

**SMALL SCALE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS  
(Report by Head of Environment & Transport)**

**1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 This paper reports on the small scale environmental improvement schemes to be completed by March 2006, and proposes a programme of schemes for 2006/07.

**2. SELECTION OF SCHEMES**

- 2.1 A budget of £92k (gross) is included in 2006/07 for "Small Scale Environmental Improvements". To qualify for funding from this budget a scheme must also attract a minimum of 25% funding from an outside source, such as Parish or Town Council, or Landfill Tax Credit.
- 2.2 Cabinet agreed the criteria for the prioritisation of the schemes in 2002/03 and this has been applied to the selection of schemes for 2006/07.
- 2.3 Town and Parish Councils were asked in October to submit schemes for consideration in this year's programme.

**3. 2005/06 SCHEMES**

- 3.1 The schemes approved in the 2005/6 programme were as follows:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Position</u>
Huntingdon – Town Boundary signs	Complete
Huntingdon, High Street – Railings	Awaiting tenders
Bluntisham – Rebuild church wall	Complete
Somersham – Rebuild wall leading to Church	Complete
Offord D'Arcy – New Conservation bus shelter	Complete
St Neots, Berkeley Road – Upgrade area	Complete
Medway Centre – Footpath	Complete

**4. FUTURE SCHEMES**

- 4.1 Following submissions from Town and Parish Councils schemes have been assessed (Annex 1) and the highest scoring schemes up to the approved budget (based on preliminary estimates) for 2006/07 are listed below:-

	<b>Net £k</b>	<b>Gross £k</b>
1) Ramsey TC – Railings around war memorial	15	19
2) Ramsey TC – Repairs to church wall	20	25
3) St Ives TC – Improvements area of land to Bridge St	18	23
4) Holme PC – Repairs to church wall	3	4
5) Warboys PC – Repairs to Jubilee Clock	2	3
6) Catworth PCC – Church wall repairs	14	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>92</b>

## **5. CONCLUSIONS**


- 5.1 The small scale environmental improvement funding has enabled minor improvements to be carried out in many villages and locations.
- 5.2 There is great interest from town and parish councils in promoting future schemes and the appraisal process has now been shown to work satisfactorily.
- 5.3 Approval is sought for those schemes with shown in paragraph 4.1 above. In the event that these cannot proceed for any reason during 2006/07 the next schemes in the order of priority will be carried out. Annex 2 identifies the budget allocated for these schemes and is the Release of Funds form.

## **6. RECOMMENDATION**

- 6.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet:
- i) note the schemes committed/completed to date
  - ii) approve, for completion during 2006/07, the schemes at paragraph 4.1 above and the release of funds from the MTP to facilitate this.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Environment & Transport File T7

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## ANNEX 2 – RELEASE OF FUNDS REQUEST

### Financial Impact

	Net Revenue Impact						Net Capital					
	2004/ 2005	2005/ 2006	2006/ 2007	2007/ 2008	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2004/ 2005	2005/ 2006	2006/ 2007	2007/ 2008	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Approved Budget	12	15	20	24	28	31	84	86	72	73	73	73
Already Committed	12	15	15	15	15	15	82	82				
<b>Amount for which release now requested</b>			<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>			<b>72</b>			

### Justification

The Small Scale Scheme is made up of several different projects throughout the district. These are partnership schemes with Town or Parish Councils. The parish councils have committed funding in the coming year and early approval by Cabinet would enable this work to be completed this financial year.

A report is being submitted to Cabinet for the approval of next years programme based on schemes submitted by Parish Councils. Early approval is needed to commit this money so that the Parish and Town Councils are aware of their commitments..

Release of funding up to the £72k is sought so that the process of replacement and improvement can start now and be complete by the end of the year.