

## Area Panels: January 2015

### Decision: Estates Development Budget multimedia presentation or bus tour

#### Background

Historically the Area Panels have chosen different ways to gather information for the Estates Development Budget voting Area Panels at the end of March.

Last year East and West chose a bus tour (although the vote for the bus tour was close in West); North & East watched a video on the day of the voting meeting; and Central viewed a video prior to the meeting then as requested watched the video again at the meeting.

#### Costs

East	West	North & East	Central
Bus £320	Bus £370	Video compiled by social media officer and RIO – considerable staff time	Video filmed by RIO - Memorex edit costs £810

There were also room hire and buffet costs.

Bus tour pros	Video pros
Residents can directly see where the proposed project will be Residents spend a day together Cheaper than a professional video Mears visit the site Lunch is good	Saves time and energy of residents Chance to see all of the 150+ bids Some photos / diagrams of requested items People stay to see all of the bids Some of the clips quite entertaining

<b>Bus tour cons</b>	<b>Video cons</b>
<p>Not everyone can get on and off the bus or up steps / along paths</p> <p>Some people have fed back they find the day hard work</p> <p>Not every group attends</p> <p>Bus can't get everywhere</p> <p>Some people go home after lunch</p> <p>Two weeks gap until the voting panel</p>	<p>A lot to take in</p> <p>Filming and editing takes many staff hours or expensive</p> <p>Residents at Central didn't like the two week gap</p>

**Current situation**

The Resident Involvement Team are checking that all the bids are possible, are not covered in the capital works programme, and getting technical advice if required.

From February to March Mears are visiting all the building and landscaping bids. They are getting photos of the bids and pricing up the work. They will put together an information sheet for each bid that includes photos, a description of the work and an accurate as possible estimated price. These will be available to residents at the EDB voting Area Panels.

The council's IT system has been updated to Windows Seven and Word can show video clips as well as photos. The Resident Involvement Officers have blackberries that can film videos.

**Proposal**

The Resident Involvement Team would use Mears' photos, get other photos or film short video clips of residents showing their bids. These would be used to make a multimedia presentation containing photos, words and video.

Residents would come together at the EDB voting Area Panels and look through the information sheets and watch the presentation. Then break for lunch. Then come together again to vote on the bids.

**Contact details**

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