



Cambridge City Council

To: West Central Area Committee 20/04/2016

Report by: Simon Payne,
Director of Environment

Wards affected: Castle, Market, Newnham

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME (EIP)

1.0 Executive summary

This report requests that the Committee:

- Determines whether to proceed with an EIP proposal to restrict the movement of traffic through Canterbury Street.
- Determines which of the proposed new EIP schemes are allocated funding as part of the 2016-17 Environmental Improvement Programme, from those listed in Appendix A of this report.

2.0 Recommendations

The West Central Area Committee is recommended:

- 2.1 To determine whether to proceed with an EIP proposal to restrict the movement of traffic through Canterbury Street, or reallocate the funding agreed (circa £12,250) to other potential projects.
- 2.2 To consider the allocation of the £36,380 additional EIP budget for 2016-17 to the list of proposed projects in Appendix A of this report.
- 2.3 To approve those projects for implementation, subject to the schemes being deliverable, obtaining consents necessary, positive consultation where required and final approval by Ward Councillors.
- 2.4 To note the progress of existing schemes listed in Appendix C of this report.
- 2.5 To consider a second EIP application invitation round during 2016-17 to utilise any funding uncommitted from the present round plus any savings arising from the delivery of previously committed schemes.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 The Environmental Improvement Programme (EIP) funds and delivers small scale projects around the city that make a lasting and noticeable improvement to streets and public places. The programme was reviewed during 2015 to put more emphasis on smaller, community supported applications that can be developed and delivered more quickly. The programme eligibility criteria are attached at **Appendix D**.
- 3.2 The programme is supported up to year 2019-20 with an annual capital budget which is split across the council's four areas depending on population, with devolved decision making to Area Committees to allocate the budget available to project applications each year.
- 3.3 There were no new EIP projects adopted during 2015-16. However, £30,000 was provided in order to enable Cambridgeshire County Council to undertake a programme of Local Highways Improvements (LHI) across the city.
- 3.4 Progress in implementing previous programme commitments is outlined in **Appendix C**. Some of these have been dependent on staffing availability within the County Council's highways service, and regrettably there have been delays in the completion of some projects. Liaison is continuing in order to expedite delivery where needed.

4.0 2016-17 Year Applications

- 4.1 The budget available to develop and deliver new EIP projects across West Central area has been reduced from £42,800 in 2014-15 to £36,380 annually from 2016 to 2020. This is in order to support the city-wide £30,000 contribution to ensure an LHI programme can be delivered across Cambridge, where the majority of costs involved are met by the County Council.
- 4.2 Preliminary feasibility work has been carried out on each of the schemes that have been suggested for the 2016-17 Environmental Improvement Programme. This included an initial assessment of the likely costs involved in delivering those projects considered, at this stage, to be potentially feasible.
- 4.3 The table in **Appendix A** lists all of the schemes that could be feasibly considered as part of this year's EIP Programme, should they be allocated funding by West Central Area Committee.

5.0 Canterbury Street Traffic Calming

- 5.1 Following reports of motorised traffic using Canterbury Street and adjoining roads as a through route between Huntingdon Road and Histon Road (avoiding the Murketts Corner junction), an EIP scheme to provide some restriction was allocated £12,250 in 2011.
- 5.2 In 2007 a 20 mph speed limit and road closure at Canterbury Street was proposed locally. Whilst the reduction in maximum speed was taken forward the road closure element did not gain public support, and was subsequently not implemented.
- 5.3 In 2012 a public consultation was undertaken on two potential options to calm traffic by narrowing the width of Canterbury Street (see **Appendix B**). Approximately 500 leaflets were distributed to properties within the area (as far as Richmond Road) and known local residents associations. The outcome showed very mixed results with no clear consensus of support to undertake either option.
- 5.4 A total of 40 responses were received, of which 21 disagreed with the proposals, 14 agreed and 5 were undecided. This was not unexpected, since the likely effect on through movements could be small and any restriction on through traffic could also inconvenience local residents and essential traffic movements in the area, including deliveries and refuse collections. Following further analysis, a double weighting was applied to those residents who responded and are expected to be most directly affected by the through traffic. With this additional weighting some 53% of residents would be in favour of the proposal, with 47% some against.
- 5.5 In August 2012 the Area Committee considered the consultation results and determined to continue pursuing Option 1 of the traffic calming measures. Discussions commenced with the Highway Authority for local roads (Cambridgeshire County Council), who expressed some reservations about the proposals. The project has not since been implemented, nor been subject to any statutory highways processes. Recent discussions with Castle ward councillors have indicated no overall consensus on the best way forward.
- 5.6 Whilst some time has elapsed since the last consultation and there will undoubtedly have been some turnover in local residents there has been relatively little other change in the area and it is not anticipated

that a similar exercise repeated now would yield significantly differing results.

5.7 West Central Area Committee is therefore asked how it wishes to proceed; from the following potential alternatives:

- Continue with the Option 1 proposals, as previously supported in 2012.
- Re-consult on the existing two options, or any other potential solutions that might come forward.
- Close the project and re-allocate the EIP funding available to new scheme applications within West Central area.

6.0 Further Items for Determination

6.1 The total anticipated cost of the schemes listed in Appendix A (£25,000) is some £11,380 less than the budget available for application to new schemes in 2016-17 (£36,380). There is also potentially a further £12,250 available should funding for the existing Canterbury Street project be re-allocated. Area Committee is therefore able to support all of the applications received that are considered at this stage to be feasible to implement.

6.2 It is possible that there could be further savings arising from the delivery of projects from previous years outlined in Appendix C, which might be carried forward and added to the budget for 2016-17. The precise amount has yet to be quantified and is dependent on final out-turn costs of projects currently being completed. It might however provide some contingency for any unforeseen costs incurred in delivering those new projects adopted this round from those listed in Appendix A.

6.3 Following the review of EIP operating process in 2015, Area Committees are now able to consider more than one application round each year; depending on resource availability. Given the anticipated programme financial position outlined above, it is suggested that a further application round might be considered later in 2016 in order to fully commit the funding available in 2016-17. The focus would need to be on small, straightforward projects that could be delivered within a time frame of a few months.

7.0 Background papers

None

8.0 Appendices

APPENDIX A

Summary of Feasible EIP Schemes for 2016-17.

APPENDIX B

2012 Consultation Options for Canterbury Street.

APPENDIX C

Progress on Existing EIP Schemes.

APPENDIX D

EIP Eligibility Criteria.

9.0 Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

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