

UPDATE REPORT FROM THE DESIGN AND ESTATES TEAM LEADER TO AREA 2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS 14TH OCTOBER 2005

WOOTTON BASSETT & CRICKLADE STREETSCENE ENHANCEMENTS

1. Purpose

- 1.1. To inform the Committee of options for expenditure of the 2005-6 Capital Budget for the continuation of Streetworks and to update the Committee on expenditure of the 2004-5 Capital Budgets for the continuation of Streetworks.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The report be noted and that options for allocation of the Area 3 2005-6 Capital Budget for Streetworks be reported to the next Area 2 Committee.

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 1st December 2004 Area 2 Committee resolved (Minute CR32) that;
 1. *The remaining balance of approximately £22,000 in the Wootton Bassett Environmental Enhancements budget be utilised by the Design and Estates Team Leader for improvements to the Mount Pleasant retaining walls in Wootton Bassett.*
 2. *The Design and Estates Team Leader utilises the £10,000 2004-5 Area 2 Capital Budget for the continuation of Streetworks to maximise the extent of improvements achieved within the Mount Pleasant retaining wall works in Wootton Bassett.*
 3. *The Design and Estates Team Leader be authorised to obtain necessary consents to carry out the Mount Pleasant retaining wall improvements in Wootton Bassett, to seek further partnership contributions from other authorities, and to seek and accept suitable tenders for the works, subject to the available overall budget not being exceeded.*

5. Current Position

- 5.1. Officers at Wiltshire County Council and Wootton Bassett Town Council have both confirmed their Councils are unable to provide partnership contributions towards the enhancement works.
- 5.2. Tenders for the Mount Pleasant retaining walls in Wootton Bassett were received in July 2005, but all exceeded the earlier tender estimate and available budget without partnership contributions. It is understood that onerous traffic management/health & safety requirements and recent construction industry price rises have contributed significantly to the costs.
- 5.3. The works comprised operations at three locations along the east retaining wall. Post-tender negotiations have suggested a number of potential items where costs could be reduced, but have also identified that only the one main location of works at the south may be achievable within the available budget. A revised tender is currently awaited with a view to commencing a reduced scope of works in the New Year.
- 5.4. Using potential partnership funding as a priority - and considering other factors including cost effectiveness and deliverability this year – a number of options exist for the allocation of the 2005-6 Capital Budget of £10,000 for the Continuation of Streetworks. It is intended to recommend options to the next Area 2 Committee when more financial and programming information is known.
- 5.5. Officers are not aware of other streetscene enhancement opportunities within Community Area 2 with identified partnership funding, and that are programmed for implementation this year. If Members are aware of any potential schemes can they please contact officers in The Design & Estates Team during October.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. None.

7. Human Resources and Equal Opportunities implications

- 7.1. None.

8. Community and Environmental Implications

- 8.1. None.

Documents Used in Preparing this Report

Reports and Minutes of previous NWDC Committees.

Author

Julian Kashdan-Brown, Principal Urban Designer, Design & Estates Team
Tel: 01249 706503 email: jkashdanbrown@northwilts.gov.uk