

**HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Executive Decision Record**

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member – Environment
<b>Date:</b>	29 June 2010
<b>Title:</b>	Project Appraisal: Southampton Road, Ringwood – Accessibility Improvements
<b>Reference:</b>	1675
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Environment

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**1. The decision:**

- a) That the project appraisal for a package of measures to improve accessibility in Southampton Road, Ringwood, at an estimated cost of £349,625, be approved.
- b) That, under the powers contained in Sections 65 and 66 of the Highways Act 1980, the existing and proposed footways which comprise this scheme be formally converted to shared use for pedestrians and cyclists.

**2. Reasons for the decision:**

- 2.1. This scheme aims to improve accessibility in Ringwood town centre, provide a safer environment for all road users including cyclists and enhance the pedestrian routes with the town centre, and links to the Furlong Car Park and the bus station.
- 2.2. Southampton Road is identified by the local community as relatively run down and failing to contribute fully to the social and economic potential of the town. Improvements to Southampton Road are included in the 2010 Country Towns Initiative programme, as approved by the Executive Member for Environment.
- 2.3. The following areas for improvement were identified:
  - improve the balance of space used by pedestrians with motor vehicle traffic and make better provision for pedestrian and cycle access;

- reduction of negative visual impacts as identified in the Ringwood Strategic Improvement Plan produced by Ringwood Town Council in 2008;
- address the effect of severance between Southampton Road and Mansfield Road;
- create a more attractive area for street events;
- improve access for the more vulnerable;
- address existing street lighting issues to reduce the fear of crime; and
- provide new and improved street furniture and paved areas with visually attractive and durable materials.

2.4. Approval of the scheme will contribute towards:

(i) 'Making Hampshire Safer and more secure for all'

Improvements to street lighting reduces the fear of crime and improves security. Improved footways and cycle networks encourages healthier options for travel to the public realm which can make a positive contribution to a reduction to our carbon footprint by reducing traffic congestion and improved air quality.

(ii) 'Maximising well-being'

Ensuring that the Ringwood town centre and all of its facilities and services are accessible for all sections of the community including the mobility impaired, help maximise well-being and promote a reduced reliance on motor vehicle traffic.

(iii) 'Enhance Our Quality of Place'

The new layout of paved areas using improved materials, the introduction of new landscaped areas and street furniture will make Ringwood a more attractive area to visit and enhance the desire to visit the retail establishments and businesses in this part of the town.

**3. Other options considered and rejected:**

3.1. To make Southampton Road one-way (northbound) and narrow carriageway to provide wider footways. This option was rejected as there is insufficient funding for the whole of the street and the need to allow southbound cycle movements to The Close.

3.2. Provide new carriage way surfacing and street furniture within the existing road layout. This option was rejected as it would do nothing to change the balance of pedestrian/vehicle use of the street, make provision for a space

suitable to accommodate street/social and business events, or improve pedestrian and cycle links to Southampton Road.

**4. Conflicts of interest:**

- 4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: none.
- 4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: none.

**5. Dispensation granted by the Standards Committee: none.**

**6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.**

**7. Statement from the Decision Maker:**

<b>Approved by:</b>  ----- <b>Executive Member for Environment Councillor M J Kendal</b>	<b>Date:</b>  <b>29 June 2010</b>
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