

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member – Policy and Resources
Date:	9 June 2011
Title:	The Square, Winchester
Reference:	2927
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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1. Executive Summary

1.1. The purpose of this paper is to provide the results of the recent 'Have your Say' campaign conducted by the County Council, and Winchester City Council, to gauge local people's response to two options for improvement of the structure, condition and appearance of works to The Square, Winchester.

1.2. This paper seeks to provide:

- background information on the 'Have your Say' campaign;
- details of the response to the campaign and results; and
- recommendations for the next steps.

1.3. The area known as The Square in Winchester has been identified as in need of maintenance due to the failure of the surface water drainage system and movement of the existing highway surfacing. Working with members and key stakeholders including local businesses and residents groups, proposals for maintenance work, environmental improvements and traffic management have been developed jointly by the County Council and Winchester City Council. The Project Appraisal was approved by Hampshire County Council's Executive Member for Environment on 26 January 2011.

2. Contextual information

2.1. The approved Project Appraisal for The Square set out 3 recommendations as follows:

14.1. That the Project Appraisal to improve the structure, condition and appearance of The Square, Winchester with re-paving work and new surface water drainage, at an estimated cost of £712,000, be approved subject to appropriate measures being implemented to reduce traffic impact on the square and a suitable funding contribution being made by Winchester City Council.

14.2. That detailed consideration and progression of traffic regulation orders to introduce a 20 miles per hour speed limit and to restrict vehicle access for part of the day be approved and taken forward to formal consultation.

14.3. That authority be given for a further consultation with the public to secure wider engagement with the scheme and the traffic options, and to provide a definitive statement of public opinion, following which a final review of scheme options will take place.

2.2. In response to recommendation 14.3, Hampshire County Council and Winchester City Council, with the assistance of Winchester BID, asked Winchester's businesses and residents for their views on two options for The Square:

Option 1 - To repave the footways and part of the road with York stone to make it more attractive for shopping and tourism, while limiting traffic access;

or, if people felt strongly that The Square should continue to be used as a road and through route as it is currently,

Option 2 - To carry out the essential maintenance work but provide a finish that would be more suitable for its use for traffic rather than pedestrians.

2.3. The options were presented prominently in The Hampshire Chronicle on 10 March 2011 and readers were invited to register their views at the County Council's 'Have your Say' webpage. The 'Have your Say' link was clearly displayed on the front pages of both the County Council's and Winchester City Council's websites with direct access to the survey form. The website provided a comprehensive explanation of the scheme objectives, the two alternative options, photomontages and useful background information. Local members, businesses, residents groups, key organisations and stakeholders were advised of the website and encouraged to make their views known by 25 March 2011.

- 2.4. The total number of responses received was 330. Of these, 256 (78%) were in favour of Option 1; 71 (21%) were in favour of Option 2; and 3 (1%) were undecided.
- 2.5. Responses were received in 4 ways: Online, via the 'Have your Say' website; letters to the County Council and The Hampshire Chronicle; emails; and telephone calls.
- 2.6. A total of 313 votes were registered online. Of these, 245, or 78%, supported Option 1 and 68, or 22%, were in favour of Option 2.
- 2.7. A total of eight letters were received by the County Council and The Hampshire Chronicle. Only one of these letters supported Option 2. The balance were in favour of Option 1. The Hampshire Chronicle published all three letters that it received; two were in favour of Option 1, the other for Option 2.
- 2.8. A total of seven emails were received by the County Council and Winchester City Council. Of these, four supported Option 1, one wanted Option 2 and the remaining were undecided.
- 2.9. Two telephone calls were received. One of these was in favour of Option 2. The other was undecided.
- 2.10. It is not known whether all correspondents also took the opportunity to register their opinion online. However, in view of the relatively low number of 'votes' received 'off- line', this is not considered to affect the overall outcome.
- 2.11. Recommendation 14.3 of the Project Appraisal approved on 26 January 2011 required wider engagement with the scheme and the traffic management options in order to provide a definitive statement of public opinion. The 'Have your Say' campaign has met these requirements.
- 2.12. The number of correspondents who have made their views known on this occasion is significantly in excess of the total who responded to previous exhibitions and workshops about this scheme. In addition, the circulation of The Hampshire Chronicle, and the reach of the County Council's website, has ensured that the level of awareness about the scheme is now considerably higher, and the opportunity to 'vote' afforded to a far greater number of the community.
- 2.13. The overall response indicates a convincing level of support for Option 1. The feedback from Winchester BID during the campaign has confirmed that Option 1 is also the preferred scheme for the majority of the business community.
- 2.14. Feedback on the outcome of the 'Have your Say' campaign was provided to the public on 21 April 2011.

