

Malmesbury Streetscene Enhancements

1. Purpose

- 1.1. To inform the Committee of options for expenditure of the 2006-7 Capital Budget for the continuation of Streetworks, and update on the expenditure of the 2005-6 and earlier Capital Budgets for the continuation of Streetworks.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the Area 1 2006-7 Capital Budget for the continuation of Streetworks be allocated as a contribution towards partnership-funded works to maximise the extent of equipment undergrounded as part of Scottish & Southern Electric's planned network renewal in the Horsefair area of Malmesbury.
- 2.2. That the Assets, Design & Regeneration Team Leader explore options for securing further partnership funding prior to commencement of the works.

3. Links to the corporate/business area objectives

- 3.1. Streetscene enhancements accord with the District Council's 2005-6 Corporate Priorities of Cleaner, Safer and Better Streets, and Partnership Working; and the Wiltshire Strategic Partnership's priority theme of *Improving Wiltshire's Streetscene*. 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.

4. Background Information

- 4.1. The 2006-7 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 fee element rises as the scale of works reduces. Therefore, where possible, proposals presented include an element of partnership funding, or are associated with works to be progressed by others, to maximise value for money. Otherwise the available balance for actual works will be reduced by up to 35%.

5. Current Position

- 5.1. The 17th November 2004 Area 1 Committee resolved that:

The partnership scheme to replace streetlighting in Cross Hayes be approved and that the Design and Estates Team Leader be authorised to seek and accept quotations to carry out works within the available budget.

That up to £6,000 of the Area 1 2004-5 Capital Budget for the continuation of Streetworks be utilised to extend the available partnership budget for streetlighting in Cross Hayes to £23,000.

That the balance of the Area 1 2004-5 Capital Budget for the continuation of Streetworks be allocated to replacement streetlighting at Abbey Steps subject to sufficient partnership funding being available.

- 5.2. The 16th November 2005 Area 1 Committee resolved:

That up to £10,000 of the Area 1 2005-6 Capital Budget for the continuation of Streetworks be allocated as a contribution towards partnership-funded works to replace streetlighting between Market Cross and Mill Lane Bridge.

- 5.3. Further to some delays incurred by wall-lighting agreements and consents, Cross Hayes streetlighting is now significantly complete.
- 5.4. An order for upgraded 'Abbey' type streetlighting between Market Cross and Mill Lane Bridge has been placed with a contractor and lighting is awaited from the suppliers.
- 5.5. In April 2006, officers were contacted by and met with staff from Scottish & Southern Electricity (S&SE) who were planning a scheme to renew poles and overhead equipment in an area around Horsefair, Foundry Road, St Mary's Street, Shipton Hill, Burnham Road and Gloucester Road in Malmesbury.
- 5.6. Detailed on-site discussions have taken place to evaluate the effects on character and appearance of S&SE network renewal within this part of the Conservation Area. Recent electrical regulations require that cables fixed to the front of buildings are thicker and greater in number than previously, and larger wall brackets are now required for buildings with low eaves. In general, the undergrounding of equipment would remove poles and overhead cables, as well as frontage wall-mounted cables and brackets from many Listed and attractive buildings.
- 5.7. Appendix 1 indicates 18 poles within S&SE's planned works, some 16 of which could be removed (excludes poles 15 and 6) if partnership funding of £20,000 can be raised. The inset plan indicates the extent of Listed Buildings within this part of the Malmesbury Conservation Area. S&SE have indicated that poles along Gloucester Road represent 50% of this additional cost.
- 5.8. British Telecom and Wiltshire County Council's streetlighting consultants have also been contacted to establish the method and any likely costs of removing small amounts of their equipment from some poles within the scheme.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. The 2006-7 Capital Budget for the Continuation of Streetworks of £10,000 is currently unexpended and uncommitted. The proposals would utilise and commit that budget during this financial year, subject to partnership funding being available.
- 6.2. By utilising this budget as a partnership contribution, in-house design involvement and fees are reduced, and it is estimated that £9,000 of the £10,000 budget can be passed on as a contribution for works, allowing for some continued design liaison time.

7. Human Resources and Equal Opportunities implications

- 7.1. Continuation of Streetworks are identified in the Urban Design work programme and therefore progressing them will have no impact upon internal human resources. Partnership funding will enable a higher value of works to be implemented.

8. Community and Environmental Implications

- 8.1. Streetscene enhancements have significant community and environmental benefits. The undergrounding element of the works principally provide character and appearance improvements within the Conservation Area.

Documents Used in Preparing this Report

Reports and Minutes of previous NWDC Committees.

Appendices

Appendix 1: S&SE Plan of Potential Undergrounding Works in Malmesbury.

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**REPORT FROM THE ASSETS, DESIGN & REGENERATION TEAM LEADER TO
AREA 1 COMMITTEE 19TH JULY 2006**