



## Democratic Services

**Location:** Phase II  
**Ext:** 0693  
**DDI:** 01895 250693  
**Ref:** CMD 149

**To:** COUNCILLOR EDDIE LAVERY  
CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT,  
HOUSING AND REGENERATION

c.c. All Members of Executive Scrutiny Committee  
c.c. Chairman of the Social Care, Housing & Public Health Policy Overview Committee  
c.c. Perry Scott, Director of Infrastructure, Procurement, Business Improvement, Communications, Waste Services & ICT  
c.c. Helena Webster, Residents Services  
c.c. Conservative and Labour Group Offices (inspection copy)

**Date:** 13 May 2021

## Non-Key Decision request

## Form D

### NEW ALLOCATIONS FOR THE BETTER NEIGHBOURHOOD FUND 2021/22 PROGRAMME: MAY 2021

Dear Cabinet Member

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 Friday 21 May 2021** 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.

Steve Clarke  
Democratic Services Officer

**Title of Report:** New Allocations for the Better Neighbourhood Fund 2021/22 Programme - May 2021

**Decision made:**

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

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

Signed ..... Date .....

*Cabinet Member for Environment, Housing and Regeneration*

# NEW ALLOCATIONS FOR THE BETTER NEIGHBOURHOOD FUND 2021/22 PROGRAMME: MAY 2021

Cabinet Member(s)	Councillor Eddie Lavery
Cabinet Portfolio(s)	Cabinet Member for Environment, Housing & Regeneration
Officer Contact(s)	Helena Webster, Residents Services
Papers with report	None.

## HEADLINES

Summary	To seek Cabinet Member approval for the allocation of funds for two new projects schemes under the Better Neighbourhood Fund 2021/22 programme.
Putting our Residents First	This report supports the following Council objectives of: <i>Our People; Our Built Environment and Strong financial management</i>
Financial Cost	This report seeks the approval of £23.2k from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Better Neighbourhood Fund 2021/22 budget to fund two projects improving Council owned housing estate, helping to instil a sense of pride in the community. The works will commence upon approval of the funds and are due for completion by 31 March 2022.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Social Care, Housing and Public Health Policy Overview Committee
Relevant Ward(s)	Pinkwell and Uxbridge South

## RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet Member for Environment, Housing & Regeneration approves the allocation of £23.2k from the 2021/22 HRA Better Neighbourhood Fund Programme for the following two projects improving Council owned housing estates.

Ward	Information	Total Cost
Pinkwell	Pemerich Close: Marking out parking bays to maximise the available parking space for residents	£ 750
Uxbridge South	Cobden Close: Installing an electronic gate in each of the stairwells of 32-36 and 45-49 Cobden Close to improve security and reduce anti-social behaviour issues within the stairwells	£22,440
Total requested to approve		£23,190

## Reasons for recommendation

Each year £156k from the Housing Revenue Account budget is earmarked to facilitate Council tenants and leaseholders suggesting improvements to their housing estate helping to instil a sense of pride in the community. This local Hillingdon Council initiative is known as the Better Neighbourhood Fund.

Two new proposals for delivery within the 2021-22 programme with a total value of £23,190 have been informally approved by the Cabinet Member for Environment, Housing & Regeneration to be taken forward for implementation by 31 March 2022.

## Alternative options considered

The Cabinet Member could decide not to support the recommendations and/or to defer any of the recommended projects to a later date.

If the allocation of funds is not approved, delivery of the two new proposals cannot be effectively and efficiently progressed as intended and the contribution towards improvements on Council housing land and estates would not be fully realised.

## Policy Overview Committee comments

None at this stage.

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 1.1 Each year £156,000 from the Housing Revenue Account budget is earmarked to facilitate improvements to Council owned housing estate helping to instil a sense of pride in the community. This local Hillingdon Council initiative is known as the Better Neighbourhood Fund.
- 1.2 Anyone aged 18 or over living in Hillingdon Council owned accommodation can propose an improvement. Ward Councillors and Council Officers are also welcome to submit a suggestion. The proposal should be for 'one-off' funding of up to £12k without creating any additional ongoing financial commitment from the Council.
- 1.3 Proposals must clearly demonstrate an improvement or benefit to the residents on the estate and support the Council's four broad themes which are: 'Our People', 'Our Natural and Built Environment', 'Our Heritage and Civic Pride' and 'Sound Financial Management.' Examples include gating and security improvements, bringing redundant spaces back into use and protecting or enhancing green spaces.
- 1.4 Exceptional proposals, exceeding the £12k limit, in particular those which demonstrate a significant improvement in the wellbeing of residents of all tenures within a particular estate or community area may also be considered.
- 1.5 A further two proposals with an accumulative value of £23,190 including contingency have been submitted by residents and officers and, following informal approval by the Cabinet

Member on 1 April 2021, are recommended for support under the Better Neighbourhood Funding 2021/22 programme.

1.6 All project cost estimates have been calculated using the schedule of rates contained in the Council's Highways and fencing/gating term contracts which include project contingencies.

## Financial Implications

### 2021/22 Budget £156k, Previously Approved NIL, New Approvals requested £23.2k

This report is seeking the approval of £23.2k from the 2021/22 HRA Better Neighbourhood fund budget of £156k, for the two new projects as detailed within the recommendations.

The remaining budget is £132.8k and this is subject to further Cabinet Member approval reports during 2021/22.

## RESIDENT BENEFIT & CONSULTATION

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

The projects will contribute a notable difference to residents' neighbourhoods in terms of improving community safety, enhancing the environment of the housing estates, and increasing community cohesion and civic pride.

The line marking at Pemerich Close will maximise availability of parking spaces for residents without compromising valued green space. The proposal to install an electronic gating system within two stairwells at Cobden Close will improve security and prevent anti-social behaviour within the stairwells impacting on residents.

### Consultation carried out or required

The Tenancy Officer has put forward the suggestion to mark out parking bays within Pemerich Close forward on behalf of residents. No consultation is required.

In terms of the Cobden Close electronic gating proposal, a consultation was carried out with the six households of which three (50%) replied in favour and no written objections were received.

## CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS

### Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance has reviewed this report and confirms the budgetary position above, noting that the recommended budget allocation of £23.2k will support investment on Council-owned housing land which is financed from rental income.

## Legal

The Borough Solicitor confirms that the Council has power to fund these improvements under sections 12 and 13 of the Housing Act 1985.

## Infrastructure / Asset Management

There are no Infrastructure / Asset Management implications arising from the recommendation in respect of the two projects proposed in this report.

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL.