



Democratic Services

Location: Phase II
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**To: COUNCILLOR MARTIN GODDARD
CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE**

**COUNCILLOR EDDIE LAVERY
CABINET MEMBER FOR RESIDENTS' SERVICES**

c.c. All Members of the Residents' Services Select Committee
c.c. Helena Webster, Place Directorate
c.c. Perry Scott, Corporate Director of Place
c.c. Ward Councillors for Belmore

Date: 13 September 2022

Non-Key Decision request

Form D

CAPITAL RELEASE REPORT (SEPTEMBER 2022)

DEPARTMENT: PLACE DIRECTORATE

SERVICE AREA / PROGRAMME: Town Centre & Shopping Parades initiative 2022-23

RELEASE NO: 1

Dear Cabinet Members

Attached is a report requesting that a decision be made by you as an individual Cabinet Member. Democratic Services confirm that this is not a key decision, as such, the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 notice period does not apply.

You should take a decision **on or after Wednesday 21 September 2022** in order to meet Constitutional requirements about publication of decisions that are to be made. You may wish to discuss the report with the Corporate Director before it is made. Please indicate your decision on the duplicate memo supplied, and return it to me when you have made your decision. I will then arrange for the formal notice of decision to be published.

James Jones
Democratic Services

Title of Report: Town Centre & Shopping Parades initiative 2022-23 - RELEASE NO: 1

Decision made:

Reasons for your decision: (e.g. as stated in report)

Alternatives considered and rejected: (e.g. as stated in report)

SignedDate.....

Cabinet Member for Finance, Cabinet Member for Residents' Services

CAPITAL RELEASE REPORT (SEPTEMBER 2022)

DEPARTMENT: PLACE DIRECTORATE

SERVICE AREA / PROGRAMME: Town Centre & Shopping Parades initiative 2022-23

RELEASE NO: 1

Cabinet Members	Councillor Martin Goddard Councillor Eddie Lavery
Cabinet Portfolios	Cabinet Member for Finance Cabinet Member for Residents' Services
Officer Contact	Helena Webster, Place Directorate
Papers with report	Appendix A with capital release requests for approval

HEADLINES

Summary	To seek Cabinet Member approval for the release of capital funds.
Putting our Residents First	This report supports the Council objective of <i>strong financial management</i> .
Financial Cost	This report seeks the release of £84k from the 2022-23 <i>Town Centre & Shopping Parades Initiative</i> for the irrigation upgrade and landscape enhancements along the Hayes Parades. The project manager is Helena Webster. The works will commence upon release of the funds and are due for completion by March 2023.
Relevant Select Committee	Residents' Services Select Committee
Ward affected	Belmore

RECOMMENDATION

That the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Cabinet Member for Residents' Services agree to the following capital release requests of £84k from the *Town Centre & Shopping Parades Initiative* programme budget for the funding of the irrigation upgrade and landscape enhancements along the Hayes Parades, Uxbridge Road (Appendix A).

Reasons for recommendation

Studies show that a barrier created from street trees, along with lower-level planting, can significantly reduce the levels of pollutants from the atmosphere including ozone, nitrogen dioxide

and particulates. Different species of tree have different net effects on air quality. The proposed landscaping enhancements will contribute toward improved health benefits for people who live, work and shop along this stretch of the busy A4020 Uxbridge Road. The upgrade of the irrigation system will ensure that the new landscaping and trees continue to thrive even during extreme weather conditions.

The project will be contributing towards the Council's vision to become the greenest London borough, to protect and enhance the environment, and to provide a brighter prospect for future generations.

Alternative options considered

Topological surveys were undertaken to determine whether street trees could be planted directly within the footway along the Hayes Parades, Uxbridge Road. However, the extent of underground utility services meant that this was not possible. This is why the trees will be planted in existing containers to be served by the recommended upgraded irrigation system.

Select Committee comments

None at this stage

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Hillingdon Council's *Strategic Climate Action Plan* adopted in July 2021 provides the framework for how the Council intends to rise to the challenge of being carbon neutral by 2030 and includes the commitment to support urban greening initiatives and the planting of new trees across the Borough.

Trees and other vegetation planted in the right places can help improve urban air quality on a local scale by forming a barrier between people and pollutants. They also remove some particulate pollution from the air by catching the tiny particles on their leaf surfaces.

