

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CABINET MEETING**  
**THURSDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> FEBRAURY 2007**

**Bridge Street (Stourport-on-Severn) Partnership Progress**

<b>OPEN</b>	
<b>COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME</b>	<b>A Better Environment</b>
<b>CORPORATE PLAN THEME</b>	<b>Managing the Local Environment</b>
<b>KEY PRIORITY</b>	<b>Forward Planning</b>
<b>CABINET MEMBER</b>	<b>Cllr Anne Hingley</b>
<b>HEAD OF SERVICE</b>	<b>Head of Planning, Health &amp; Environment</b>
<b>CONTACT OFFICER</b>	<b>Mike Parker</b> <b>Extension 2500</b> <a href="mailto:Mike.parker@wyreforestdc.gov.uk">Mike.parker@wyreforestdc.gov.uk</a>
<b>APPENDICES</b>	<b>None</b>

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To apprise Members on the work of the Bridge Street Partnership and to seek approval for future progress.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

The Cabinet is asked to **DECIDE**:

- 2.1 The continued work of the Bridge Street Partnership project be supported and the £100,000 committed expenditure be taken from the Capital Programme in 2007/08.
- 2.2 That the Head of Planning, Health & Environment, in consultation with the Head of Legal & Democratic Services, prepare and enter into an agreement with Worcestershire County Council to agree the works and funding of the project.
- 2.3 The Head of Planning, Health & Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning, Health & Environment, the Head of Cultural, Leisure & Commercial Services and Head of Financial Services, be authorised to agree design options for consultation and, following consultation, to agree the final design for tendering.
- 2.4 The Head of Planning, Health & Environment agree the proposed public realm improvement works through the County Council's retained engineers, Halcrow, and ensure the satisfactory implementation of the works.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Cabinet included a sum of £100,000 in the 2006/07 budget to pursue a Partnership Project for Bridge Street, Stourport-on-Severn to achieve public realm environmental improvements.
- 3.2 A motion put to Council on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2005, inter alia, included this proposal which was duly considered by the Environment & Economic Regeneration Overview & Scrutiny Panel on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2005, with a recommendation to Cabinet that the project be supported.
- 3.3 At the end of 2005, partners were approached with a view to establishing the Partnership and a positive response was received from Worcestershire County Council, Stourport Forward and English Heritage who, together with the District Council, now comprise the Bridge Street Partnership.
- 3.4 The inaugural meeting of the Partnership took place on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2006 and, since then, regular meetings have taken place to further develop the project.
- 3.5 It became apparent early in the discussions that coinciding any public realm works in Bridge Street with the County Council's proposed programme of bridge works was not desirable, as it would cause further undesirable traffic management problems. It was, therefore, agreed that any project implementation would take place after the bridge works were complete in the 2007/08 financial year. This, in fact, became advantageous as it coincided more favourably with match funding proposed by Stourport Forward in the 2007/08 financial year.

**4. PROJECT PROGRESS**

- 4.1 The partners have identified a number of funding streams which go towards match funding the Council's commitment; Worcestershire County Council has contributed its highway maintenance monies appertaining to Bridge Street; Stourport Forward has committed monies through its work on implementing the Stourport Pride project and through the Better Welcome Fund and English Heritage has agreed a Stage 1 bid to match fund monies from Wyre Forest District Council for a three year project for the wider Stourport area, including Bridge Street (i.e. within the Conservation Area) under its Partnership Schemes in Conservation Areas initiative. Taken together with the Council's contribution, it is anticipated that in excess of £200,000 worth of work will go into Bridge Street environs.
- 4.2 The Partnership has agreed a timetable for the implementation of the improvement works which includes design procurement and consultation between January and May 2007, a final design and tendering period from May-July 2007 and work starting on site in September 2007, with a view to completion by the end of the calendar year.
- 4.3 In order to maximise the funding available, the Partnership has approached Worcestershire County Council to use its retained consultants, Halcrow, to carry out the design work, assist with tenders and supervise the contract. This has enabled the Partnership to take advantage of the existing relationship between Halcrow and the County Council and thus avoid the need for a separate tendering process for design and supervision work.

## **AGENDA ITEM NO.9.2.**

- 4.4 The Partnership is currently in the process of agreeing the initial design work and costings with Halcrow for use in a public consultation later in the spring. Once this has been completed, it is intended that the District Council and the County Council complete a side agreement, setting out the proposed works and the budget and thus ensuring that a robust audit trail is maintained.
- 4.5 The County Council has taken the decision to include the resurfacing of Bridge Street as part of the Bridge works contract to be completed by April 2007 which will, in effect, form Phase I of the Partnership's works and will maximise the opportunity to complete as much of the works as possible under the County's bridge works contract. However, it is accepted that only limited consultation on Phase I will, therefore, be possible.
- 4.6 It is anticipated that Phase II, which will comprise the wider 'public realm' improvements, will be presented as a series of options for public consultation in spring 2007 with a final scheme being agreed for tendering purposes by the summer and work commencing in September after the peak of the tourist season

### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The Cabinet has already committed £100,000 in the capital programme to facilitate these works which will come out of the 2007/08 financial year.

### **6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Whilst there are no direct legal and policy implications arising from this report, there will be a legal agreement between the District and the County Council to cover the handling of the expenditure of the budget on the commissioning of Halcrow and the contract works.

### **7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 7.1 The risk of overspending on the budget will be dealt with through a legal agreement between the County and the District Council.

### **8. CONCLUSION**

- 8.1 The commitment to this project by partners and the financial leverage it is creating, means that this Partnership has the opportunity to be successful in ensuring that the different funding streams are complementary and that, as a result, there are tangible improvements to the Bridge Street area of Stourport and its environs.

### **9. CONSULTEES**

Head of Legal & Democratic Services  
Head of Financial Services  
Head of Cultural, Leisure & Commercial Services