

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Policy and Resources
Date:	24 January 2013
Title:	Project Appraisal: The Square – Extension to Great Minster Street, Winchester
Reference:	4552
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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1. Executive Summary

1.1. This report seeks approval for the implementation of environmental and accessibility improvements on Great Minster Street, Winchester between Symonds Street and The Square at a cost of £300,000. It seeks to explain the background to the development of this scheme, its cost and how it is being funded.

2. Need for Scheme

2.1 The need for the scheme was identified following a meeting with County Councillors, District Councillors and the Chairman of Winchester Business Improvement District (BID).

3. Background, Aims and Objectives

3.1 Following the completion of the environmental and accessibility improvements in The Square which were completed in Spring 2012 it was generally viewed and accepted that the scheme should have been extended to include Great Minster Street, which runs into The Square.

3.2 Funding for this additional work in the historic core of the city centre was allocated from Hampshire County Council's Corporate Policy Reserve (£240,000), together with a contribution from Winchester City Council (£60,000).

3.3 A working group was set up comprising officers from both Hampshire County and Winchester City Councils, local County and District Members and the Chairman of Winchester BID to oversee and steer the development of the additional improvements to Great Minster Street.

3.4 The local community, including residents and local businesses in The Square and Great Minster Street, were consulted on the scheme's aims and proposals by way of hand delivered questionnaires. Based on the responses received from the returned questionnaires, a final layout was developed which addressed the comments and views received.

3.5 There was overall support for improvements in Great Minster Street similar to those completed in The Square. However the option to close Great Minster Street, either permanently or with a removable barrier to allow partial closure, was rejected. This option was subsequently deleted from the final preferred scheme layout.

4. Scheme Outline

4.1 The proposed scheme in Great Minster Street will form an extension to the one implemented in The Square/Market Lane/part of Great Minster Street in Spring 2012. The additional works will complement the recently completed scheme and enhance the environment in this historic part of Winchester City Centre.

4.2 While traffic along Great Minster Street is restricted to 'access only' by a Traffic Regulation Order, the additional works will further discourage vehicles that on occasions disobey the current restriction. The scheme is funded from Hampshire County Council's Corporate Policy Reserve together with a contribution from Winchester City Council. The scheme is costing £300,000 in total.

5. Alternative Options

5.1 The only alternative option that was considered was the inclusion within the scheme to close Great Minster Street at its junction with Symonds Street with a gate/removable barrier. Access to The Square would then only be possible from the Market Street end of The Square. A turning head in Great Minster Street would have been provided to enable vehicles needing access to the nearby houses/businesses to turn around and exit The Square via Market Street/Market Lane. Following consultation with local residents and businesses in The Square/Great Minster Street this option, which showed no overall support for the road closure proposal, this option was rejected and removed from the final scheme.

6. Measures of Success

6.1 The success of the scheme will be measured by undertaking a number of 'before and after' traffic surveys, including pedestrian movement. A survey of local businesses and residents within Great Minster Street and The Square will also be undertaken to seek their views on the success of the scheme.

7. Finance

7.1	<u>Estimates</u>	<u>£'000</u>	<u>% of total</u>	<u>Funds Available</u>	<u>£'000</u>
	Design Fee	17.5	5.8	HCC Corporate Policy Reserve	240
	Client Fee	2.5	0.8	WCC Contribution	60
	Supervision	10.0	3.3		
	Construction	270.0	90.1		
	Land	0.0			
	Total	300.0	100	Total	300

7.2	<u>Revenue Implications</u>	<u>£'000</u>	<u>% Variation to Committee's budget</u>
	Net increase in current expenditure	27	0.025
	Capital Charge	27	0.021
	Total Expenditure	54	0.046

8. Programme

	Gateway Stage			
	3 - Project Appraisal	Start on site	End on site	4 - Review
Date (mm/yy)	24 January 2012	8 April 2013	June 2013	June 2014

9. Scheme Details

9.1 A location plan is shown in Appendix A in this report and a detailed plan of the scheme will be displayed at the meeting.

9.2 The details of the scheme, which will be an extension to the works completed in The Square in Spring 2013, are as follows:-

- realignment of kerblines along Great Minster Street;
- repaving of footways;
- resurfacing of carriageway;
- gateway feature/signing review (minimise sign clutter).

9.3 The scheme details are aimed at discouraging through traffic that currently disobeys the 'access only' Traffic Regulation Order and enhancing the environment for businesses, residents and pedestrians.

10. Departures from Standards

- 10.1 This scheme has been designed in accordance with DfT and Hampshire County Council design standards. The scheme has been successfully safety audited.

11. Community Engagement

- 11.1 The Local Member, Councillor Collin, has been actively involved in the development of this scheme and supports the proposals.
- 11.2 The District Members at Winchester City Council who represent St Michael's Ward, and the portfolio holder for Transport, Councillor Mrs Weston, have also been involved in the development of this scheme and support the proposals.
- 11.3 Consultation with local businesses and residents has also taken place. Residents views were sought via a questionnaire and local businesses were consulted with the assistance of the Chairman of the Winchester BID. The outcome from these consultation exercises showed there to be overall support for the extension of the works previously implemented in The Square, into Great Minster Street, while the option to formally close Great Minster Street at its junction with Symonds Street was not supported and has therefore not been included in the final scheme.

12. Statutory Procedures

- 12.1 A temporary traffic regulation order will be required to formally close Great Minster Street to allow construction work to be undertaken in accordance with Health and Safety Guidelines.

13. Land Requirements

- 13.1 The works to be undertaken are contained within the existing highway boundary and no land is required.

14. Maintenance Implications

- 14.1 The implementation of this scheme will result in a saving in the maintenance budget in the short-term. This will remove the need for any maintenance work in the short/medium term on this road.

15. Recommendation

- 15.1 That the Project Appraisal for the implementation of environmental and accessibility improvements on Great Minster Street, Winchester between Symonds Street and The Square, at a cost of £300,000, be approved.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u> Phase 2 Improvements to The Square, Winchester	<u>Reference</u> 3908	<u>Date</u> 13 th June 2012
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
Scheme working files	Engineering Consultancy, ETE Dept

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

- 1.1 The proposals in this report have been developed with due regard to the requirements of the Equality Act 2010, including the Public Sector Equality Duty and the Council's equality objectives. An assessment of the impacts in this service area , 1.4 - Developing Hampshire's Highways Network and Transport System, can be found on [Hantsweb](#).

It is considered that the issues covered by this report will not have impacts requiring further specific actions by the Council above those already established in its existing policies and working procedures.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

- 2.1 This scheme does not impact on crime and disorder.

3. Climate Change:

- 3.1 This scheme will not have any negative impact on climate change. The aim of the scheme is to discourage traffic through this part of the City Centre and slow down the traffic that continues to use Great Minster Street. This will therefore have a positive impact on air quality locally.