The greening of the Hayes Parades, Uxbridge Road focuses on the area from outside Lidl (the Warren) 482 Uxbridge Road to Warley Road encompassing Belmore Parade and includes:

- 21 Ground level planting beds to include 200 2-litre plant species and a mulch layer;
- 19 Rectangular trough style planters to be planted with 124 2-litre stipa grasses, and;
- 28 Large ceramic tree planters to be planted with a mix of seven Scots Pine and 21 Silver Birch trees. 28 trees in total, which are good natural purifiers as well as a mix of lower-level planting (Liriope/Geranium/Alchemilla 2-litre plants) 12-16 around each tree.

All species have been selected in close collaboration with Green Spaces to achieve a climate resilient planting scheme which involves the introduction of new hardy planting designed to cater for the current climate change context.

The upgraded irrigation system includes the very latest in pressure flow control technology including a compact and maintenance free pump. The cost plan includes training for Green

Spaces operatives on completion of installation to enable them to undertake maintenance schedules in-house, when required, to sustain all planting going forward.

The air quality benefits derived from this greening, in particular the tree species mean that this element can be funded from section 106 air quality contributions which will be subject to a separate approval and allocation report.

Greening Uxbridge Road Hayes A4020 (Belmore Parade) Programme Cost plan	£'000
Upgrade to irrigating system to support planted areas and planters and robust housing pump	13
Ground level beds, rectangular trough planters and ceramic planters supply of all planting	57
<i>Sub-total</i>	70
10% Highways and Green Spaces fees	7
10% Project Contingency	7
Total	84

In-line with the total value of this supply, acceptance of the quotation for the landscaping and irrigation works will be subject to the Expenditure Approval process in line with Council Standing Orders.

Financial Implications

Shopping Parades Initiatives Budget (including prior years) £2,911k, Previously Released £900k, Capital Release Requested £84k – Appendix A.

The approved capital programme includes a revised budget of £2,911k for Shopping Parades Initiatives, including £900k that has previously been released for schemes in prior years. The budget is financed mainly from Council resources and also shopkeepers' contributions towards the shop front grant element of the programme.

This report seeks release of £84k funding from the Shopping Parades Initiatives programme towards the greening and irrigation works at Hayes Parades outlined above, including internal fees and contingency. Within this, £33k of the project costs relating to tree planting contribution to pollution reduction are able to be financed from Section 106 balances, reducing the call on Council resources. The allocation of s106 monies will be subject to formal allocation and approval.

The cost estimate is based on a quote which will be approved via the Expenditure Approval Form process. This is a single action tender in order to use the same contractor that originally installed the planters and to upgrade the existing irrigation system.

RESIDENT BENEFIT & CONSULTATION

The benefit or impact upon residents, service users and communities?

The recommendation presents a long-term solution for greening this busy stretch of the Uxbridge Road creating a sustainable green barrier between pedestrians and the heavy traffic. The benefits to residents and business owners include:

- Making this stretch of the busy Uxbridge Road more attractive for walking and cycling;
- Improving the look and feel of this local shopping parade;
- Reducing the risk of flooding; and
- Improving air quality.

Consultation carried out or required

The irrigation upgrade and landscape enhancements along the Hayes Parades have the full support of the Belmore Ward Councillors. The recommended improvements will support wider multi-service consolidated action, under the Director of Community Safety and Enforcement to address much wider anti-social behaviour along the Hayes Parades, and in particular Belmore Parade.

CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance concurs with the financial implications above, noting that the proposed works will partly be funded from Section 106 balances, reducing the call on Council resources.

Legal

The Borough Solicitor confirms that the Council is responsible for carrying out this function pursuant to Section 235 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990. Thus, there are no legal impediments to the capital release being authorised, although any contract that is entered into must comply with the Council's Procurement and Contract Standing Orders.

Capital Release Protocol

The release of all capital funds, and certain revenue funds, held by the Council is to be made by a formal democratic decision. No expenditure can be placed or committed by officers until this formal approval is given by Democratic Services. Release of funds must be for identified projects only and strictly not for the general release of funds for projects to be identified at a later date. No block releases of capital or funding will be allowed, except if authorised by the Leader of the Council in advance to Corporate Finance. The release of funds will only be made if previous Council, Cabinet or Cabinet Member agreement has been given to the project and only if there is an approved budget.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

APPENDIX A

Town Centre & Shopping Parades Initiative 2020-27

Location	Project / Expenditure Title	Information	Funds Release Sought £000's	Approve	Hold	More Information Required
Belmore	Hayes Parades, Uxbridge Road	Irrigation upgrade and landscaping enhancements	84			
Total seeking release			84			
Previously released			900			
Budget			2,911			
Remaining budget			1,927			