

## **Report to the West People & Place Board**

**10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

### **Walk and Talk Budgets**

#### **1. Background**

- 1.1 Area Committee previously agreed to retain Environment and Street Scene Improvements; Supporting Local Traders and Empowering Communities to improve their neighbourhoods, as local area priorities. One of the processes put into place to continue to support the achievement of these priorities at a ward level, was to align a small amount of SIB funding to each ward (£8k per ward), to support improvements identified through the Walk and Talk programme.
- 1.2 The Walk and Talk programme continues to be incredibly successful and offers the opportunity for ward councillors to be dynamic, flexible and implement small scale people and place based projects, which have a huge positive impact on their local communities.

#### **2. Current Position**

- 2.1 The Walk and Talk programme, Area Tour, Trader liaison, and feedback from local residents has identified a number of local environmental improvements that have been delivered across the West area, funded via the walk and talk budget. Further improvements have been identified covering both People and Place based issues which will be considered by Ward members for completion, to continue work towards meeting the local area priorities and issues identified by residents.
- 2.2 The improvements that have been completed and those identified for consideration will use the remainder of the walk and talk budgets, completed and proposed programmes were summarised in December Area Committee.

#### **3. Recommendation**

- 3.1 In order to continue to support improvements identified through the walk and talk programme, area tour and those identified by residents and traders, funding will need to be identified to deliver these improvements.
- 3.2 Consider the alignment of funding to support the delivery of local People and Place improvements that are additional to the core offer of the Council.
- 3.3 Consider the extension of the 'Walk and Talk' programme funding at a ward level and align additional funding accordingly.