

Single Member Cabinet Decision

**Executive  
Forward Plan  
Reference**

**E3511**

**Midsomer Norton High Street Regeneration**

<b>Decision maker/s</b>	<p>Cllr Sarah Warren, Deputy Council Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency and Sustainable Travel</p> <p>Cllr Paul Roper, Cabinet Member for Economic and Cultural Sustainable Development</p>
<b>The Issue</b>	<p>A further £856k of grant funding has been secured to support the delivery of the Market Square public realm improvement at The Island, Midsomer Norton from the Mayoral Combined Authority's (MCA) Investment Fund. This report seeks formal approval to accept the grants, as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. £607k increase in grant funding for the delivery of the Market Square</li><li>2. £249k grant funding for the delivery of a bus interchange at the centre of the High Street (at the Hollies bus stop).</li></ol>
<b>Decision Date</b>	<p>7th October 2024</p>
<b>The decision</b>	<p>The Cabinet Members agree to delegate approval to the Director of Sustainable Communities, in consultation with the S151 Officer, to accept the uplift of £856k Investment Fund grant from the Mayoral Combined Authority. These funds will be spent in line with the grant agreement.</p> <p>To fully approve capital budget of £856k funded from MCA Investment Fund grant for delivery of Market Square scheme and delivery of an interchange and improvement at the main High Street bus stop (at the Hollies).</p>
<b>Rationale for decision</b>	<p>The Midsomer Norton High Street Regeneration scheme is currently delivering the new Market Square at The Island, a 1,000sqm public realm improvement that will deliver a flexible civic space for the town. With the aim of supporting the functioning of the restored Town Hall and local businesses by creating an events space and driving footfall to the area.</p> <p>The first element of funding (£607k approved at MCA Joint Committee 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024) relates to cost uplift for scheme delivery and would then align project budget with forecast costs and contractor tenders.</p> <p>The second element of funding (£249k approved at MCA Joint Committee 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024) relates to the delivery of a bus interchange on the High Street. Which will widen the pavement along a 40m stretch of the High Street, install 2 new bus shelters provided with real-time information displays and associated electrical</p>

	<p>infrastructure, increase length of bus cage to facilitate increased bus routes, resurface and install accessibility kerbs.</p>
<p><b>Financial and budget implications</b></p>	<p>A capital budget of £2.872m was approved for Midsomer Norton's High Street Renewal Programme through a combination of grants from Historic England (£889k), Combined Authority (£1.045m), UK Shared Prosperity Funding (£450k), B&amp;NES through both CIL and CSB (£442k) and Midsomer Norton Town Council (46k).</p> <p>This report seeks approval for an increase of £856k to £3.728m to reflect the uplift in grant value from the MCA.</p> <p>Ongoing maintenance of Market Square and bus stop will be managed by B&amp;NES Highways Maintenance &amp; Drainage, Environmental Services.</p>
<p><b>Issues considered</b></p>	<p>Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Sustainability; Human Resources; Property; Young People; Equality (age, race, disability, religion/belief, gender, sexual orientation); Human Rights; Corporate; Health &amp; Safety; Impact on Staff; Other Legal Considerations</p>
<p><b>Consultation undertaken</b></p>	<p>Ward Councillor; Cabinet colleagues; Town Council; Other B&amp;NES Services; Local Residents; Community Interest Groups; Youth Council; Stakeholders/Partners; Other Public Sector Bodies; Section 151 Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer</p>
<p><b>How consultation was carried out</b></p>	<p>A public consultation was undertaken on the design of the Market Square scheme and ongoing consultation is being undertaken with local stakeholders on the development. Relevant stakeholders also sit on the High St Regen Steering Group which help to formulate the approach of the project.</p>
<p><b>Other options considered</b></p>	<p>There is an option to not accept the additional capital grant funding from the MCA however the Market Square project is currently on site and it is unlikely to attract alternative external funding sources at this stage. Not accepting the grant would leave the project £607k short of funding to deliver the programme of works. To not accept the £249k Hollies bus stop funding would result in a delay in delivering the improvement works to the town centre bus interchange. This would result in a prolonged use of a temporary bus stop on Silver Street, which does not provide as well for bus users and would increase delivery costs for this scheme.</p>

<b>Name and Signature of Decision Maker/s</b>	Councillor Sarah Warren Deputy Council Leader, Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency and Sustainable Travel  Councillor Paul Roper Cabinet Member for Economic and Cultural Sustainable Development
<b>Date of Signature</b>	7 October 2024
<b>Subject to Call-in until 5 Working days have elapsed following publication of the decision</b>	