

## **Housing Environment Improvement programme**

### **Spending Criteria**

Is the spending:

- on housing land, property and customers?
- benefitting Tenants
- practical and feasible
- targeted - all suggestions should assist the Housing Department and Council in meeting its objectives.
- duplicating work - projects should not be part funded if these are for work which should more properly be funded entirely from other sources
- creating ongoing maintenance costs. If so this must be addressed before the project is agreed
- deliverable within the timescale - the suggested project will need to be completed within the four year administration period (two years in the first instance)
- cost effective - Is the project the best way of achieving the identified benefit? (Schemes which put additional pressure on services should not go ahead without agreement.)
- enforceable- schemes that cannot be enforced such should not be agreed
- benefitting more than one tenant

All projects should be evaluated on an individual basis to ensure that work is within the remit of the Housing Revenue Account.

Schemes which put additional pressure on services subject to budget savings / reductions should not go ahead e.g. refuse bins, dog bins

### **Examples of acceptable projects**

Projects previously completed which meet the above criteria have included:

- Creation of parking bays on housing land
- Provision of local notice boards
- Financing installation of window and door locks across an estate or for vulnerable tenants
- Installation of improved security lighting
- Provision of fencing to improve tenants' sense of security

## **Examples of Projects which should not be agreed**

- Traffic calming measures (Highways responsibility)
- Bus stop seating
- Street lighting in areas that provide little benefit to council tenants
- Dropped kerbs
- Benches outside Shopping Areas
- No Ball Games signs
- Improvements to areas where there are no council properties
- Improvements to Allotment Sites
- Improvement to community building that are not within the HRA
- Residents Only Parking signs
- New crockery or other equipment for a lunch club

