

Title of Report:	Proposed Improvements to Greenham Community Centre	Item 12
Report to be considered by:	Executive	
Forward Plan Ref:	N/A	

Corporate Plan Priority:	CP5 and CP7
The proposals contained in this report will help to achieve the above Corporate Plan priority by: Providing improved use of the Community Centre will assist with the reduction in anti-social behaviour	

Purpose of Report:

To consider the application for matched funding in order to improve the Greenham Community Centre both externally and internally.

Recommended Action:

The Executive to approve matched funding of £10k in order to improve the Greenham Community Centre

Reason for decision to be taken:

To provide improved facilities for the local community in Greenham. Arising from extensive consultation with the Community this area has only recently been identified as a key priority and in order to comply with appropriate budget and spending plans this item now requires Executive approval.

List of other options considered:

N/A

Key background documentation:

N/A

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Implications

- Financial:** Funding would be made available on the basis that it can be vired from within existing schemes in the 2004/05 Capital Programme.
- Property:** Improvements would be made to a Council owned building.
- Risk Management:** This is a joint project under the National Reassurance Project and is a joint partnership with Thames Valley Police, West Berkshire Council and Sovereign Housing

Supporting Information

1. Background

- 1.1 Greenham Ward is one of two sites in West Berkshire which have been included in the National Reassurance Project (NRP), which locally is led by Thames Valley Police. The NRP is a 2-year project whereby the community is closely consulted regarding their priorities and the issues which impact upon them locally. Recent concern and priorities have included dealing with anti-social behaviour, speeding, under-age drinking and environmental issues.
- 1.2 To assist with the project, innovation funding has been provided for last year 2003/04 (50k), and funding of 25k has again been agreed for 2004/05. This funding is to be spent in Greenham in relation to the priorities as decided by the local community. Funding has or is being spent so far on CCTV and improvement to street lighting etc. This project very much accords with the Council's powers under the Local Government Act 2000 in relation to the promotion of economic, social and environmental well being.
- 1.3 As result of consultation, one of the environmental issues to be raised is the poor condition of the community centre in Greenham. A community centre is recognised to be at the heart of a community and this is certainly true with Greenham. The centre has been very well used in the past by all sections of the community i.e. daily pre-school, young parent groups, youth clubs, Karate club, and local surgeries for councillors, Police and Sovereign Housing association. The centre is also the permanent office for the Greenham wardens, but it has also suffered from anti-social behaviour in the area which has discouraged use of the centre by some parts of the community. The community centre is owned by West Berkshire Council but is run and managed by Greenham community association.
- 1.4 Internally the community centre is in a reasonable state of repair although there are improvements that, if completed, would enhance the use of the community centre. Externally and visually the community centre is an eyesore and appears very unfriendly to its users and the community. For this reason it has been proposed to improve the appearance of the community centre. Dependant on funding, improvements may include, replacing the grilled windows, replacing the metal entrance doors, a sign and notice board for the community centre.
- 1.4 To date 30k has been granted from Greenham Park Trust, 10k from the national reassurance project and 10k matched funding from Sovereign Housing Association who are major stakeholders in the area. Further matched funding to the amount of 10k is requested from the Council to assist with the above improvements, and where sufficient funding is obtained to commence internal improvements to the centre.
- 1.5 Visually the benefits to the centre and the local community will be immediate. Coupled with siting of CCTV locally and improvements to the lighting the community centre will benefit from increased use by the wider community.

Appendices

None

Consultation Responses

Local Stakeholders: Greenham community, Greenham Neighbourhood Action Group, Greenham Residents' Association

Officers Consulted: Nick Carter, Andy Day

Trade Union: N/A