

# REPORT TO THE CHIPPENHAM AREA 3 COMMITTEE

Report No. 9

Date of Meeting	4 <sup>th</sup> December 2006
Title of Report	<b>Chippenham Streetscene Enhancements</b>
Link to Corporate Priorities	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.  Business Area/Team Plan Objectives: Authorisation to expend the available budgets will maintain performance against the agreed Urban Design work programme 2006-7.
Public Report	YES

## Summary of Report

This report informs the Committee of options for expenditure of the 2006-7 Capital Budget for the continuation of Streetworks.

## Officer Recommendations

- 1. The Area 3 2006-7 Capital Budget for Streetworks be allocated to streetscene enhancements within River Street at the area outlined in red on Appendix 1.**
- 2. Authority be given to the Assets, Design & Regeneration Team Leader to implement the works in conjunction with planned safety and accessibility works to Borough parade car park, subject to not exceeding available budgets.**

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 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 other planned works, 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 The 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2005 Executive resolved that proposed works identified in the Borough Parade Car Park Transport and Access Study be progressed to detailed design level and that a suitable tender be sought and accepted to carry out the works. Further to obtaining planning permission for the scheme indicated in Appendix 1, detailed design work is now complete and contractors' tenders are expected to be returned by January for a potential start on site in February 2007.
- 2.2 The need for streetscene enhancements in the short pedestrian section of River Street that still exists was identified along with a number of other locations at the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2005 Area 3 Committee. This need is also identified in the draft Chippenham Conservation Area Statement. Adjacent similar type but significantly larger works planned for Borough Parade car park (which will necessitate partial closure of that car park during work) present an opportunity for River Street enhancements to be carried out cost effectively during a period of reduced usage. It is therefore proposed that this relatively small area of work be added to the contract for the larger planned works.
- 2.3 River Street, which is flanked by buildings of some townscape merit, is currently paved with incongruous and poor visual quality square concrete pavers, although the adjacent High Street footways are stone paved and the nearest section of Borough Parade car park is brick paved. It is estimated that, taking into account the economy of scale with the larger works, replacement in River Street with a combination of these adjacent higher quality paving materials can be achieved for a cost below the available Streetworks budget of £10,000.
- 2.4 A potential partnership-funded streetscene enhancement scheme at Allington is currently at an early design stage. We are not aware of other streetscene enhancement opportunities within Area 3 which offer cost-effective procurement or partnership funding and deliverability within 2006-7.

## **3. Background Information**

- 3.1 The 5<sup>th</sup> December 2005 Area 3 Committee resolved that the Area 3 2005-6 Capital Budget for Streetworks of £10,000 be allocated as a partnership contribution towards both the Bus Station safety works and The Causeway pedestrian amenity works to secure the inclusion of environmental enhancements and natural materials within the works. This has resulted in a considerable length of natural stone kerb having been used within completed works at The Causeway and further stone kerbs being available for use at the highway interfaces of the Bus Station works. Planting is also planned at the altered bus station frontage. Works at the bus station are programmed for completion by December 2006.

#### **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 The 2006-7 Area 3 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.
- 4.2 By utilising this budget in conjunction with adjacent planned works of a similar type, in-house design involvement and fees are reduced, and it is estimated that, allowing for consultant design fees, approximately £8,500 of the £10,000 would be directly available for physical works.

#### **5. Community and Environmental Implications**

- 5.1 Streetworks enhancements have significant community and environmental benefits. River Street is both a prominent and well-used route in the Conservation Area. The additional enhancements proposed will improve the visual quality and amenity of this busy town centre location.

#### **6. 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 mitigated through the application of good practice procedures and documentation in the procurement of works, in addition to the application of Council standing orders and financial regulations.
- 6.2 Not carrying out these works within River Street during and in conjunction with the Borough Parade car park alteration works would result in more inconvenience when eventually done and higher cost of smaller parcels of work.

<b>Appendices:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Appendix 1: Location Plan</b></li></ul>
<b>Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>None</b></li></ul>

#### **Previous Decisions Connected with this Report**

<b>Report</b>	<b>Committee &amp; Date</b>	<b>Minute Reference</b>
<b>Borough Parade Car Park</b>	Executive 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2005	E104
<b>Borough Parade Car Park</b>	Area 3 Committee 10 <sup>th</sup> October 2005	CH11
<b>Chippenham Streetscene Enhancements</b>	Area 3 Committee 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2005	CH24