

27 September 2012**Agenda Item: 6****REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR HIGHWAYS****LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME (LIS) UPDATE 2012/13****Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide an update to Committee on the 2012/13 Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) Programme and seek Committee approval for the Local Improvement Schemes which have not received previous approval (as detailed in paragraph 13 of this report).

Information and Advice

2. The LIS initiative was developed by Nottinghamshire County Council in 2004 to promote a wide range of environmental improvements across the County for the benefit of local communities. The initiative has been an unrivalled success with a significant number of high profile developments being delivered across the County. The programme has been widely recognised and has earned the County Council credit as well as many accolades and awards locally, regionally and nationally.
3. This year sees schemes being delivered under three headings; Environmental Improvements, Heritage and Conservation and Local Identity projects, which includes play areas, skateparks, noticeboards and signage. Funding from the allocated £3 million county capital block has been apportioned in accordance with the demand generated by the scheme suggestion process and where possible external match funding sought to add value to the programme. This year funding has been secured from Waste Recycling Environmental (WREN), English Heritage, Heritage Lottery Fund, District, Town and Parish Councils and Private Industry contributions including MooreLarge, the UK's largest distributor of bicycles.
4. During 2012/13 all of the 54 electoral divisions have benefited from one or more schemes being delivered or developed for implementation in 2013/14. This year's programme aims to deliver around 200 Schemes countywide. To date 62 schemes have been completed and a 17% spend level recorded. Given the nature of the programme and bidding process the majority of spend is expected to be incurred in the fourth quarter.

5. The LIS initiative delivers a countywide programme to improve the environment of Nottinghamshire through the development of local improvement schemes that have been promoted by the community and are endorsed by local County Council Members. The quality of our local environment is an important issue that can have knock on effects on several aspects of society. Left unchecked, neglected neighbourhoods affect the perception of the local community which can lead to anti-social behaviour, disorder, vandalism and eventually in some cases crime. There is also a direct link between our local environment quality and the quality of life in communities.
6. The LIS programme strives to improve local areas by making a positive impact with small scheme investments making a tremendous difference, which can also lead to many additional community benefits. Working closely with end users of facilities and undertaking community consultation the LIS programme often enables horizons to be extended and schemes to be embraced and supported especially in terms of on-going maintenance and acting as a catalyst to other community activities. Our play park schemes programme clearly demonstrates many of these elements, managing expectations, using quality design and materials combined with community engagement and well managed delivery.
7. The current scope of the initiative focuses and functions on the following criteria:
 - a). The LIS programme's effective, flexible and unique formula will continue to support a wide range of projects under the broad headings of,
 - i. Better neighbourhoods (landscaping, footway improvements, conservation of local distinctiveness, and general refurbishments),
 - ii. Better countryside (safeguard biodiversity and strengthen rural character),
 - iii. Better business (regeneration of local shops and businesses),
 - iv. Better leisure and tourism (promote the attractiveness and accessibility of places of interest)
 - v. Better awareness (promotion of local 'pride of place').
 - b). Project selection has been re-prioritised to focus on a number of areas considered to have been under-represented to date. The areas that will be promoted are;
 - i. Rural initiatives (e.g. village distinctiveness / village gateway projects),
 - ii. Market Town projects that improve the centre's attractiveness and economic viability.
 - iii. Projects that develop greater local pride and responsibility for the environment. (e.g. conservation projects, heritage projects and the development of pocket parks),
 - iv. Projects that support wider local community involvement and accessibility, (e.g. skateparks, local identity, and play schemes),
 - v. Projects that encourage economic and cultural regeneration and tourism.

Progress on delivery of the programmes

8. All schemes that were approved at the Cabinet meeting on the 14th March 2012 that proved eligible have now been scheduled for delivery and these are included on the attached appendices. In line with this direction the funding has been allocated to the 2012/13 programme and is currently split as shown below between the following headings:

Heritage and Conservation	33%
Local Identity projects	36%
Environmental Improvements	31%

9. Additional schemes that have subsequently been added to the programme will be programmed as soon as possible once feasibility, design work etc. has been completed and individual County Council Members are being provided with quarterly email update reports on the schemes which fall within their divisions. These highlight reports also include proposed delivery and completion dates.

10. The LIS event held in May again proved highly successful with more than 300 community representatives attending. The event showcased LIS projects undertaken and the work of the authority. The day honoured people from across the county who had championed projects in their communities. The event also received excellent media coverage with all the main newspapers and radio stations running follow up articles. New areas of the LIS programme were showcased including:

- ▽ Nottinghamshire's Famous Sons and Daughters, a web based interactive project showcasing hundreds of accomplished individuals who were born or lived in Nottinghamshire, which will be hosted on the NCC website.
- ▽ From the 'Trent to the Trenches' – A multifaceted project being undertaken in collaboration with Nottingham City Council in the run up to commemorating the centenary of the First World War in 2014.
- ▽ Nottinghamshire's Roll of Honour – Working with an extensive network of trusted volunteers countywide to create a web based historical casualty record honouring all the county's war dead. The project is at a research and record stage. Approximately 12,000 individuals are thought to have lost their lives from the towns and parishes of Nottinghamshire. The information received will be verified and hosted on the County Council's internet pages. The site is currently being developed in conjunction with the Imperial War Museum who have expressed interest in purchasing our services to update their systems. The data will provide a unique and valuable research and information tool for the public and the application developed will be a market leader.
- ▽ Skateparks and BMX Tracks - The demand for these types of schemes is gathering pace across the county and LIS has responded.

