



Environment Committee

15 July 2015

Title	Backlog of Highway Works for Area Committees
Report of	Commissioning Director - Environment
Wards	All
Status	Public
Enclosures	Appendix A: Backlog
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Summary

This report relates to the backlog of historical highway works matters generated through Area Committees and those which are not in the current 2015/16 programme and currently unfunded will be progressed and funded by the LBB capital allocation of £1m budget.

Recommendations

1. That the Committee approve progression of the unfunded works in the backlog list totalling £705,000 to be funded from the capital allocation of £1m.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 The recent review of the highways programme has identified a number of long outstanding highway related matters which have been generated through Area Committees and have never been progressed for a variety of reasons, but mainly due to lack of funding.
- 1.2 This historical “backlog” list has been compiled from a number of sources, namely requests from previous Area Committees and, although not exhaustive, indicates the current status of each request.
- 1.3 A number are already programmed and funded as shown in Appendix A, but those unfunded will form the basis of the work to be undertaken with the £1 million budget allocation from capital funding. The list includes a number of requests which require initial investigation, feasibility, preliminary or detailed design, but the majority of the funding will be used to implement the works.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The recommendation requests approval for the allocation of a total of £1m to tackle a range of historical matters listed in Appendix A generated through the Area Committees and which are currently unfunded.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

This section of the report does not apply to this report.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 The issues from the backlog list will be added to the future work programmes for the Area Committee and the Environment Committee, and the work programmes of each Committee adjusted to reflect the process from 2016/17 onwards.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 The recommendations set out in this report further the principles of the Corporate Plan 2015-2020 by seeking to ensure that Area Committee operations and the resources they allocate improve quality of life for people in each local area, support communities to help themselves, and work efficiently to ensure value for money.
- 5.1.2 The decision will contribute to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy’s aim to improve wellbeing in the community by helping local people get issues in their area resolved more effectively and giving Area Committees and Residents’ Forums the tools they need to ensure this.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

5.2.1 The £1m of funding required for these works is in the capital programme and was agreed by Full Council in March 2015.

5.3 Legal and Constitutional References

5.3.1 The Council's Constitution (Responsibly for Functions, Annex A) gives the Environment Committee certain responsibilities related to the street scene including pavements and all classes of roads, parking provision and enforcement, and transport and traffic management including agreement of the London Transport Strategy Local Implementation Plan.

5.4 Risk Management

5.4.1 The proposals set out in this report and its appendices are designed in part to mitigate the risks of not resolving the issues identified with Area Committee and Residents' Forum operations. In particular, any continuing lack of action in resolving the outstanding issues identified by Area Committees – particularly in relation to highways schemes – risks damaging the reputation of the Area Committees and the Council as a whole as local people's expectations have been raised and have neither been met (through delivery of the schemes) or managed (through clear communication about their status).

5.5 Equalities and Diversity

5.5.1 Street design should be inclusive, providing for all people regardless of age or ability. There is a general duty for public authorities to promote equality under the 2010 Equality Act. There is also a specific obligation for those who design, manage and maintain buildings and public spaces to ensure that disabled people play a full part in benefiting from, and shaping, an inclusive built environment.

Designers will be required to refer to Inclusive Mobility, The Principles of Inclusive Design and Guidance on the Use of Tactile Paving Surfaces (1999) in order to ensure that the designs are inclusive.

5.5.2 The 2010 Equality Act outlines the provisions of the Public Sector Equalities Duty which requires Public Bodies to have due regard to the need to:

1. eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
2. advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups
3. foster good relations between people from different groups

The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into day to day business and keep them under review in decision making, the design of policies and the delivery of services. As part of the consultation development a separate stakeholder management plan is being developed to ensure that equalities issues are incorporated into the policy development, consultation and implementation.

5.6 Consultation and Engagement

- 5.6.1 The backlog list has been presented and reviewed by the Area Committees and accepted as draft list of historical matters.
- 5.6.2 Members, particularly the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Area Committees and Residents' Forums and the Chair, Vice-Chair and Opposition Spokesman of the Community Leadership Committee, have been consulted throughout the review and the development of the recommendations.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 Hendon Area Committee 2 July 2015 – Review of Area Committee operations and delegated budgets.
- 6.2 Chipping Barnet Area Committee 2 July 2015 – Review of Area Committee operations and delegated budgets.
- 6.3 Finchley and Golders Green Area Committee 2 July 2015 – Review of Area Committee operations and delegated budgets.