

## ACTION TAKEN BY CABINET MEMBER (EXECUTIVE FUNCTION)

**Subject** Proposals for £1m Priorities Fund

**Cabinet Member** Leader of the Council

**Date of Decision** 10 April 2014

**Date of decision comes into effect** 17 April 2014

<b>Summary</b>	This report provides formal approval for the specific proposals identified under the £1m priorities fund.
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**Officer Contributors** Gary Hussein, Finance Manager, Commissioning Group

**Status (public or exempt)** Public

**Wards affected** All

**Enclosures** Annex A – Full detail of specific proposals

**Reason for exemption from call-in (if appropriate)** N/A

**Key decision** Yes

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## **1. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS**

- 1.1 Cabinet, 4<sup>th</sup> November 2013 (Decision Item 5) – Business Planning 2014/15 – 2015/16 - To request that Cabinet come forward with proposals against the £1m set out in 9.4.6, with specific proposals to be agreed as part of the quarterly monitoring report to Cabinet Resources Committee
- 1.2 Cabinet, 25<sup>th</sup> February 2014 (Decision Item 7) – Business Planning 2014/15 – 2015/16 – Final approval of the Council's budget

## **2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 2.1 The Council's strategic priorities up to 2015/16, as reflected in the Corporate Plan, are as follows:
  - To create the right environment to promote responsible growth, development and success across the borough;
  - To support families and individuals that need it – promoting independence, learning and well-being; and
  - To improve the satisfaction of residents and businesses with the London Borough of Barnet as a place to live, work and study.
- 2.2 The proposals identified are in line with supporting the Council's corporate plan.

## **3. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

- 3.1 The proposals will be managed and mainly delivered through in house delivery units or through the CSG Estates team and therefore risk of non-delivery of projects is minimal.
- 3.2 All grants will be made subject to the council's Standard Conditions of Grant Aid, with which applicants are required to signify their compliance by signing a written undertaking. Amongst other things, the conditions cover how awards are spent, allowing council officers a right of access to proof thereof, and requiring notification of any change in an organisation's circumstances which significantly affect its finances, operations or grant entitlement. The council reserves the right to withhold payment of any approved grant, or to demand full or partial repayment, if it appears that an organisation has failed to comply with any of the conditions attached to the award.

## **4. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 4.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council and all other organisations exercising public functions on its behalf must have due regard to the need to: a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any

other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act; b) advance equality of opportunity between those with a protected characteristic and those without; c) promote good relations between those with a protected characteristic and those without. The 'protected characteristics' referred to are: age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex and sexual orientation. With respect to a) the 'protected characteristics' also include marriage and civil partnership.

4.2 Having 'due regard' means: (i) consciously thinking about the three aims as part of the decision-making process; (ii) that an incomplete or erroneous appreciation of the duties will mean that due regard has not been given to them; and (iii) that the duty must be exercised in substance, with rigour and with an open mind.

4.3 This is additional money being directed towards activities to support young people and to respond to concerns raised in the residents perception survey. As such this is likely to have a positive benefit.

## **5. USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (Finance, Procurement, Performance & Value for Money, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

5.1 The total fund allocated for the specific priority fund proposals is £1m. This was identified within the Business Planning Report 2014/15 – 2015/16.

5.2 The funding stream is due to the allocation of savings as a result of signing the CSG / Re contracts and the Council tax freeze grant.

5.3 The full list of proposals can be seen in Annex A. A summary breakdown of the proposals is seen below:

£609,000 Street scene (Town centre and Parks improvements & Seasonal parking contribution)

£155,000 Education & Skills (Career pathway in retail)

£160,000 Family Services (A safer Burnt Oak for young people)

£100,000 Voluntary & Community sector (Community Focus move)

**£1.024m Total**

5.4 The drawdown for the proposals will be from the Service Development Reserve

## **6. LEGAL ISSUES**

6.1 None

## **7. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS**

- 7.1 Council Constitution: (Responsibility for Functions) — paragraph 4.3 enables Cabinet Members to discharge the executive functions that fall within their portfolio, whether or not they are also delegated to officers except for matters specifically reserved to Council, Cabinet or cabinet committees.
- 7.2 Responsibility for functions part 4.2 states the Leader may discharge any function of the executive.

## **8. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 8.1 The Business Planning Report 2014/15 – 2015/16 highlighted that it is the administration's policy to allocate the use of savings. The £1m for other priority projects was within the savings identified.
- 8.2 Within the report it requested that a formal list of proposals were to be set out against the £1m agreed as part of the monitoring report to Cabinet Resources Committee.
- 8.3 The full list of proposals were not fully complete at the time of publishing the Qtr 3 Performance & Monitoring Report, and due to the urgency to start the works a Leader DPR is seeking this approval with an update to be provided in the Qtr 4 Performance & Monitoring Report.

## **9. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 9.1 None

## **10. DECISION OF THE CABINET MEMBER(S)**

**I authorise the following action**

- 10.1 Approval of the list of specific proposals for the priority fund in line with the Business Planning Report 2014/15 – 2015/16.

**Signed**                      **The Leader of the Council**

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**Date**                        **10 April 2014**

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## Annex A - Full detail of specific proposals

Ward	Delivery Unit	Item	TOTAL	
All	Streetscene	Street Trees to be planted in strategic locations, particularly in Town centres to replenish stock levels: 1. St Judes storm loses of 181 2. Vacant tree pits approx 350	300,000	
Brunswick Park	Streetscene	Brunswick Park	40,000	
East Barnet	Streetscene	Brighten up the town centre with annual Christmas Tree and replanting of rose bed	4,000	
Coppetts	Streetscene	Bethune Recreation Ground	17,000	
West Hendon	Streetscene	Hendon Park	40,000	
Coppetts	Streetscene	Friary Park	50,000	
All	Streetscene	Town centres and shopping parades	70,000	
Finchley Church End	Streetscene	Finchley Church End Ward	13,000	
All	Streetscene	Seasonal Parking	75,000	
			<b>Total Streetscene</b>	<b>609,000</b>
All	Education & Skills	Retail Skills/Let's Talk Shop	155,000	<b>Total Education &amp; Skills</b> 155,000
Burnt Oak	Family Services	A safer Burnt Oak for young people	160,000	<b>Total Family Services</b> 160,000
Coppetts	Estates	Voluntary & Community Sector - Friary House refit	50,000	
All	Community Barnet	Voluntary & Community Sector	50,000	
			<b>Total VCS</b>	<b>100,000</b>
			<b>1,024,000</b>	<b>1,024,000</b>