3. Partners' position

- 3.1. Winchester City Council is fully supportive of taking forward Option 1. A report on the outcome of the 'Have your Say' campaign was presented to Winchester City Council Cabinet (Traffic and Parking) Committee on 27 April 2011. The Cabinet approved the recommendation to formally advertise a Prohibition of Driving 'except for access' order for Great Minster Street and The Square, and to take forward proposals to introduce a 20 miles per hour speed limit in Great Minster Street, The Square, Market Street and associated streets for formal consultation.
- 3.2. It is anticipated that advertisement of the draft Traffic Regulation Orders and associated notice will commence in May 2011. Comments will be invited for a period of 28 days.
- 3.3. It is therefore proposed that the process for dealing with the relevant traffic regulation orders required for the implementation of this scheme be delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment, in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment and Transport.
- 3.4. Winchester BID has also confirmed its support for Option 1.

4. Finance

- 4.1. In light of the campaign, and review of the proposals and traffic management, scheme costs and funding availability previously set out in the approved Project Appraisal have been updated, see tables below. These figures include an enhanced amount for contingencies. This reflects the possibility of complications arising from the planned work to the drainage, the sensitivity of undertaking work in a heritage area, and the potential problems involved in supporting business continuity during the busy summer season while managing access to enable the works to take place. This provision has been informed by experience in undertaking the Winchester High Street scheme. The estimated costs also reflect the opportunity to undertake related Operation Resilience works as part of the scheme, taking advantage of the additional 2011/2012 support from central Government announced in March and the increased cost effectiveness of a combined approach.
- 4.2. Winchester City Council's contribution is capped at 20% of the scheme costs, up to a maximum of £150,000. The City Council has confirmed that its contribution is included in its agreed capital programme.

<u>Estimates</u>	<u>£'000</u>	<u>% of total</u>	<u>Funds Available</u>	<u>£'000</u>
Design Fee	152	18		
Client Fee	8	1		
Supervision	60	7		
Construction	492	57		
Operation	50	6		
Resilience works				
Contingency	100	11		
Land	0	0		
			HCC Capital Maint.	450
			WCC Cont.	150
			HCC Revenue Maint.	62
			Developer Cont.	200
Total	<u>862</u>	<u>100</u>	Total	<u>862</u>

<u>Revenue Implications</u>	<u>£'000</u>	<u>% Variation to Committee's budget</u>
Net increase in current expenditure	0	0
Capital Charge	14	0.010
Total Expenditure	<u>14</u>	<u>0.010</u>

Programme

	Gateway Stage			
	3 - Project Appraisal	Start on site	End on site	4 - Review
Date	26 Jan 2011	4 July 2011	15 Nov 2011	15 Nov 2012

4.2. The costs incurred by Winchester City Council in advertising and implementing the traffic regulation order and associated physical works is covered by the Traffic Management agreement with the County Council and the approved scheme budget.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1. That Option 1 be confirmed as the preferred scheme and that arrangements for procuring the work at an estimated cost of £862,000 continue, in order to ensure its implementation prior to the Christmas season of 2011.
- 5.2. That the Director for Economy, Transport and Environment, in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment and Transport, be given delegated authority to process the relevant traffic regulation orders towards implementation of this scheme.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
High Street, Winchester-Maintenance Improvements	1554	11 September 2008
Project Appraisal: Improvements to The Square, Winchester	2061	26 January 2011
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
Scheme Files	Hampshire Highways East, Winchester

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

- 1.1. The improved footway layout and tactile surfacing together with the traffic management restrictions will assist vulnerable users particularly.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

- 2.1. The scheme will not impact on the Crime and Disorder Act.

3. Climate Change:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?
- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

The scheme will provide an attractive environment for pedestrians to help encourage walking as an alternative to motorised transport. The improvements to the surface water drainage system will assist with rainwater run-off.