

**To: EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER
FOR PLANNING & TRANSPORT
21 July 2022**

**Cleaning and Greening the Borough – Proposed Programme of Work
Executive Director of Delivery**

1 Purpose of Report

To outline the proposed programme of works that the additional funding agreed for 2022/23 will be used for.

2 Recommendations

2.1 The programme of work listed in Appendix 1 is agreed.

2.2 That any changes to the work programme required for operational reasons in Appendix 1 will be delegated to the Executive Director of Delivery.

3 Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 The look and feel of the Borough not only create an environment that encourages residents and visitors to enjoy our outdoor and public spaces but also influence how safe spaces feel. Areas that are prone to excessive vegetation growth tend to give an impression of not being well maintained, this discourages people from using these parts of the borough, which in turn attracts anti-social behaviour.

3.2 Additional funding was agreed for work to improve the borough's look and feel and the proposals included in this report support the Council's work on 'greening the Borough' and work on community safety.

4 Alternative Options Considered

4.1 To allow some areas of the borough to continue to decline and not use the funding to make improvements.

5 Supporting Information

5.1 The recent mild winters and longer growing seasons have allowed weeds and other unwanted plant growth to grow strongly in some areas and more vigorous cutbacks are required in locations such as foot/cycle ways and approaches to underpasses. Opening these areas up improves the visibility for people using these areas which makes them feel safer.

5.2 A joint approach between the environmental services team, highways and transport and property services has identified locations across the borough for additional works, the proposed work will enhance appearance and make the locations feel safer. The full list of proposals is in Appendix 1 and includes:

- A focus on underpasses and their approaches to help make them feel safer - smartening them up, fresh paint in places, extensive cutting back and some removal of vegetation to open up the entrances and exits and improvements to lighting.

- Deep cleaning and improvements to the twelve neighbourhood shopping areas.
- Verge protection at a number of locations to deter parking and allow the grass verges to re-establish.
- Footway improvements in the more rural areas of the borough.

5.4 The proposals in Appendix 1 have been costed out, however it is anticipated that the costs will have increased since the original quotes were requested so there is a sum of money set aside for this as well as some as a contingency fund.

5.5 The proposals do include estimates on timescale for completion, many of the projects are more suited to autumn and winter weather so are planned for quarters 3 and 4.

6 Consultation and Other Considerations

6.1 Legal Advice

The proposals set out in the report as they apply to the public realm, street scene and grounds maintenance are in further observance of the Local Authority's powers and duties pursuant to both the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Highways Act 1980.

6.2 Financial Advice

The commitment budget was updated to include this project when building the 2022/23 budget and the funding was awarded on an ongoing basis. Based on the scheme of works included in this report, the project will be contained within the existing budget.

6.3 Equalities Impact Assessment

The additional work around the Borough will make areas feel safer and more inclusive. As such there will be a positive impact for all Borough residents.

6.4 Strategic Risk Management Issues

Additional funding in 22/23 is a one off and if additional works are required in the future further sums will need to be applied for through the usual budget setting process.

6.5 Climate Change Implications

Where new planting is proposed more sustainable planting will be used. The new signage to highlight the grass verges across the borough being left uncut through the growing season will raise awareness of biodiversity and of the need to manage verges differently to reduce the impacts of climate change.

Health & Wellbeing Considerations

6.6 The improvements being made should enhance footways and cycleways across the borough, encouraging people to use them more. Improving the appearance of the

local area encourages people outside more and into public spaces which can have positive impacts on health and wellbeing.

