

PART A

Report to: Council
Date of meeting: Wednesday, 14 October 2015
Report of: Committee and Scrutiny Officer
Title: Neighbourhood Forum Annual Report 2014/15

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 Neighbourhood Forums were established at Annual Council on 21 May 2008. It was agreed that each Forum would comprise the three ward councillors for the local electoral ward.
- 1.2 In accordance with the protocol for Neighbourhood Forums, each Forum is required to produce an annual report providing details of the activities which had taken place during the year. The report should include information about the Forum's spending, meetings and projects.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 that the annual reports provided at Appendix 2 be noted.

Contact Officer:

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Committee and Scrutiny Officer
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Report approved by: Carol Chen, Head of Democracy and Governance

3.0 DETAILED PROPOSAL

- 3.1 Neighbourhood Forums were established to enable the ward councillors to engage with local residents and businesses and other community groups in their Ward. They could also be used to promote the Council's business and to carry out consultation on ward-related matters.
- 3.2 In 2014/15 each Neighbourhood Forum was allocated a budget of £2,500. The budget can be used to set up meetings with residents, businesses and other community groups. Two Neighbourhood Forums have held at least one meeting within their wards.
- 3.3 The budget can also be used to support projects within the ward. During 2014/15 all 12 Neighbourhood Forums chose to fund projects for their area. Ten of the wards

have made donations to local groups to cover the cost of new equipment or towards the costs of local events. The majority of the wards put some of their funds towards environmental improvements in their areas, including planting trees and hedges and the installation of additional cycle hoops. Two wards jointly contributed towards the cost of resurfacing the underpass under the A405. Details of the overall expenditure for each ward are shown in Appendix 1.

3.4 11 wards have submitted an Annual Report and these are attached as Appendix 2.

4.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 **Financial**

4.1.1 The Shared Director of Finance comments that there are no financial implications within this report and all wards were within budget.

4.2 **Legal Issues** (Monitoring Officer)

4.2.1 The Head of Democracy and Governance comments that there are no legal implications in this report.

4.3 **Potential Risks**

None identified

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Neighbourhood Forum Expenditure 2014/15
- Appendix 2 – 2014/15 Neighbourhood Forum Annual Reports

Background Papers

- Application forms and expenditure sheets for the individual forums

File Reference

None