

REPORT TO THE AREA 2 COMMITTEE

Report No.6

Date of Meeting	20 th June 2007
Title of Report	Area 2 Streetscene Enhancements
Link to Corporate Priorities	<p>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.</p> <p>Business Area/Team Plan Objectives: Authorisation to allocate the available budgets will maintain performance against the agreed Urban Design work programme 2006-7.</p>
Public Report	YES

Summary of Report

This report informs the Committee of options for expenditure of the 2006-7 and 2007-8 Capital Budgets for the continuation of Streetworks in Area 2.

Officer Recommendations

1. The Area 2 2006-7 Capital Budget for Streetworks be allocated as a contribution towards planned works at Purton, subject to consideration of the detailed design of those works and other streetscene enhancement opportunities within Area 2 by this Committee during 2007-8.

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 and the 2007-8 Streetworks capital budgets each total £50,000, but have been divided for the 5 Area Committees to decide where each £10,000 is to be expended in each year. 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, are associated with other planned works, or are part of ongoing similar works overseen by others 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 Using the potential for partnership funding as a priority - and considering other factors including cost effectiveness and deliverability – contributing towards works planned by Wiltshire County Council for traffic calming and pedestrian amenity through central Purton appears to offer the greatest streetscene enhancement benefit at this time. However, the design of these works is not sufficiently advanced to be able to identify specific items towards which this Council could allocate funding. Other identified streetscene enhancement schemes and opportunities within Area 2 currently lack partnership funding and cost-effectiveness, but some of these may be potential candidates for the allocation of any available Streetworks budgets for 2007-8 and after. It is therefore proposed that the 2006-7 budget be provisionally allocated as a contribution towards planned works at Purton, subject to consideration of the detailed design of those works and other streetscene enhancement opportunities within Area 2 by this Committee during 2007-8.

3 Background Information

- 3.1 The 7th December 2005 Area 2 Committee resolved that;
- 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.
- £2,500 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.
- 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.
- 3.3 Resource availability and other prioritised work within the Assets, Design & Regeneration Team during 2006 have meant that the two above schemes have

progressed slowly since December 2005. In September 2006 the Executive Members and the Portfolio holder noted and accepted delay of streetworks projects due to staff vacancies and capacity to deliver to other Council priorities.

- 3.4 However some further design work on the two schemes has progressed where resources have allowed: A report by the Team regarding Cricklade War Memorial was recently considered by the client Working Party. The report assessed necessary works in more detail, identified further grant availability and included more detailed costings of works. The Working Party are now considering options for scheme revisions which suit the available budget, grant availability and criteria.
- 3.5 As reported to the 28th February and 11th April Area 2 Committees, with regard to the works planned to Mount Pleasant retaining walls in Wootton Bassett, it eventually proved impossible to take advantage of traffic management measures planned by others in implementing the works. Due to New Roads and Streetworks Act constraints over the timing of these works and disruption to the A3102, a lesser scheme of works which reduces the extent of disruption is currently being discussed with the highway authority for potential implementation during Summer 2007.
- 3.6 The 28th February 2007 Area 2 Committee resolved that;
- That consideration of the item be deferred until the next meeting in order to for the appropriate officer to attend.
- That an explanation be produced ahead of the next meeting, of why works at Mount Pleasant have not been carried out and why Wootton Bassett Town Council have not been informed.
- 3.7 At the 11th April 2007 Area 2 Committee the Chairman read a brief explanation of the above, which concluded with; "...regrettably due to Easter leave and other staff absences an officer is unable to attend the meeting. A more detailed update should be available for a later Area 2 meeting." A more detailed explanation will be produced for Committee members ahead of the meeting and an officer will be in attendance to consider any comments and queries.
- 3.8 At the 11th April 2007 Area 2 Committee, a public question was received from Councillor Wilce of Cricklade Town Council, who stated that it has been three to four years since the Council invested any money on High Street enhancement in Cricklade. He added that the Town Council would like to see works recommenced and completed. He asked if they could be given an indication of when works in Cricklade will recommence. It is intended that a short presentation be given at the Committee meeting, to summarise the Streetscene Enhancements that have been funded and achieved so far in recent years in the centres of both Cricklade and Wootton Bassett and how those fit within an overall programme of such enhancements for each town.

Implications

Financial Implications

The 2006-7 Area 2 Capital Budget for the Continuation of Streetworks of £10,000 is currently unexpended and uncommitted. The proposals would commit that budget.

By allocating this budget as a contribution towards works being progressed by others, or combining the budget with further funding, design involvement and fees are reduced. It is

estimated that, allowing for some in-house liaison fees, approximately £9,000 of the £10,000 would be utilised for actual work items.

Community and Environmental Implications

Streetworks enhancements have significant community and environmental benefits. A contribution towards additional enhancements will improve the visual quality and amenity of a busy town centre Conservation Area location.

Risk Analysis

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 Council standing orders and financial regulations in placing the relevant order for works. By contributing towards works being progressed by others, these risks are further reduced.

Not allocating these funds would not support this Council's priority of Streetscene and Cleaner, Safer, Better Streets. Similar budgets have been allocated by all other Area Committees during the last financial year.

Appendices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None
Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None

Previous Decisions Connected with this Report

Report	Committee & Date	Minute Reference
Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Streetscene Enhancements	Area 2 Committee 7 th December 2005	CR30
Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Streetscene Enhancements	Area 2 Committee 20 th February 2007	CR53
Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Streetscene Enhancements	Area 2 Committee 11 th April 2007	CR65