

## REPORT OF THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

*Reporting Officer: Head of Democratic Services*

### (i) IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SUCCESSFUL *CHRYSALIS* PROGRAMME.

The Council is proud of the delivery of hundreds of local environment projects benefiting communities as part of the Chrysalis programme. The Cabinet Member for Improvement, Partnerships and Community Safety has instructed officers to make the following changes to the programme to improve its responsiveness:

- That bids are submitted on a rolling programme similar to how the Ward Budget Initiative operated. Whilst the programme spans over a three-year period, officers will endeavour to ensure projects are completed within the financial year.
- There will be an opportunity to select some projects whose timelines go into several years; however, it is noted that these are the exception, rather than the norm and will be determined by the Cabinet Member.

The Cabinet, in launching its budget for 2011/12 onwards, has again proposed a £1M fund per annum to Chrysalis, demonstrating its commitment to improving the environment and enhancing community safety across the Borough. In reviewing the programme, the Cabinet Member, along with the Director, may also determine any changes they see fit in how the £1m is allocated across themed areas.

Members should be aware that the improvements to the Chrysalis programme are part of a new wider approach to community engagement, including changes to Streets Ahead and Street Champion programmes, as set out in a formal report to the Cabinet Member before Christmas 2010.

#### Environmental Improvement Panel

The Environmental Improvements Panel currently reviews and recommends Chrysalis projects on a quarterly basis but does not have the authority to agree them. As a result of the proposed change in the way Chrysalis bids are submitted on a rolling basis, the EIP would potentially become superfluous to requirement and could hinder the delivery of projects. The ability for submitting projects for approval directly to the Cabinet Member will save time and enable projects to be delivered quicker, with residents seeing the Council as more responsive. Accordingly Council is asked to consider the cessation of the Panel and its removal from the list of internal bodies.

**RECOMMENDATION: That the report be noted and the Environmental Improvements Panel be deleted from the list of Council Committees etc.**