

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member – Policy and Resources
Date:	13 June 2012
Title:	The Square, Winchester Phase 2 – Great Minster Street
Reference:	3908
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to seek approval for the allocation of £240,000 from the Corporate Policy Reserve to enable environmental improvements to The Square, Winchester to be continued along Great Minster Street as a final phase.
- 1.2 The area of The Square, including Market Street and Great Minster Street, is one of Winchester's most distinctive places and makes a significant contribution to the economic and cultural vitality of the city. These streets provide the public setting to the cathedral and include the three main entrances from the town centre to the outer close.
- 1.3 Following approval by the Executive Member for Environment in January 2011, work to improve the structure, condition and appearance of The Square and Market Street in Winchester has recently been completed. The new paving, surface water drainage and complementary traffic management measures, including a 20 mph zone, have been very well received.
- 1.4 The scheme in The Square was undertaken in partnership with Winchester City Council and Winchester BID. Although it was originally hoped to include Great Minster Street in these works, there was insufficient funding available at that time to enable this part to go ahead. That support has now been secured by the County Council and City Council and there is the opportunity to continue the benefits of these improvements into Great Minster Street. The work would provide further support for local businesses, promote access for all, and enhance the historic setting to Winchester Cathedral.
- 1.5 The initial estimated cost for the proposed work is £300,000. Winchester City Council are expected to confirm that they will provide one-fifth of this total up

to a maximum contribution of £60,000. It is proposed that the balance, £240,000, is secured from Corporate Policy Reserve.

2. Contextual information

- 2.1 Sited in the heart of the conservation area, the buildings, streets and spaces that make up this location are of significant historical importance. The area is known for its speciality shopping, pavement cafes, and as a venue for street events like the annual Hat Fair. Market Street, The Square, and Great Minster Street provide the main links between the Museum, Cathedral, Winchester College and the High Street and are a well established part of the tourist circuit.
- 2.2 The recently completed improvements in The Square follow the equally successful resurfacing work in the High Street. Both initiatives have used a consistent palette of high quality materials, greatly enhancing the centre and helping visitors to find their way around. The work has contributed to an increase in footfall supporting the economic performance of local businesses during a difficult trading period.
- 2.3 The proposed improvements in Great Minster Street will continue with the surfacing materials used in the previously completed works. The precise extent of the scheme, layout, and any accommodation works and traffic management measures that may be necessary, have still to be determined. Members will be consulted on these, and other issues, as the scheme is developed.

3. Finance

- 3.1 Subject to development of the scheme and detailed investigations, the current estimated cost for the proposed work, including specialist surveys and fees, is £300,000.
- 3.2 Further to the partnership approach established on the High Street scheme, and the recently completed work in The Square, Winchester City Council are expected to confirm that they will provide one-fifth of the total cost up to a maximum contribution of £60,000.
- 3.3 It is proposed that the balance of £240,000 is allocated from the Corporate Policy Reserve.

4. Programme

- 4.1 Based on current assumptions about the scope of the work required to deliver the proposed improvements in Great Minster Street, it is suggested that the most appropriate time for construction would be in early 2013. This takes into account the events already programmed to take place in The Square this year, in anticipation of a 'return to normal' following the recently completed

works, and a shutdown period for Christmas, from mid-November, to avoid this important time of year for local businesses.

- 4.2 It is anticipated that a Project Appraisal, setting out full details of the scheme and final estimated costs, will be presented for formal decision later this year.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1. That £240,000 of the Corporate Policy Reserve be allocated to enable environmental improvements to The Square, Winchester to be continued along Great Minster Street as a final phase, subject to confirmation by Winchester City Council of their £60,000 commitment to the project.

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

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	yes
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> Project Appraisal: Improvements to The Square, Winchester	<u>Reference</u> 2061	<u>Date</u> 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>
The Square, Winchester Phase 2 – Great Minster Street: Scheme Files	Engineering Consultancy / Strategic Environmental Delivery Group Capital House, Andover Road, Winchester

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

- 1.1 The surfacing improvements will support traffic management restrictions and enhance access for vulnerable users particularly the visually impaired.

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 supporting the viability and vitality of the local economy and encouraging walking as an alternative to motorised transport.