

Growth Area Funding Update		Agenda No: 7
<p>Corporate Priority: Business is encouraged and the local economy prospers</p> <p>Report presented by: Zoe Myddelton Regeneration and Economic Development Officer</p> <p>Report prepared by: Zoe Myddelton Economic Development and Regeneration Manager</p>		
<p>Background Papers: Growth Area Funding Guidance; Chelmsford and Braintree Growth Area Funding Programme of Development; Correspondence from CLG Previous LDF panel minutes</p>		Public Report : Yes
<p>Options: To note progress made on the programme of schemes.</p>		Key Decision: No
<p>Executive Summary: Growth Area Funding from the Government has allocated to Braintree District Council Capital funding of £4,037,634 and Revenue funding of £231,860. . This report provides an update on projects being enabled through GAF funding.</p>		
<p>Decision: Members to note progress made on Growth Area Fund programme.</p>		
<p>Purpose of Decision: To ensure the Council is aware of the ongoing commitments made to Growth Area Funding projects.</p>		
Corporate implications		
Financial:	This is additional funding to the council to form all or part funding for capital and revenue projects	
Legal:	None	
Equalities/Diversity	The funding facilitates the delivery of new jobs, infrastructure and housing.	
Customer Impact:	Projects funded by GAF will benefit the people of the Braintree District, those working here and local businesses.	
Environment and	This will need to be assessed for individual projects	

Climate Change:	supported by GAF.
Consultation/Community Engagement:	
Risks:	
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1.1 Total Confirmed Funding 2008-2011

Capital - £4,037,633.95

Revenue - £231,860.45

In total to date **£4.26m has been committed to capital and revenue projects.**

Total GAF expenditure to date is £1,095,086,277 (£920,322 capital and £174,764 revenue)

1.2 Since December, £542,090 has been spent and progress has been made on some key projects, including:

- a) *John Ray Park* - Phase 1 is complete and there will be a celebration of the opening of this stage organised for the near future. Phase 2 (between the weir and the Rose Hill entrance) - BDC have allocated additional capital of up to £106K to allow this phase to be completed to the same standard as Phase 1. This amount would be reduced accordingly if the bid to the ECC cycling infrastructure allocation is successful.
- b) *Premdor/Rockways workhub* - Premdor have appointed a house builder to develop the site. It is anticipated that the Masterplan will be prepared by June 2012, followed by a planning application soon after, development proposals for the site, include the provision of the work-hub and some small business units.
- c) *Springwood Drive extension* – Designs for extension at Springwood Drive have been prepared by the architect and these will be discussed with the newly merged BDS/BEAU organisation in June for sign off and to proceed to a planning application. The new design provides up to 24 units and includes meeting rooms and hot desking/breakout space.
- d) *BDS/ BEAU merger* – On 29th March 2012, the boards of both BDS and BEAU signed to agree the formation of a new organisation which will provide business start up advice and incubator units for the District as one company. The first meeting of the new board took place on 4th April 2012 and new Managing Director started on 15th May 2012.
- e) *Motts Lane footbridge* – Cabinet have agreed to the freehold transfer of the land for the bridge subject to a covenant. An open day was arranged with Witham Industrial Watch in February to discuss the plans and proposals. Network Rail and BDC officers attended. The downgrading order from a Bridleway has been referred to the Planning Inspectorate for determination. BDC have submitted their statement of case to the Planning Inspector for this. The draft funding agreement has now been submitted to Network Rail for comment.

- f) *Freeport foot and cycle bridge* – A contractor has been appointed - 'Walkers'. Works have commenced onsite with vegetation clearance and constructing the path on either side of the bridge. The bridge is currently being built off site. Due to the embargo on the railway line because of Olympics the bridge cannot be lifted in until after this. BDC have paid ECC £257,000 in April in accordance with the funding agreement. A further final payment will be paid on completion of the scheme.

- g) *Witham Station Access* - A meeting was held in March with ECC Highway Officers, Greater Anglia, NCP and BDC Officers to discuss a way forward. ECC are due to publish adoption notices shortly. It was agreed revisions are required to the design of the access, BDC engineers are finalising the plans, these will shortly be submitted to Greater Anglia, NCP and ECC Highways for approval. Following this, a planning application will be prepared and submitted.

- h) *Braintree Rail Loop socio-economic survey* - A draft final report has been prepared by Mott Mac Donald. Officers are currently reading through the report and absorbing the content. This progress has been slightly delayed due to gaining access to data from Network Rail and Greater Anglia. The findings of the report will be presented to Councillors, Cabinet, Parish Councils, MP, ward members and other interested parties.