

REPORT TO THE AREA 1 COMMITTEE

Report No. 10

Date of Meeting	28 th November 2007
Title of Report	Area 1 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 plan 2007-8.</p>
Public Report	YES

Summary of Report

This report informs the Committee of options for expenditure of the 2007-8 Capital Budget for the continuation of Streetworks in Area 1.

Officer Recommendations

- 1. That up to £10,000 of the Area 1 2007-8 Capital Budget for Streetworks be allocated as a contribution towards new and improved items of street furniture planned for central Malmesbury, subject to matched funding being available from others.**

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 2007-8 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 and other fees 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 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 Various communications have been received from Malmesbury Town Council during the last year concerning potential additional items of street furniture within central Malmesbury to improve the streetscene. Several of these have been discussed with the highway authority and some costs for installation have been prepared. Both these authorities have limited funding or resources to implement some of the works but have asked whether the District Council can offer partnership funding. The locations include:
- Additional cast iron bollards at Lower High Street
 - New cast iron and removable bollards at Market Lane
 - New pedestrian fingerpost at Cross Hayes
 - Additional fingerpost arms at Market Cross
 - New seating at Abbey Steps
- 2.2 Using the potential for partnership funding as a priority - and considering other factors including cost effectiveness and deliverability – contributing towards street furniture works in central Malmesbury planned by both Malmesbury Town Council and Wiltshire County Council appears to offer the greatest streetscene enhancement benefit at this time.
- 2.3 It is not expected that the street furniture works listed above will expend the whole available budget. However, the 'Enhancement Proposals' within the current consultation draft of the Malmesbury Conservation Area Management Plan identify a number of further items of street furniture which would benefit from replacement or rationalisation. It is proposed that the residual balance of funding be allocated to the more deliverable of these further items. Again, this would be subject to matched funding being available from others but also subject to adoption of the Management Plan as a Supplementary Planning Document – which is programmed for Spring 2008.

1. Background Information

- 3.1 The 19th July 2006 Area 1 Committee resolved that;
1. *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. *the Assets, Design & Regeneration Team Leader explore options for securing further partnership funding prior to commencement of the works.*
3. *the Officer report back to Committee if the exploration of options for further funding have not been successful.*

3.2 Since then, a £1,000 contribution from Malmesbury Town Council has been secured, Listed Building Consents have been granted for the relevant alterations to cables and brackets, and works have commenced on site. Due to the explosion earlier this year, these works have progressed more slowly than expected within Horsefair.

Implications

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 The 2007-8 Area 1 Capital Budget for the Continuation of Streetworks of £10,000 is currently unexpended and uncommitted. The proposals would commit that budget during this financial year.
- 4.2 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.

5. Community and Environmental Implications

- 5.1 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

- 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 Council standing orders and financial regulations in placing any order for works. By contributing towards works being progressed by others, these risks are further reduced.
- 6.2 Not allocating these funds would not support this Council's priority of Streetscene and Cleaner, Safer, Better Streets.

Appendices:	• None
Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report:	• Malmesbury Conservation Area Management Plan - Consultation Draft November 2007

Previous Decisions Connected with this Report

Report	Committee & Date	Minute Reference
Malmesbury Streetscene Enhancements	Area 1 Committee 19 th July 2006	M22