



CABINET – 29TH MAY 2012

SUBJECT: MAINTENANCE OF COMMUNITY ASSETS FUNDING 2012/2013

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval for the allocation of funding from the Maintenance of Community Assets Budget for 2012/2013.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The key proposals in this report are listed in tabular form in paragraph 4.7

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

3.1 Building Better Lifestyles

To improve the look and feel of our streets.

- 3.2 The report links to the efficient use of funding provided for the Maintenance of Community Assets, as reported to Cabinet and Council in the 2006/2007 Revenue Budget report in February 2006

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The Council's policy of maintaining community assets has been funded in previous years from the Deprivation Grant, which the Authority receives from WAG. Similar funding has been made available in the current year.
- 4.2 The £400,000 budget has in previous years been allocated to a number of different community orientated projects. For example, the type of work carried out by the NCS Community Response Team includes the repair of seats, the replacement of vandalised street furniture and hard landscaping and other small items of maintenance work. Works of this type are well received by Members and the community because they attend to items that would not normally be picked up in other mainstream budgets. In addition, high profile schemes such as repainting of street furniture in town centres along with 'Gateway Corridor' improvement projects have helped the county borough become a more attractive place for residents and visitors alike. Some of the budget has recently been allocated for funding the maintenance of schemes that have been initiated by the community (e.g. playgrounds, MUGAs, etc) and is very important where day to day maintenance issues are not otherwise provided for.
- 4.3 The community partnership allocation has helped to take forward small community focused projects, empowering local community groups and at the same time adding to the sense of a well kept county borough. It is proposed that the allocations for the types of projects outlined above continue for 2012/13 along with a number of other project headings that are outlined in

more detail below and are set out in the table in paragraph 4.7.

- 4.4 The proposed continued revenue support funding of the Invasive Species Officer will assist in the ongoing employment of this officer who has proved to be extremely effective in the work that he is conducting. It is proposed that a 'Landscape Crime Police Officer' post is also part funded from this budget to show the Council's commitment to resolving ongoing problems encountered in rural areas of the county borough.
- 4.5 Funding will also be directed at improving our main routes into the county borough and two key roundabouts at entrance points to attractions in the county borough will be enhanced. Our main towns will receive an allocation to ensure that they continue to reflect the ambition of the council to keep its county borough clean and attractive. A number of smaller projects will also benefit from this funding if Members approve.
- 4.6 The proposed allocation of this budget results from an internal bidding round from relevant functional areas of service. These are laid out in more detail in the table in paragraph 4.7 below. It should be noted that this budget complements similar types of work funded from the Enhanced Maintenance Budget and also from the Area Forum Budget. The Officer Maintenance Group, chaired by the Head of Public Protection seeks to co-ordinate the expenditure of budgets in all of these related areas.
- 4.7 The proposals for the expenditure of the funds are as follows:

PROPOSAL	Allocation £000,s
Community Response Team (NCS) plus materials	100
Urban Renewal (town centre areas of Caerphilly, Bargoed, Risca, and Blackwood)	40
Community Partnerships (items identified by Community Regeneration staff)	70
Litter bins - improvement or replacement	15
Invasive Plant Species Officer - contribution to salary	15
Parks to be allocated to Parks and Cemeteries	50
Living Environment LEQ Partnership	25
Allotment Strategy Implementation	8
Climate Change Woodland	8
Police Officer Post: Landscape Crime – contribution to salary	10
Route Enhancements	24
Roundabout Enhancements	25
Maintenance budget for community schemes	10
TOTAL	400

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no potential equalities implications of this report and its recommendations on groups or individuals who fall under the categories identified in Section 6 of the Council's Strategic Equality Plan, therefore no Equalities Impact Assessment Questionnaire has been completed. Assessments can be carried out however where relevant on individual projects as they are developed, as this will be of more practical benefit to any affected group or individual.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no financial implications other than those referred to in Section 4 above

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no personnel implications

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 Internal consultations have been carried out with service areas referred to within the report and also, more specifically, with the consultee list outlined at the end of the report. All responses received have been reflected in the report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Cabinet is asked to approve the suggested allocation of funds referred to within this report.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 In order to undertake works where the need is evident.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 The allocation of these funds is a Cabinet function
Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000

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