

Executive Decision Report

Connecting Leicester: St Martins Phase 2 improvement scheme

Decision to be taken by: City Mayor

Decision to be taken on: 21 December 2023

Lead director: Andrew Smith



City Mayor

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: Castle
- Report author: Andrew Smith
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- Report version number: v1.1

1. Summary

The purpose of this report is to approve the release of £1.6m funding from the Capital Programme Policy Provision in Highways & Infrastructure to works on St Martins as part of the Connecting Leicester street improvement programme.

2. Recommendations

The City Mayor is requested to approve the release of £1.6m from the policy provision in Highways & Infrastructure to the Connecting Leicester capital programme for the delivery of the final phase of the St Martins street improvement scheme.

3. Supporting information including options considered:

During the Covid pandemic St Martins was pedestrianised under emergency powers to enable social distancing and ultimately the opportunity for businesses to extend out onto the highway with outdoor seating. As this layout worked well for both members of the public and businesses a permanent change to the traffic regulation order (TRO) for St Martins was advertised in the summer of 2022 and made permanent in September 2022. The release of a policy provision for Highways and Infrastructure is now sought to progress the St Martin's scheme to completion. This will improve the physical layout of the street by raising the carriageway to footway level and paving it in porphyry to match streets nearby.

4. Details of Scrutiny

n/a

5. Financial, legal and other implications

5.1 Financial implications

This report proposes to add £1.6m to the capital programme for the St Martins street improvement scheme. This is to be funded by a release from the Highways, Transport & Infrastructure policy provision.

Richard Hawkins, Capital Accountant, Ext 37 1791

5.2 Legal implications

n/a

5.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications

Transport is a significant source of carbon emissions in Leicester, and is a vital area to tackle following the council's declaration of a climate emergency and ambition to reach net zero carbon emissions. As part of the Connecting Leicester scheme this project should have a positive impact through providing improved pedestrian infrastructure within the city. Carbon emissions from the delivery of the works should be managed through use of the council's sustainable procurement guidelines, as relevant to the project.

Aidan Davis, Sustainability Officer, Ext 37 2284

5.4 Equalities Implications

Under the Equality Act 2010, public authorities have a Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which means that, in carrying out their functions, they have a statutory duty to pay due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act, to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't.

Protected Characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

The Act also requires that reasonable adjustments be made so that disabled people are not excluded from places that serve the public, including publicly accessible open spaces. This duty is on-going and anticipatory and, therefore, reasonable and proportionate steps to overcome barriers which may impede people with different kinds of disabilities.

The report seeks approval for the release of £1.6m funding from the Capital Programme Policy Provision in Highways & Infrastructure to works on St Martins as part of the Connecting Leicester Street improvement programme. As part of the continuing work to progress the St Martin's scheme to completion we need to ensure that accessible and inclusive design concepts are taken into account, as these help to support the general aims of the PSED and will be particularly beneficial in removing barriers to participation for people from across a range of protected characteristics, with particular emphasis on disability.

Equalities Officer, Surinder Singh Ext 454 4148

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:

None

7. Summary of appendices:

NA

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”?

Yes

10. If a key decision please explain reason

Capital spending in excess of £1m is to be committed on schemes which are not specifically authorised by Council.