

## WILTSHIRE COUNCIL SALISBURY AREA BOARD

13 November 2014

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### **Area Board initiative Salisbury street furniture project**

1. **Purpose of the Report**

To consider a proposal that would enable volunteers to refurbish historic street name plates in Salisbury.

2. **Background**

Salisbury's streets are characterised by historic road name plates, often made of cast iron - some of which date back over 100 years. Many of these signs are in a poor condition and in some cases they have been removed and replaced with pressed modern alternatives which are less sympathetic to the historic nature of the City streets. The Area Board is keen to preserve the original historic name plates wherever possible.

3. **Proposal**

The Area Board is hoping to encourage local people to adopt and look after their own local street name plate. To facilitate this, the Board is proposing a campaign to encourage people to come forward to clean, repair and repaint name plates that are in poor condition. To help local people to do this, the Board is considering making available a toolbox containing everything needed to undertake the works that local people can borrow and use to refurbish their own street signs. The kit would contain materials such as paint, paint brushes, paint cans, solvents, detergents, cleaning brushes, wire wool, power tools, sanders, masking tape, dustsheets and wet paint signs. This kit would be free to borrow for an afternoon or weekend, so that local people can restore the historic signs in their road.

4. **Matters for consideration**

In considering this proposal the Board will need to seek advice and agreement on insurance, health and safety, planning and highway issues from the Council's Streetscene team.

5. **Sustainability**

Subject to the matters set out at 4 above, the Board is asked to consider setting aside a small capital budget to invest in the restoration of the City street signs and underwrite the project for a period of two years. The Board could seek sponsors to contribute to the small annual costs in the longer term and seek to find a community partner to lead the project locally.

## 6. Recommendations

That in principle and subject to the advice and agreement of the Council's Street Scene team, the Board supports the proposal as follows:

- The Area Board agrees to set aside a sum of £500 from its capital budget to purchase the equipment identified in this report, with a contingency of £250 from the revenue budget for replacing materials over the next two years.
- The Board supports a campaign to encourage local people to adopt and maintain their own local historic street signs.
- The Board invites partner bodies to bid to adopt the project to ensure that it is put on a sustainable footing for the future.
- That subject to the agreement of the Streetscene Team, a launch event be held to promote the project featuring the restoration of a local street name plate by volunteers and Area Board members.
- That until such time as a partner body is identified, each local volunteer scheme is promoted by and insured as an Area Board project and overseen by the Community Area Manager on behalf of the Highways Authority.

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