

Executive Decision Report

**Connecting Leicester – Townscape
Heritage Initiative phase 1 and 2, design
development of King Street
and Welford Place improvements**

Decision to be taken by: City Mayor
Decision to be taken on: 2nd June 2016
Lead director: Andrew L Smith



City Mayor

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: Castle
- Report author: Satbir Kaur

1. Summary

The purpose of this report is to approve:

- Commencement of highway works on Marble Street, Phase 1 of the Townscape Heritage Initiative in the Greyfriars Conservation area.
- Commencement of detailed design for Millstone Lane, Friar Lane, New Street and Wycliffe Street, Phase 2 of the Townscape Heritage Initiative.
Commencement of detailed design and for public realm improvements on King Street and Welford Place in conjunction with the development of the former New Walk Centre site.
- Addition of the above to the capital programme.

2. Recommendations

The City Mayor is requested to approve:

1. commencement of footway and carriageway improvements on Marble Street, Phase 1 of the Townscape Heritage Initiative at a cost of £245,000. To be met from funds set aside for the Economic Action Plan; and
2. commencement of detailed design for Millstone Lane, Friar Lane, New Street and Wycliffe Street, Phase 2 of the Townscape Heritage Initiative at a cost of £85,000. To be met from funds set aside for the Economic Action Plan; and
3. commencement of design for public realm improvements on King Street and Welford Place in conjunction with the former New Walk Centre site at a cost of £145,000. To be met from funds set aside from the Economic Action Plan; and
4. addition of the above to the capital programme.

3. Supporting information including options considered:

The Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) scheme proposes the reconstruction of New Street, Wycliffe Street and Marble Street in natural porphyry stone to match improvements recently made on Applegate and Peacock Lane. Friar Lane and Millstone Lane would also be improved, with footpaths reconstructed with high-quality concrete block paving and carriageways resurfaced in asphalt. Footpaths would be widened, and new trees planted, to create more attractive routes for pedestrians through the historic area.

The Greyfriars THI public realm proposals were presented to local residents and businesses at a community engagement event on 14th January 2016. A wider public engagement exercise took place from 22nd March 2016 until 11th April 2016. The scheme was well received; some concerns have been raised regarding the removal of parking on Friar Lane and Millstone Lane. These issues will be considered as part of the statutory traffic regulation order process.

This report seeks approval to commence construction of Phase 1: Marble Street with funding required at a cost of £245,000. Also to commence detailed design for Phase 2 which is anticipated to commence on site in 2017, subject to funding being available.

Funding required for the progression of the design for Phase 2 is £85,000.

New Walk Centre (NWC) was demolished in February 2015, the developer has taken possession of the site this week and works will now commence to develop a mixed use office and residential scheme with a new public square. To complement the development public realm improvements on King Street are proposed as well as a small section of New Walk adjacent to the new development. Subject to approval, the architects commissioned for the NWC development could extend the scope of their works to provide design options for King Street as well as the public realm on the development site. It is also proposed to commence with the design of Welford Place using in house design resources. Funding of £145,000 is required to facilitate this design process.

4. Details of Scrutiny

The Connecting Leicester 2 programme was considered at the 23rd July, 2015 Economic Development, Transport and Tourism Scrutiny Commission. The Townscape Heritage Initiative proposals were considered by the Economic Development, Transport and Tourism Scrutiny Commission on the 7th April 2016.

5. Financial, legal and other implications

5.1 Financial implications

The report proposes to release £475k from resources set aside for the Economic Action Plan, to fund construction works to Marble Street, detailed design for Phase 2 of THI and design options for King Street and Welford Place.

Colin Sharpe, Head of Finance, ext. 37 4081

5.2 Legal implications

There are no legal implications arising from the recommendation of this report

Clare Sinnott, Solicitor (Planning and Highways), Legal Services

5.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications

Leicester City Council has a target to reduce the carbon footprint of the city by 50% by 2025, based on 1990 levels. Connecting Leicester schemes seek to encourage walking and cycling in the city by improving pedestrian environments and access for cyclists. Converting transport habits from driving to walking and cycling will contribute to a reduction in city wide emissions.

Louise Buckley, Senior Environmental Consultant (Climate Change), 372 293

5.4 Equality Impact Assessment

The equality impacts of the schemes within the programme and mitigating actions will

be considered during the development of schemes and individual EIAs will be produced as appropriate.

5.5 Other Implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

None

6. Background information and other papers:

THI Presentation to 7th April 2016 Economic Development Transport and Tourism Scrutiny Commission

7. Summary of appendices:

None

8. Is this a private report (If so, please indicated the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?

No

9. Is this a “key decision”?

No

10. If a key decision please explain reason