

Hyde Park

2008-10 Ward Budget Monitoring Report

Councillors Colin Barrow, Jean-Paul Floru, Pamela Batty

Summary:

Ward Members were given £200,000 ward budget funding to allocate over the 2 year pilot programme from April 2008 – March 2010.

£196,809.78 of this budget was allocated however following under spend on some of the projects, the final actual expenditure for the 2 year period was £179,791.15. The remaining unspent budget has been returned to the council's reserves.

Ward Members initially undertook a ward wide consultation with their residents in June 2008 to help them establish a range of key priorities for allocating their ward budget.

Following the high level response from this consultation, ward members chose to fund a total of 5 projects over the 2 years to help address the concerns and priorities identified through the consultation.

The key outputs and achievements of each project funded have been highlighted under priority headings in this document.

Key Highlights of Projects Funded:

Consultation

- All 7908 households in the ward received a postal survey
- Over 400 responses received, higher than any other ward consultation
- 3 key priorities established:
 - Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour
 - Reducing street urination
 - Improving the public realm
- Total cost of consultation: £2,212.32

Priority 1 – Reducing Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

- **Purchase of Additional Police Time in the ward**
(Provider – Metropolitan Police) Ward budget funding: £12,320
 - Additional police patrols took place in the ward every Friday and Saturday evening between 7pm-2am between from 16th October 2008 to 28th March 2009.
 - 2 additional police officers were on patrol each evening.

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- Officers dealt with various issues ranging from speaking to local businesses and reassuring them by their presence, removing prostitute cards from phone boxes, dealing with aggressive beggars and making arrests when necessary.

Priority 2 – Reducing Street Urination

- **Installation of Public Convenience at Paddington Station**
(Provider – Internal, Waste and Parks) Ward budget funding: £107,069
 - The public convenience (Urilift) was installed and has been operational since October 2009.
 - The Urilift is only above ground when it is needed. For the rest of the time, it is completely hidden underground.
 - The Urilift can accommodate up to three people at a time.
 - The cost of this project also includes the ongoing maintenance of the toilet for the next 8 years.

Priority 3 – Improving the Public Realm

- **Pavement Improvements ***
(Provider – Internal, Highways / Transerv) Ward budget funding: £29,029.83
 - Funding was agreed for footway improvements on Praed Street between London Street and Spring Street, in addition to improvements along a small section of London Street.
 - Works started on site in Praed Street in November 2009 following discussions with TfL to ensure the works would not cause undue problems given the proximity to Paddington tube station. Poor weather and contractual problems delayed the completion of the work, however all pavement improvements to Praed Street were completed in March 2010.
 - In addition to the works on Praed Street, the contractor undertook some additional improvements along the south side of Craven Road. The cost of this additional work was covered by the contractor directly due to their error.
 - An additional section of paving along London Street was also scheduled to be relaid, however Transerv failed to complete this before the end of March as was required. Due to the extensive winter damage to pavements across the City, a tarmac crew could not be mobilised on site in the required timeframe. Funding for this section of the work has therefore not been released and officers are currently looking at alternative funding sources to enable this section to be completed.
- **Additional Dog Warden Patrols ***
(Provider - Internal, Environment and Leisure)
Ward budget funding: £6,360
 - Daily 2 hour patrols by 2 dog wardens took place across the ward.
 - Patrols commenced on 10th February 2009 and completed on the 5th May 2009.

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- The project was successful with animal wardens noting a 50% reduction in dog fouling in the ward during the 12 week period.
 - The animal wardens concluded that they did not feel there was a major dog problem in the Hyde Park area. It was felt that, going forward, ad-hoc patrols would suffice to ensure standards are maintained.
- **Additional Litter Bin Provision**
(Provider - Internal, Environment and Leisure)
Total ward budget funding: £1,800
 - Ward budget funding paid for the installation of new litter bins in the following locations during February 2009:
 - Oxford Square x 3
 - Cambridge Square x 3
 - Sussex Gardens x 1
 - St Michael's Street x 2
- **Improving Recycling Rates ***
(Provider – Internal, Recycling) Total ward budget funding: £21,000
 - All mansion blocks in Hyde Park Ward were visited by the dedicated recycling officer to assess suitability of the existing service and barriers to recycling. Proactive action was taken to introduce or improve the service or to raise participation rates through communications and staff guidance in addition to responding to service requests.
 - Between August 2009 and March 2010 the recycling officer engaged with 62 mansion blocks (4588 properties) and 2 City West Homes estate properties (98 properties).
 - A new recycling service has been provided to 11 mansion blocks (603 properties) attaining an average participation rate of 21%.
 - The recycling officer has worked with an additional 28 mansion blocks (3415 properties) to re-energise existing services raising the average participation rate by 11%.
 - 6 low-performing streets (295 properties) were targeted, raising the average participation rate by 16%.
 - The overall change in recycling participation in the 4313 properties worked with during the course of the project was an increase of 13%.

Additional information:

- *More detailed monitoring reports are available on request for projects marked with **
- *A full financial breakdown of the Hyde Park ward budget is attached as Appendix A*

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