Contacts for further information

Damian James
Assistant Director: Contract Services
01344 351325
damian.james@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Claire Pike
Head of Environmental Services
01344 352520
claire.pike@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Programme of works including estimated costs and timescales

	Location	Description of work	Estimated cost capital £	Estimated cost revenue £	When the work will take place
Subways	Subways 10-14, Met Office roundabout	Mirrors and lighting improvements	TBC - subject to investigation to decide best way forward		
	Subways 23 and 24, Station Roundabout	Lighting improvements	6,000		end Q4
	Subway 44, Horse and Groom roundabout	Lighting improvement and vegetation cut back	1,000	1,000	end Q4
	Subway 47, near KFC, Bagshot Road	lighting improvements, vegetation cut back and improvements to subway walls	5,000	1,000	end Q4
	Subway 48-50, Leisure Centre roundabout	lighting improvements, vegetation cut back and improvements to subway walls	5,000	1,000	end Q4
	Subways 54-56, Sainsbury roundabout on A322 Bagshot Road	improvements to subway walls - murals and vegetation cut back	30,000	2,000	end Q4
	Subways 57-59, Sainsburys, Ringmead	improvements to subway walls - murals and vegetation cut back	10,000	500	end Q4
	Subway 63, South Hill Road	Lighting improvements, vegetation cut back and improvements to subway walls	3,000	1,000	end Q4
	Subways 72 and 73, McDonalds roundabout, Mill Lane	Improvements to subway walls	10,000		end Q4
	Subway 79, Rackstraw Road	Vegetation cut back		1,000	end Q4
			70,000	7500	

	Location	Description of work	Estimated cost capital	Estimated cost revenue	When the work will take place
Neighbourhood shops	At all 12 locations across the borough; Great Hollands, Birch hill, Crown Wood, Hanworth, Reeds Hill, Eashampstead, Wildridings, Harmans Water, Owlsmoor, Warren Row, Bullbrook, Priestwood.	Carry out improvement works to canopies	11,500		work to commence end of Q2 and continue until end of Q4
		Improve signage	1,500		
		Refurbish metalwork	24,000		
		Improve/update lighting	4,500		
		Carry out improvement works to gutters/fascias	3,500		
		Improvement works Miscellaneous	28,500		
		New litter bins	14,000		
	Grounds maintenance works			6,000	Q3 and Q4
			87,500	6,000	

	Location	Description of work	Estimated cost capital	Estimated cost revenue	When the work will take place
Other projects	Fakenham Way, Owlsmoor	Improvements to Fakenham Way ditch area	10,500		complete by end of Q3
	Harmans Water Road	Install highway verge protection	2,000		complete by end of Q3
	Dalcross	Install highway verge protection	3,700		complete by end of Q3
	Comsaye Walk	Install highway verge protection	6,400		complete by end of Q3
	Across borough	new permanent signage promoting Biodiversity	6,000		June/July
	Mill Lane	Cleaning the Mill Lane footbridge	26,000		TBC
	Rural footways in North and South of borough	Improvements to width, visibility and safety of rural footways:	25,000		work to commence in

		High Street/Wokingham Road Sandhurst - 700m			Q3 and continue until end of Q4
		Swinley Road Ascot - 400m			
		Church Road Winkfield - 500m			
		A330 Pidgeon house Lane - North Street - 1000m			
		Old Drift Road footpath - Stopped up section - 300m			
		Warfield Street - 100m			
		Forest Road Binfield - Foxley lane - Wicks Green - 450m			
		New Forest Ride - Vegetation & Siding out various stretches - 1000m			
		Neuman Close - South Hill Road - 200m			
		Opladen Way - Garswood - Frensham - 400m			
		Nine Mile Ride – Golden R to Old Wokingham Road - 1500m			
		Bracknell Road - Foresters Way to Crowthorne - 2000m			
		Sandhurst Road Crowthorne & Crowthorne Road Sandhurst - 900m			
	Melrose	Install highway verge protection	2,400		
	Yardley	Improvements to subway approach including demolition of existing retaining wall	8,000		complete by end of Q3
	Appletree Place to Portman Close footpath	Lighting to be installed	35,000		end of Q4
	Bagshot Road	Noise and visual screen walls rebuild and anti-graffiti coat	5,000		complete by end of Q3
			130,000		
		Contingency and cost increase fund	12,500	11,500	

		Grand Total	300,000	25,000	
--	--	--------------------	----------------	---------------	--