

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.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. **Up to £2,500 of the Area 2 2005-6 Capital Budget for Streetworks be allocated as partnership funding towards enhancement of the Cricklade War Memorial, subject to further partnership funding for the project being obtained.**
- 2.2. **£2,500 of the Area 2 2005-6 Capital Budget for Streetworks be allocated to professional and planning fees associated with progressing proposals for the enhancement of the Cricklade War Memorial, and that the Design and Estates Team Leader be authorised to progress and oversee the design, applications and works.**
- 2.3. **The balance of the Area 2 2005-6 Capital Budget for Streetworks be allocated as further funding towards improvement works at the Mount Pleasant retaining walls in Wootton Bassett.**

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.
- 3.2. Business Area/Team Plan Objectives: Authorisation to expend the available budgets will maintain performance against the agreed Urban Design work programme 2005-6. Expenditure of the Streetworks capital budgets this financial year will maintain the objective to deliver 80% of projects within design brief predictability by March 2006.

4. Background Information

- 4.1. An update report was circulated to members of the Area 2 Committee on 14th October 2005 (see Appendix 1). This provided an update on expenditure of the 2004-5 Capital Budget for the continuation of Streetworks, and noted that options for allocation of the Area 2 2005-6 Capital Budget for Streetworks will be reported to this Area 2 Committee.
- 4.2. The 2005-6 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. A revised tender for a reduced scope of works at Mount Pleasant has been received, but this remains some £5,000 above the available budget. There appears to be little scope for further value engineering to reduce works costs which are already proposed to take some advantage of traffic control measures in place for other nearby works. It is therefore recommended above that part of the 2005-6 Streetworks capital budget also be allocated towards these works to allow them to progress early in the New Year.
- 5.2. Using the potential for partnership funding as a priority - and considering other factors including cost effectiveness and deliverability – contributing to the Cricklade Town Council and Royal British Legion proposals to enhance the area in and around Cricklade War Memorial appears to offer the greatest streetscene enhancement benefits. Other identified streetscene enhancement schemes currently lack partnership funding and cost-effectiveness. However, some of these may be potential candidates for the allocation of any available Area 2 Streetworks budgets for 2006-7 and after.
- 5.3. Enhancements to Cricklade War Memorial were identified in the 1998 overall plan of enhancements in the town centre. Additionally, the same enhancements were identified within the Cricklade Conservation Area Statement, adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance in September 1999. Since then an outline scheme has been produced to remove the later wall from around Cricklade War Memorial and introduce a less obtrusive and low planting bed with paved areas.
- 5.4. Cricklade Town Council have allocated £2,500 towards the War Memorial works, which have been estimated in outline only at £5,000 - £10,000, depending on how much repair and cleaning of the War Memorial itself is included. Cricklade Town Council will also be considering whether to allocate further funding in 2006-7. It is therefore recommended above that a matching allocation be made by this Council, subject to further Town Council funding being identified.
- 5.5. Opportunities also exist for further partnership grant-funding from the Wolfson Foundation/English Heritage/War Memorials Trust grant scheme. This can fund up to 50% of costs up to £10,000, but the proposal requires to be produced in more detail with a method statement in order to apply for such a grant. Therefore it is recommended above that an allocation be made towards fees for the Design and Estates Team to progress and oversee the design, applications and works. It may be that some or all of these cost can later be recovered through the award of such a grant.
- 5.6. 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.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. The 2005-6 Capital Budget for the Continuation of Streetworks of £10,000 is currently unexpended and uncommitted. The proposals could utilise and commit that budget during this financial year.
- 6.2. £30,500 is currently available for works at Mount Pleasant, but current costings for works there total approximately £35,500.

7. Human Resources and Equal Opportunities implications

- 7.1. Continuation of Streetworks and expenditure of related budgets are identified in the Urban Design work programme and therefore progressing them will have no impact upon internal human resources. Contributing the budget as partnership funding will enable a higher value of works to be implemented, and allocating funding towards fees will allow resourcing to be increased to meet that value.

8. Community and Environmental Implications

- 8.1. Streetworks enhancements have significant community and environmental benefits. The Cricklade War Memorial is both a prominent and important memorial in a particularly historic part of the Conservation Area. The Mount Pleasant enhancements proposed will improve visual quality and pedestrian amenity at this busy town centre location.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Report for information to Area 2 Committee Members 14th October 2005.

Documents Used in Preparing this Report

Reports and Minutes of previous NWDC Committees.

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***REPORT FROM THE DESIGN AND ESTATES TEAM LEADER TO AREA 2
COMMITTEE 7TH DECEMBER 2005***