

REPORT TO THE AREA 3 COMMITTEE

Report No. 9

Date of Meeting	3rd December 2007
Title of Report	Area 3 Streetscene Enhancements
Link to Corporate Priorities	<p>Streetscene enhancements accord with the District Council's Corporate Priorities of Cleaner, Safer and Better Streets, and Partnership Working; and the Wiltshire Strategic Partnership's priority theme of <i>Improving Wiltshire's Streetscene</i>. Streetscene enhancements conserve and enhance the District's built environment and landscape setting and assets and resources, protect and promote the local distinctiveness of North Wiltshire's heritage, and are prepared in consultation with (and where possible include partnership funding from) other local organisations and Councils.</p> <p>Business Area/Team Plan Objectives: Authorisation to allocate the available budgets will maintain performance against the agreed Urban Design work plan 2007-8.</p>
Public Report	YES

Summary of Report

This report informs the Committee of options for expenditure of the 2007-8 Capital Budget for the continuation of Streetworks in Area 3.

Officer Recommendations

- 1. That the Area 3 2007-8 Capital Budget for Streetworks be allocated to purchase natural materials for footway reinstatements in St Mary's Street.**

Other than those implications agreed with the relevant Officers and referred to below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Financial Implications	Legal Implications	Community & Environmental Implications	Human Resources Implications	Equality & Diversity Implications
YES	NO	YES	NO	NO

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The 2007-8 Streetworks capital budget totals £50,000, but has been divided for the 5 Area Committees to decide where each £10,000 is to be expended. It should be noted that for streetworks in the public realm and the need for safe working methods, various consents, licenses, notices and public consultation, the professional and other fees element rises as the scale of works reduces. Therefore, where possible, proposals presented include an element of partnership funding, are associated with other planned works, or are part of works overseen by others to maximise value for money. Otherwise the available balance for actual works could be reduced by up to 35%.

2. Options and Options Appraisal

- 2.1 Enhancements in River Street have been completed in conjunction with safety works at Borough Parade car park, using the 2006-7 capital budget for streetworks allocated at the 4th December 2006 Area 3 Committee.
- 2.2 Since December 2006, officers have been made aware of three further partnership opportunities for streetscene improvements within Area 3, as follows:
- Allington Preservation Group have received a quotation of £8,000 from the highway authority's design consultants to produce a costed scheme design for carriageway reductions through Allington Conservation Area, to discourage 'rat-running', vehicle speed and verge erosion there. At this time it is unclear whether any partnership funding is available. Contributing to this initiative would be for a design and not works.
 - Since works to reorganise Chippenham Bus Station were completed in December 2006, several representations have been received about the limited performance of the canopy structure in driving rain conditions. Costs of £18-20,000 have been obtained for separate protective glazed front screens, but the highway authority have declined to partnership fund this improvement.
 - Significant building works are underway at the western end of St Mary Street. These have involved excavation of considerable areas of the footway, close to the stone-paved footways of the High Street, to effect new service connections. The developer has offered to implement reinstatements with higher quality materials if the improved materials can be supplied by others. The highway authority are also aware of the proposal.
- 2.3 Using the potential for partnership funding as a priority - and considering other factors including cost effectiveness and deliverability – purchasing stone pavers and kerbs for use by contractors reinstating footways in St Mary Street appears to offer the greatest streetscene enhancement benefit at this time.

3. Background Information

- 3.1 See Appendix 1 for the location of intended footway improvements in St Mary Street.

Implications

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 The 2007-8 Area 3 Capital Budget for the Continuation of Streetworks of £10,000 is currently unexpended and uncommitted. The proposals would commit that budget during this financial year.
- 4.2 By allocating this budget as a contribution towards works being progressed by others, or combining the budget with further funding, design involvement and fees are reduced. It is estimated that, allowing for some in-house liaison fees, approximately £9,000 of the £10,000 would be contributed for actual work items.

5. Community and Environmental Implications

- 5.1 Streetworks enhancements have significant community and environmental benefits. A contribution towards additional enhancements will improve the visual quality and amenity of a busy town centre Conservation Area location.

Risk Analysis

- 6.1 There are generic safety and financial risks associated with the carrying out of streetscene enhancement works within the public highway, and these are normally mitigated through the application of Council standing orders and financial regulations in placing any order for works. By contributing towards works being progressed by others, these risks are further reduced.
- 6.2 Not allocating these funds would not support this Council's priority of Streetscene and Cleaner, Safer, Better Streets.

Appendices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appendix 1: Location of footway works in St Mary Street.
Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Previous Committee reports and minutes

Previous Decisions Connected with this Report

Report	Committee & Date	Minute Reference
Chippenham Streetscene Enhancements	Area 3 Committee 4 th December 2006	CH43