

Single Member Cabinet Decision

Executive
Forward Plan
Reference**E3224**

Keynsham High Street Renewal Programme

Decision maker/s	Cllr Dine Romero, Leader Cllr Paul Crossley, Cabinet Member for Community Services Cllr Neil Butters, Cabinet Member for Transport Services Cllr Joanna Wright, Cabinet Member for Transport Services Cllr Tim Ball, Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning & Economic Development
The Issue	<p>A regeneration package for a public realm scheme for Keynsham High Street requires revisions to the capital programme to reflect recent additions to funding.</p> <p>A further £1.1m High Street Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) grant has been awarded by Historic England following consideration of the Council's funding bid. The bid includes a match funding commitment which is funded mainly through WECA grants and other 3rd party contributions as set out in the report.</p> <p>The report requests revisions to the capital programme to re-align the approved and provisional capital budgets to reflect these recent developments.</p> <p>The report also requests agreement to formally accept the Historic England grant funding and progress the renewal programme in consultation with local community and business stakeholders.</p>
Decision Date	Not before 29 th August 2020
The decision	The Cabinet Members are asked to; 1.1 Agree acceptance of the £1.100m High Street Heritage Action Zone grant from Historic England. This requires the submission of a delivery plan before 1st September 2020. 1.2 Fully approve the revised budget of £3.658m for the Keynsham High Street public realm scheme reflecting the inclusion of grant and third-party funding as set out

	<p>in section 5.</p> <p>1.3 Note that the Delivery Plan (Appendix 2) includes a masterplanning exercise to assess the evidence and feedback from the current COV-19 High Street access restrictions.</p> <p>1.4 Note a provisional budget of £150k will reflect future CIL funding for this project considered as part of the CIL allocation in the 2021/22 budget-setting.</p>
<p>Rationale for decision</p>	<p>The Historic England Heritage High Street Action Zones (HAZ) Programme is designed to secure lasting improvements to historic high streets and will support sustainable economic & cultural growth on and around high streets and enhance local historic character making streets vibrant places.</p> <p>Phase 1 of the public realm improvements will deliver a one-way public realm scheme for the High Street Core that will create wider pavements, safe cycling, improved pedestrian connections to Memorial Park and car parks, will make some improvements to Temple Street and Market Walk, will declutter street furniture and improve multi-modal wayfinding and information across the town centre.</p> <p>Phase 2 will focus on Upper High Street & Station Road that contain the concentration of historic buildings around St Johns Church.</p> <p>Both phases have been reviewed to make sure that they are fit for purpose considering the impact of the full closure of the High Street in response to the Covid 19 restrictions.</p> <p>The HAZ Delivery Plan will assess the evidence and feedback from the current COV-19 High Street access restrictions and if supported, explore options to allow the restrictions to be retained in some form. This will ensure that there is the flexibility in any future designs to allow for High Street access restrictions on specified days for events, on weekends or 7 days a week as necessary to achieve the scheme outcomes.</p>
<p>Financial and budget implications</p>	<p>The current approved capital budget for the scheme is £1.743m, with spend of £253k incurred in 2019/20. The total approved capital budget needs to be uplifted to £3.658m to reflect the additional funding that has been secured, with the provisional capital budget revised to £150k to reflect CIL funding which will be requested for approval as part of the 2021/22 budget process giving a total project budget of £3.808m.</p> <p>The Historic England grant provides revenue for a Senior Officer to oversee and deliver the project for the 4-year project period 2020-24.</p>

	<p>A project manager will be appointed to manage the delivery of the Keynsham High Street public realm improvements.</p>
<p>Issues considered</p>	<p>Elements of the renewal package include improvements to listed buildings and shopfronts within the Conservation Area which is at risk. These aspects may require listed building consent and potentially planning permission/advertising consent, and this will be built into the 4-year project.</p> <p>Terms and conditions of government funding including consideration of state aid, best value and competitive tendering etc, form part of the funding agreement between the Council and Historic England and will need to be followed throughout the course of the project.</p> <p>Improvements to public space will need to consider equalities impacts and support sustainable development including supporting modal shift towards walking and cycling. Enhancement to green space as part of the project will support biodiversity gains.</p> <p>An Equalities Impact of each specific project is undertaken at design stage, and discussions with the Equalities team and other specialists are undertaken as part of the design process.</p> <p>These projects are underpinned by a consideration of climate change adaptation as they support modal shift by re-orientating streets away from cars towards cycling and walking, by providing cycle parking, by providing additional greening supporting biodiversity and considering the sustainable sourcing of street furniture.</p> <p>Air pollution is associated with a number of adverse health impacts. Since the one-way system was introduced in Keynsham in May 2017, there has been a significant reduction in air pollution levels and has brought them back within European health guidelines.</p>
<p>Consultation undertaken</p>	<p>The Historic England funding has been through two phases of competitive grant applications, both received express support from the Chief Executive of the Council, Councillors, local business and community groups also wrote letters of support for the project.</p> <p>Ward Councillors and Cabinet Members are aware and are supportive of the project in Keynsham and extensive consultation has taken place during the development phase. The delivery plan will be subject to further consultation and engagement as part of the 4- year programme.</p>
<p>How consultation was carried out</p>	<p>Consultation during the public realm development phase of the project was carried out through surveys and stakeholder and public events. The delivery phase will include similar consultation.</p>

<p>Other options considered</p>	<p>The following options were considered:</p> <p>Do nothing - this would not secure lasting improvements to the historic high street or support sustainable economic & cultural growth.</p> <p>It is possible that this level of funding would not be available in the future if a decision was made to delay the projects.</p>
<p>Declaration of interest by Cabinet Member(s) for decision:</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Any conflict of interest declared by anyone who is consulted by a Member taking the decision:</p>	<p>None</p>

<p>Name and Signature of Decision Maker/s</p>	
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<p>Date of Signature</p>	
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Subject to Call-in until 5 Working days have elapsed following publication of the decision