
Equalities & Diversity:	There are none for this report but this would need to be considered for each Project.
Customer Impact:	Communities' needs are being considered.
Environment & Climate Change:	There are none
Consultation/Community Engagement:	Members of the Local Committee, will have engaged with their Communities to understand the issues and priorities in their own Wards
Key Decision:	No
Public/Private Report:	Public
Officer Contact:	Kitty Barrett
Designation:	Locality and Rural Coordinator
Ext No:	2746
Email:	kitty.barrett@braintree.gov.uk

Appendix A

WITHAM LOCAL COMMITTEE - DRAFT ACTION PLAN FOR 2009-2010

Parking, Traffic and Highways				
Topic and lead member	Allocated Cost (£)	Proposed Projects and estimated costs	Benefits	Proposing Ward
Provision of Speed Indicator Devices (SID) (<i>Designated Fund</i>)	15,000	SID in Faulkbourne village £5,500	More peaceful roads and fewer accidents	Black Notley & Terling
		A further SID in Hatfield Peverel £5,500	Currently the existing SID is proving to be very effective in informing (most) motorists to keep within the speed limit. However, its effect is reduced on the main roads once it is moved to another site, eg Church Road	Hatfield Peverel
Appearance and tidiness				
Topic and lead member	Allocated Cost (£)	Proposed Projects and estimated costs	Benefits	Proposing Ward
Improvements to the entrances to Witham Town	*5,000	Landscaping, planting and maintenance £5,000	Pride in the area. Improved image and desire to visit, shop and spend money in the town	Witham South
Improvements to the appearance of the local environment (<i>Designated fund</i>)	15,000	Resurfacing, landscaping and improved facilities at recycling area in Rivenhall – ECC estimated total cost of project is £31,500.00	Improved appearance of area and better opportunities for recycling	Bradwell, Silver End and Rivenhall
		Renew / repair all street and name plates in Witham £5,000		All Witham town wards
		Improve the appearance of industrial areas in Witham to make more attractive to investors £5,000	New businesses locating to Witham to provide local jobs	Witham South
		Additional litter collection targeted to identifiable hotspots (no cost suggested)	Reduced litter	Witham West

		Education through Citizenship curriculum to tell pupils that dropping litter is 'inappropriate' behaviour (no cost suggested)	Reduced litter	Witham Chipping Hill and Central
		Funds to enhance the village's street scene: in particular funding for litter collection/ graffiti removal £5000	One of BDC's key aims is to keep the environment "clean and green" thus the proposal fits clearly within this priority	Hatfield Peverel
Crime and Anti-social behaviour				
Topic and lead member	Allocated Cost (£)	Proposed Projects and estimated costs	Benefits	Proposing Ward
Provision of additional CCTV (<i>Designated fund</i>)	10,000	CCTV camera system extension to Hadfelda Square £7,000	CCTV has proven its effectiveness in reducing antisocial behaviour, criminal damage and graffiti, as well as facilitating apprehending miscreants. Residents also feel more secure	Hatfield Peverel
Community Buildings and Sports & Leisure Facilities				
Topic and lead member	Allocated Cost (£)	Proposed Projects and estimated costs	Benefits	Proposing Ward
Improved sports and community facilities (<i>Designated fund</i>)	20,000	Energy efficiency audits for village halls and community buildings £280 per audit (RCCE) – 11 halls in Witham area villages	Clear guidance on how to reduce energy usage to save money and be more efficient. Information about potential renewable energy projects for village halls and community buildings.	Bradwell, Silver End and Rivenhall
		New heating system for White Notley Village Hall £15,000	The heating is old and now needs replacing and will add to the attraction of the Hall for various events and bring in more revenue.	Black Notley & Terling
		Extension of The Institute in Kelvedon (a contribution to total costs)	Enlarged hall needed to accommodate audience at events where they are currently restricted	Kelvedon

		Extension of Kelvedon & Feering Cricket Club pavilion (a contribution to total cost)	This is a flourishing cricket club where both boys and girls are taught how to play the game. The club is in the process of making a second pitch and needs a larger pavilion	Kelvedon
		New changing rooms and toilets for Terling Football Club (a contribution to total costs)	The football club will be able to continue. As far as I can remember there has always been a football club in Terling. It will ensure that “young people have things to do”.	Black Notley & Terling

Health

Topic and lead member	Allocated Cost (£)	Proposed Projects and estimated costs	Benefits	Proposing Ward
Improved local access to health services	*3,000	Lobbying for a minor injuries clinic and local outpatients clinic £3,000 per year for 3 years	People’s time saved (and possibly lives saved) reduced travel costs, CO2 saved, peace of mind and well-being.	Witham Chipping Hill and Central
Provision of new allotments <i>(Designated fund)</i>	15,000	Expansion of the pool of allotments in the area	In its survey across BDC’s towns and parishes, the BDC Allotment Task and Finish Group found considerable unsatisfied demand for more allotments. Educational and mental health benefits	Hatfield Peverel

General Community Fund

Topic and lead member	Allocated Cost (£)	Proposed Projects and estimated costs	Benefits	Proposing Ward
General fund for community projects	15,000			All wards

2009/10 budget remaining	101,768
Total action plan	98,000
Budget still to be allocated	3,768

Other (lower priority) Parking, Traffic and Highways proposals not within designated fund topics

Proposed Projects and estimated costs	Benefits	Proposing Ward
Survey of parking problems near school in Silver End (no cost suggested)	Improved appearance of conservation area, cars parked safely, road accessible to emergency vehicles	Bradwell, Silver End and Rivenhall
Traffic Management Strategy for Witham to reduce congestion (no cost suggested)	Reduction of through HGV traffic, parking transgressions, congestion, traffic pollution and improved road safety. Scheme to deliver 100% total satisfaction.	Witham Chipping Hill and Central
Residents Permit Parking Scheme (no cost suggested)	Residents in Kelvedon High St, Feering Hill and other streets where there is no on-street parking between 11 and 12 or 2.30 and 4.30 will be able to park outside their houses without getting a ticket	Kelvedon

Other (lower priority) General proposals not within designated fund topics

Proposed Projects and estimated costs	Benefits	Proposing Ward
Broaden and improve variety and occupancy of shops in town centre. Action: in conjunction with BDC/ECC economic development (staff develop a town marketing approach to put to prospective developers) £5000	Greater convenience for residents, Local business benefits, CO2 emissions reduced, jobs created	Witham Chipping Hill and Central

