



AGENDA ITEM: 5(h)

CABINET: 13 January 2015

Report of: Assistant Director Community Services

Relevant Managing Director: Managing Director (People and Places)

Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor M Forshaw

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SUBJECT: MOOR STREET IMPROVEMENT WORKS

Wards affected: Scott, Derby and Knowsley.

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To update Members on the progress of the Moor Street Environmental Improvement scheme, as requested in the meeting of Council held on 19 December 2012.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That Cabinet note and endorse the current position.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 A decision was taken at the meeting of Council on 19 December 2012, as detailed in minute no. 66 below:

“RESOLVED: A. That the Revised Capital Programme, including the virements and budget adjustments contained within it, be approved, together with,

(ii) The sum of £265,000 for improvements to Moor Street, Ormskirk, which will be the subject of a report to Cabinet in due course. “

3.2 In February 2013 BCA consultants were appointed to explore design options which would draw on the existing palette of materials, as previously used in

Aughton Street, Church Street and Moorgate, to help achieve a bespoke streetscape design within the allocated budget.

- 3.3 As highway authority for the Borough, LCC were subsequently appointed as Project Managers for the scheme.
- 3.4 A joint consultation by LCC and WLBC on the draft layout scheme prepared by BCA was carried out with representatives from various disability groups to inform the project. Moor Street is currently a “shared surface” with no physical vertical definition for vehicular traffic and this feature will be retained in the completed scheme.
- 3.5 A further public consultation was carried out in July 2014 which was publicised in the local press, available on the WLBC website for comments, and a public open information day with both WLBC and LCC officers present, was held in Chapel Gallery. A copy of the consultation documentation was also hand delivered to all market traders and affected businesses in the town centre.
- 3.6 Once again issues raised as part of the public consultation process were used to further inform the design process.

4.0 ISSUES

- 4.1 Investigations and CCTV camera surveys into the existing surface water drainage infrastructure in Moor Street have identified that there are numerous faults / issues with the existing system. Rectification of these faults, which need to be carried out prior to any carriageway construction / re-paving works, are being scheduled into the contract construction programme.
- 4.2 The surveys also noted that the existing highway drainage connections were not suitable to take the new connections for the revised gully positions and will therefore need to be replaced down to the connections with the existing highway / surface water sewer.
- 4.3 LCC have held discussions with United Utilities (UU) regarding the condition of the public sewer and various options explored as to how best to carry out the repairs given the carriageway replacement surface proposals.
- 4.4 UU also carried out detailed sewer investigation and considered that they could repair the surface water sewer in-situ, rather than carry out a dig down repair to the full length of the affected sewer. UU have also checked their combined sewer in Moor Street and this does not require any repairs.
- 4.5 UU programmed the repair works to be completed by 7 November 2014 and also confirmed that this should then give the surface water sewer a life expectancy beyond that of the finished highway works proposals.
- 4.6 Detailed design works on the project are being finalised by the County’s design team with a view to starting on site in mid February 2015. We are still awaiting the final Project Plan from County which will identify the predicted timescales and milestones required to achieve the completion of the project in the 26 week contract period, as suggested by the County Council project team. The Project Plan will be forwarded to Members when we receive it from County.

- 4.7 LCC have recently confirmed that in order to carry out the works in Moor Street it will be necessary to move the outdoor market situated in Moor Street, between the clock tower and the junction with Moorgate.
- 4.8 This matter is currently being considered by market staff to find the most appropriate location to move the market to. It will need to be to a site which is in the ownership of the Council and this therefore limits the options potentially to the town centre car parks.
- 4.9 Upon completion of the works the outdoor market will be set up in a new configuration in Moor Street, which will work better in the new streetscape and also be visually more attractive. Discussions are being held with traders to try to ensure that the market is reinvigorated and footfall is increased as a result.

5.0 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

- 5.1 In order to facilitate the works LCC are proposing to introduce temporary traffic regulation orders to coincide with the start on site of the works. This order will restrict vehicle access times and also change existing vehicular access arrangements in to the town centre, with Moor Street being out of action as a through route for the period of the works.
- 5.2 Following the feedback from the July 2014 consultation exercise LCC are also proposing to introduce a new town centre traffic regulation order which will control access and parking within the four main town centre streets, notably Aughton Street, Church Street, Burscough Street and Moor Street
- 5.3 As part of the traffic management proposals vehicle access will not be permitted to the above town centre streets between the hours of 10.00am and 4.00pm. This will ensure that Ormskirk town centre is a safe environment for pedestrians and visitors during this period.

6.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 6.1 Investment in to the town centre streetscape is seen as important in helping maintain the vitality of the town centre and also to help attract new businesses in these difficult economic times.

7.0 PROPOSALS

- 7.1 Cabinet note and endorse the contents of the report and the proposal by LCC to have the market re-sited during the course of the works.

8.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 £265,000 has been approved as a capital contribution to the scheme, together with a further £40,000 contribution from the High Street Innovation Fund initiative.
- 8.2 LCC have also committed a budget of £389,000 to the scheme, which includes monies to renew the pointing of the stone setts in the damaged areas in Aughton Street and provide the signage for the new town centre traffic regulation order.

Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

Equality Impact Assessment

The decision does not have any direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders. Therefore no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

Appendices

None