



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL CABINET

31 July 2007

ITEM 13

Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation

Public Realm Programme 2007/08

SUMMARY

- 1.1 Cabinet on 17 April 2007 approved a budget for projects in the Public Realm Strategy and related Asset Management issues for 2007/08. This included £17m of Council funding, plus external funding contributions, making a total of approximately £22m. The Council's contribution is funded from prudential borrowing and therefore impacts on the revenue budget.
- 1.2 A programme of works was drawn up and approved by the Public Realm Board and has been kept under review in accordance with PRINCE2 programme management procedures.
- 1.3 Public Realm Board on 3 July 2007 considered a revised list of allocations for 2007/08, taking into account some anticipated underspends on the projects that had already been approved in the programme.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To approve the reallocation of funds from current projects in the 2007/08 programme to the projects identified in the accompanying paper.
- 2.2 To require detailed proposals for each project to be reported to the Public Realm Board for approval under PRINCE2 Project Management procedures.
- 2.3 To approve scheme commencement on these projects, subject to their further approval in detail by the Public Realm Board, and to waive Contract Procedure Rules for the manufacture and installation of work to the War Memorial.
- 2.4 To bring a further report to Cabinet showing a revised three-year programme consistent with the revenue budget strategy.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 In order to enable progress to be made towards much needed improvements in city centre public spaces in accordance with the Public Realm Strategy.
- 3.2 To maximise the use of Council funding for the implementation of the Public Realm Strategy.



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Report of the Chief Executive and the
Corporate Director of Regeneration and Community

Public Realm Programme 2007/08

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 1.1 In the approved budget for 2007/08, the Council set aside a sum of £17m to be spent on Public Realm and related Asset Management issues. The detailed use of these funds was approved by Cabinet on 17 April 2007.
- 1.2 A detailed programme was presented to the Public Realm Board, for the expenditure of up to £11m of this budget on projects in the programme during 2007/08. The Public Realm Board has received regular reports on these projects, in accordance with PRINCE2 management principles, and is now at a point where some projects are reporting underspend in the current financial year, and other projects have come forward that could utilise this underspend.
- 1.3 The projects which require less funding in 2007/08 than originally programmed are described in the table below. One project shows a saving, but others have slipped and will be dependent upon further public realm funding yet to be approved by Members. The Council's contribution to public realm projects is funded from prudential borrowing and therefore impacts on revenue budgets. The budget strategy report also going to this Cabinet meeting provides for 2007/08 slippage to be funded in 2008/9, with a further Public Realm allocation from 2009/10. This would mean that the projects which have slipped could only progress further in 2008/09 to the extent to which the total funding for 2007/08 has not been used. Should actual resources for 2008/09 be an improvement on current forecasts, then a revenue budget of up to £2m to fund the prudential borrowing costs of a further Public Realm allocation in 2008/9 would be reinstated.

PROJECT/SAVING DESCRIPTION	SAVING £000	REPROFILING £000
Cathedral Green Crossing Budget is now incorporated into a further phase of the Public Realm works for the Full Street/Corporation Street/Morledge.		800
Theatre Walk Delayed start on improvements to the Walk, probably commencing in February 2008.		1,000
St Alkmunds Bridge Previous allocation from Public Realm now superseded by an additional allocation from the Department for Transport	819	

Shop Front Improvements in the City Centre The project will commence, with applications for external match-funding, followed by detailed surveys of the businesses - expenditure on Grant Aid in this financial year is unlikely; fees and survey costs only to be spent this year.		270
Project Management plus minor miscellaneous Environmental Improvements The Project Management Team to be established in Regeneration and Community Department will not be in place until late 2007, and the number of miscellaneous improvements that could be undertaken will also be reduced. In addition, £500,000 staffing costs need to be reprofiled over 3 years.		500
Initial Design Fees for further Public Realm Schemes Delayed starts on design work.		500
TOTAL	819	3,070

1.4 A number of other projects are currently in development where funding has not been identified, which could pick up the underspend reported above. These are described below:

