

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Officer Delegated Decision	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	Renewal Board 23rd July 2020	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		n/a
TITLE:	Reopening and Renewing High Streets – Bath City Centre Priority Actions	
WARD:	Bath City Centre	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The Bath Street Space programme, a programme of public realm improvements and enabling infrastructure to support animation activities was pushed back to 21/22 for delivery start as part of the capital programme review. However, it is now requested in response to COV-19 and the Reopening and Renewing the High Streets workstream priorities that the funding is moved back to 20/21.
- 1.2 In addition, to spend identified for Union Street, York Street and Swallow Street and Kingsmead Square it is requested that the funding can also be spent on other key streets in the City Centre including Milsom Street and Cheap Street.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To rephase £150,000 from 21/22 back into the 20/21 Council Capital Programme for the Bath Street Space Programme as outlined below. There is no change to total programme cost. Funding will come from the Community Infrastructure Levy, which was originally programmed for 20/21 before the capital programme review.
- 2.2 Release funding for spend in 20/21 for £100,000 for interventions in Kingsmead Square.
- 2.3 Utilise £50,000 of available funding to also support animation and public realm activities in Milsom Street and Cheap Street, as well as other key streets in the vicinity as part of the Reopening and Renewing the High Street workstream.

3 THE REPORT

- 3.1 This Officer Delegated Decision requests supports the delivery of key projects to continue that support the Reopening and Renewal of the High Street, the schemes support modal shift in favour of walking and cycling, support businesses and support community use of public spaces.
- 3.2 In addition to the previously identified priority areas – Kingsmead Square, York Street/Swallow Street and Union Street– it is requested that the funding can be used to facilitate initiatives in Milsom Street/Cheap Street where temporary access restrictions are in place in response to COV-19, but which need more aesthetically pleasing and sympathetic interventions.
- 3.3 The funding will be used alongside the Reopening the High Street Safely funding from the ERDF, albeit that funding has specific spend limitations for temporary interventions to support the reopening of the High Street in response to COV-19 to March 2021.
- 3.4 Milsom Street and Cheap Street have been identified as additional priority locations for additional interventions due to the higher vacancy rates and presence of Council owned retail units. They are also the focus of future investment through the 'Love our High Street' investment fund, although funding will not be made available until 2021/22, and is subject to WECA approval of the Full Business Case. City centre businesses are keen for immediate actions to support them through this difficult time.
- 3.5 All remaining phases of projects will be reviewed by a multi-disciplinary project team to ensure compliance and consideration of COV-19 related restrictions.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 Interventions are supported and facilitated by the temporary access restrictions delivered in response to COV-19, through Emergency Traffic Regulation Orders and Parking Bay Suspensions.
- 4.2 Equalities issues must be taken into account when deploying public realm interventions to make sure that measures are accessible and do not negatively affect specific groups.
- 4.3 In some cases highways, listed buildings or planning consents are needed, depending on the nature of the intervention, these must be secured prior to implementation. Permitted development rights may also be utilised where consents have been streamlined – these rights have been extended in response to COV-19 to March 2021.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 5.1 This ODD seeks reallocation of fully approved budgets, and re-profiling of spend.
- 5.2 Revenue aspects including maintenance costs, are built into capital programmes for max. 5 years reflecting the parameters allowed in capital spend.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 The original Single Member Decision had a risk assessment, in addition each project has a project specific risk register.

7 EQUALITIES

7.1 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.

8 CLIMATE CHANGE

8.1 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.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 Retain the original project funding breakdown and spend profile, not extending interventions to Milsom Street and Cheap Street etc. and not resuming activities in other locations until 2021-22.

10 CONSULTATION

10.1 The recommendations have been agreed by Renewal Board and discussed by Capital Strategy Group.

10.2 Ward Councillors and Cabinet Members are aware and are supportive of projects in Union Street, Kingsmead Square and York Street. Consultation will take place on the detail of proposals for new locations – Milsom Street and Cheap Street, to inform the design and implementation.

Contact person	<i>Lynda Deane/Cleo Newcombe-Jones</i>
Background papers	<i>Bath StreetSpace: Bath City Centre Public Space Projects – Single Member Decision 29/05/2019</i> https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/mqIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Id=28478&Opt=0
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