Skateparks and BMX tracks provide a healthy and creative outlet for many different user groups and spectators. They can bring all corners of the community together and create an opportunity for our youngsters to develop their social and life skills in an environment they feel comfortable in. Five new sustainable facilities, which have all attracted external funding and used local labour for delivery have been completed in the first two quarters of the year, with a further five programmed to be in by the end of the financial year.

11. Scheme development work is underway for next year's programme (year 10) as this year's application process comes to a close on the 30th September 2012. Application levels are extremely healthy and of a good standard. From its inception one of the key targets for LIS was to draw in third party funding that otherwise would not have been invested in the County. External investment has been secured this year from Waste Recycling Environmental (WREN), English Heritage, Heritage Lottery Fund, Haro, District, Town and Parish Councils, Community Trusts and Private contributions. The external funding secured since 2009 is as detailed below.

Year	External Funding
2009/10	£1.3m
2010/2011	£1.4m
2011/2012	£0.98m
TOTAL	£3.7m

Every effort will continue to be made to draw in additional funding in the future. This will require the consideration of new funding sources such as accessing social funds as identified by private organisations.

12. Next year's LIS event will take place on the 7th March 2013 at the Cedric Ford Pavilion on the Newark and Notts Showground. Commencing at 10:30 this year's event will be a full day enabling specialist workshops sessions to run to facilitate a better understanding of the range of products, expertise and help available to communities via the LIS programme.

13. Following the approval of the LIS Capital Programme at Cabinet on the 14th March 2012, further development of the programme has been undertaken resulting in some additional schemes being developed for inclusion in this year's programme. Feasibility and design has now been investigated for the fourteen schemes listed below in readiness for inclusion in the year 9 programme.

- ✓ Pedestrian crossing - Church Lane, Cropwell Bishop
- ✓ Skatepark - Rushcliffe Country Park
- ✓ Tourism Signage Programme - Cresswell Craggs
- ✓ Skatepark - Hickings Lane (phase 2), Stapleford
- ✓ Allotment - Stanton Hill
- ✓ Windmill restoration - Blidworth
- ✓ Environmental improvements - Scrooby

- ✓ Community Gardens - Mansfield Woodhouse
- ✓ Tree planting - Norwell
- ✓ Skatepark - Ladybay
- ✓ Graveyard survey and mapping - Coddington
- ✓ Outdoor classroom - Kinoulton
- ✓ Community archaeology - Mattersey
- ✓ Building restoration - Marnham

14. Schemes which have recently been completed in this quarter include:

- ✓ Defibrillator Phone Box – Normanton on Soar.
- ✓ Zebra Crossing – Candleby Lane School, Cotgrave
- ✓ Skatepark – Blyth
- ✓ Skatepark – Clarborough
- ✓ Skatepark – Stapleford
- ✓ Footways – Peel Street, Hucknall
- ✓ Heritage trails – Newark
- ✓ Fitness and playpark – Carlton
- ✓ Play park – Burton Joyce
- ✓ Notice boards – Nuthall
- ✓ Footpath and lighting – Radcliffe on Trent
- ✓ Stonework restoration – Daybrook
- ✓ Community exhibition space – Clayworth
- ✓ Lych gate restoration – Averham
- ✓ Bandstand restoration – Langold
- ✓ Disabled access improvements – Patchills, Mansfield
- ✓ Community orchard – Bleasby
- ✓ Himalayan Balsam removal – Meden Vale
- ✓ Jubilee bench & bin – Tollerton
- ✓ Shop front improvement scheme – Tollerton
- ✓ Lighting – Dock Road, Worksop

Conclusions

15. The LIS capital block programmes detailing the proposed schemes to be delivered during 2012/13 are attached as appendices 1, 2 and 3 respectively to this report. Scheme delivery is subject to the necessary consultation, statutory undertakings and other issues arising from detailed scheme investigation, design and consultation.

Statutory and Policy Implications

16. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below.

Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) It is recommended that Committee note the above and the attached appendices.
- 2) It is recommended that Committee approve the proposed additional LIS capital schemes as detailed in paragraph 13 of this report.

Andrew Warrington
Service Director Highways

For any enquiries about this report please contact:
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Constitutional Comments (SHB.20.08.12)

17. Committee has power to decide the Recommendation.

Financial Comments (MA 21/08/2012)

18. The financial implications are as detailed in the report and appendices, and will be contained within the overall Environment and Sustainability Committee Capital Programme for 2012/13

Background Papers

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All