- Westfield Taskforce Action Plan (£215k)**
Works on signage and information, improvements to spaces and properties, and other initial remedial works, in the city centre, in readiness for the Westfield Derby opening on 9 October 2007.
- Market Place Eastern End Improvements (£350k)**
The improvement of the spaces around QUAD, the Tourist Information Centre and Box Office, and the Big Screen, which have all been disrupted by recent works, and which will ultimately tie-in with the Public Realm scheme for Full Street/Corporation Street/Morledge.
- Springwood Leisure Centre (£1,262k)**
Refurbishment and reconfiguration of Springwood Leisure Centre to provide new fitness facilities, and a new public library. Should income levels from new membership be higher than forecasted, the additional income will be used to fund the prudential borrowing costs for the Leisure Centre.
- War Memorial on the Market Place (£30k)**
Improvement to the War Memorial to meet the requirements of the Forces Veterans Associations, and to reduce or eliminate the amount of inappropriate use by people sitting, skateboarding, etc. The work needs to be completed by Remembrance Sunday. It is, therefore, proposed Contract Procedure Rules are waived to enable a contract to be placed for the manufacture and installation of the new scheme directly with the company which manufactured and installed the bronze sword to the memorial some years ago. The company is familiar with the memorial and has produced high quality and sympathetic work. A competitive price will be negotiated with the company.

- **Castleward Boulevard Fees (£25k)**
A Safety and Quality Audit report will be commissioned in respect of the designs for the new boulevard; a ground investigation report will also be carried out to assist delivery of the scheme.
- **Improvements to Allenton and Alvaston District Centres (£400k)**
Contribution to Environmental and transportation improvements to Allenton and Alvaston District Centre.
- **City Centre Premises Refurbishment (£100k)**
Available properties are being sourced to establish potential for a drop-in / resource centre for particular community groups who lack a city centre focus. This is subject to a viable business case being established.
- **Improved Cycleway Signage in Conservation Areas (£10k)**
The standard cycleway signage that has been installed in Darley Abbey and Little Chester Conservation Areas has attracted attention from various residents' groups and conservation/heritage groups, and has been the subject of much criticism. Improvements will not be possible because the signage is in place, but new signage to an appropriate standard can be provided. This standard will then be repeated, within existing budget provision, in other cycleways and conservation areas.

These projects would need a total budget of £2,392k in 2007/08.

- 1.5 Members are asked to consider the above schemes as substitutes for those that will not perform on timetable.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

2. The Public Realm Board considered all other schemes within the Public Realm Strategy that could be brought forward in this timescale, and this list has been exhausted.

For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Tel: Richard Williams (25) 5974 e-mail: richard.williams@derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1 – Implications
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IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 The proposed allocation of the Public Realm funding is detailed within the report and summarised in Appendix 2. The table shows what would happen if the expenditure on schemes slipping from 2007/08 is incurred in 2008/09 instead. As noted in paragraph 1.3, however, the budget strategy report proposes that the 2007/8 Public Realm slippage would be funded in 2008/9, with a further Public Realm allocation from 2009/10. This means that any schemes which are reported as slipping can only progress and incur costs in 2008/09 to the extent that there is unused funding from 2007/08. Should actual resources for 2008/09 be an improvement on current forecasts, then a further allocation would be available for 2008/9, from the reinstatement of up to £2m to fund the prudential borrowing costs. This will not be known until later in the year.
- 1.2 The saving and reprofiling could release £3,889,000 in 2007/08. The list of possible new projects totals £2, 392,000. Further expenditure on schemes in 2008/09 can only be incurred up to the difference between these two figures. This means that only £1.507m could be spent against a total slippage of £3.070m. The remainder of the slippage would, therefore, need to be reprofiled into 2009/10.
- 1.3 Further work will also need to be done to recalculate the value of the capital allocation generated by future revenue budget for the prudential borrowing costs because of changes in interest rates and assumptions on the life of the assets involved in each scheme.

Legal

2. None at this stage.

Personnel

3. Additional staffing resources will still be required in order to implement this revised programme. Detailed proposals are being finalised, and will be taken to the Public Realm Board for approval.

Equalities impact

- 4 Access for disabled people in all Public Realm improvements will be considered as a priority. The Council's Access Officer will be involved in the design of individual schemes.

Corporate Priorities

5. These proposals support the Council's priority for creating a 20th century city centre.