

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL**Housing and Health Committee****28 January 2015****Housing Estates Based Initiative****Report by Executive Director (Housing and Community Care)****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report informs Committee of a new estates-based initiative and seeks approval for the process for agreeing initiatives and allocating funds.

1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1 In August 2014 Housing and Health Committee were informed (Report 14/355) of the proposal to introduce Estates Based Initiatives (EBIs) to identify and prioritise external environmental improvements by involving tenants, local elected members and staff.
- 1.2 It was recognised EBIs had the potential to deliver wider community benefits, including community capacity building and support local employability projects.
- 1.3 Every tenant was informed about EBI in an article in December 2014's 'On The House' magazine. There will also be a press release issued and promotion through the Council's social media. Tenants will be able to contact their Area Team with their suggestions.

2. PROPOSALS

- 2.1 For 2015/16, £100,000 will be available to support this initiative. It is proposed that a method of allocating this is developed and based on the number of council houses in the locality area.
- 2.2 It is further proposed that projects to be included in the Estates Based Initiatives must meet the following criteria:
 - Be on communal ground/property owned by the Housing Revenue Account
 - Must contribute to community safety
 - Must improve the amenity of the area
 - Should demonstrate it is sustainable

It is worth noting that this initiative is not a replacement for routine maintenance.

- 2.3 It is further proposed that local EBI panels are established in each of the four housing localities. Membership should include, where possible, representatives from the local Registered Tenant Organisations (RTOs), elected members and locality housing staff. If there are no active local RTOs, volunteers will be recruited from the interested persons list and from the expression of interests taken from the 'On The House' article.
- 2.4 It is proposed that the responses and suggestions from tenants are collated and considered by local EBI panels, along with suggestions made at the local estate walkabouts and local meetings.
- 2.5 Each local EBI Panel will have the authority to approve a programme of work in each locality and have a role in monitoring the local EBI Action Plan. Tenants who propose projects which are not successful will receive a response explaining why it wasn't progressed. Details and progress of approved EBI projects will be published in the 'On The House' magazine, along with a paper-based survey to generate ideas for future improvements. It will also be reported and publicised in the local press.
- 2.6 It is proposed that, wherever possible, projects are delivered by the local employability based projects and the Unpaid Work Team, subject to procurement rules.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 This report provides details of a new Estates Based Initiatives to support environmental improvements in local communities, involving local tenants, elected members and housing staff.
- 3.2 Housing and Health Committee is asked to approve the proposals outlined in Section 2 of the report.

Author

Name	Designation	Contact Details
Lorna Cameron	Head of Housing and Strategic Commissioning	LECameron@pkc.gov.uk

Approved

Name	Designation	Date
John Walker	Executive Director Housing and Community Care	19 January 2015

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1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	Yes
Corporate Plan	Yes
Resource Implications	
Financial	Yes
Workforce	None
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	None
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	None
Strategic Environmental Assessment	None
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	None
Legal and Governance	None
Risk	None
Consultation	
Internal	None
External	Yes
Communication	
Communications Plan	Yes

1. Strategic Implications

Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

- 1.1 The Council's Corporate Plan 2013 – 2018 lays out five outcome focussed strategic objectives which provide clear strategic direction, inform decisions at a corporate and service level and shape resources allocation. The report relates to the following:

- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations

Corporate Plan

- 1.2 As above.

2. Resource Implications

Financial

- 2.1 There is £100,000 available for 2015/16 to support this work. The method of allocating this is proposed in the report.

3. Assessments

Equality Impact Assessment

Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.

The information contained within this report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) and has been assessed as **not relevant** for the purposes of EqIA.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.2 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals.

The information contained within this report has been considered under the Act. However, no action is required as the Act does not apply to the matters presented in this report.

Sustainability

- 3.3 Under the provisions of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 the Council has to discharge its duties in a way which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. In terms of the Climate Change Act, the Council has a general duty to demonstrate its commitment to sustainability and the community, environmental and economic impacts of its actions.

The information contained within this report has been considered under the Act. However, no action is required as the Act does not apply to the matters presented in this report.

Legal and Governance

- 3.4 None

Risk

- 3.5 None

4. Consultation

Internal

- 4.1 None.

External

- 4.2 The Tenant Committee Report Panel were consulted on this report. They feel that it is a very good initiative and will need a lot volunteers and a lot of dedication from Council staff and elected members. They also added that each area must strive to get the best from what is being offered and should involve young people and their networks in all areas.

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None arising from this report.

3. APPENDICES

None.

