

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Executive Decision Record**

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Date:	15 September 2016
Title:	Project Appraisal: Romsey Town Centre Improvements – Phase 2 Bell Street, Romsey Accessibility Improvement Scheme
Reference:	7732
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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1. The decision:

- 1.1. That the Executive Member for Environment and Transport approves the Project Appraisal for the proposed Phase 2 Bell Street, Romsey Accessibility Improvement Scheme as outlined in the supporting report.
- 1.2. That approval be given to procure and spend and enter into necessary contractual arrangements to implement the proposed Phase 2 Bell Street, Romsey Accessibility Improvement Scheme, as set out in the supporting report, at an estimated cost of £820,000 to be funded from the Public Realm Improvements Programme and Developer Contributions.
- 1.3. That authority to make the arrangements to implement the proposed Phase 2 Bell Street, Romsey Accessibility Improvement Scheme, including minor variations to the design or contract, be delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. To enable the provision of a level surface accessibility improvement scheme to be delivered in Bell Street, Romsey. This will deliver the second phase of the Romsey Town Centre Improvements Programme and follows on from the recently completed Church Street scheme, which has been well received. The scheme seeks to address the problems experienced by both residents and visitors to the town centre caused by narrow and uneven footways, limited crossing facilities and an area dominated by motor vehicles.
- 2.2. The improvements will help to mitigate the existing accessibility issues for this location thus allowing people using wheelchairs, mobility scooters and

parents with children in buggies to safely visit this street and not have to negotiate narrow footways with limited crossing opportunities. The scheme will also include improvements to the public realm and therefore enhance the local economy by increasing visitor activity in this location

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. Do nothing. This option was considered but rejected due to the poor pedestrian facilities currently available and the fact that the existing situation precludes some visitors to Romsey from being able to access this area due to the very narrow footways and inadequate crossing opportunities. Given the topographical restrictions in Bell Street the only option to improve the accessibility for this area was to provide a level surface scheme.
- 3.2. Improving the surfaces of the footways but not providing a level surface was considered. This was rejected as it would not provide the improved accessibility options required to meet the needs of all users.
- 3.3. Retaining the on-street parking was considered but rejected on the basis of the public consultation with the majority of respondents expressing a preference for it to be removed to provide for enhanced pedestrian accessibility.
- 3.4. Non replacement of the yellow lines; this was considered as it was felt to be more in keeping with the historic location. This was rejected due to the need to have some parking enforcement and that a parking zone approach was not supported or felt appropriate for this town centre location.

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 Conduct Advisory Panel: none.

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

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

I note the revision to recommendation 1.2 to the estimated cost, now being £820,000 in light of increased developer contributions.

Approved by:

Date:

15 September 2016

**Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Councillor Rob Humby**

Decn/7732/JS