



## **DRAFT** PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE

### **PROPOSED INDIVIDUAL DECISION BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR THE COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND SPORT**

#### **TOPIC - JUBILEE EVENT SPACE**

#### **PROCEDURAL INFORMATION**

The Access to Information Procedure Rules – Part 4, Section 22 of the Council's Constitution provides for a decision to be made by an individual member of Cabinet.

In accordance with the Procedure Rules, the Corporate Director (Governance), the Chief Executive and the Head of Finance are consulted together with Chairman and Vice Chairman of The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and any other relevant overview and scrutiny committee. In addition, all Members are notified.

If five or more Members from those informed so request, the Leader may require the matter to be referred to Cabinet for determination.

**If you wish to make representation on this proposed Decision please contact the relevant Portfolio Holder and the following Committee Administrator by 5.00pm on Tuesday 11 December 2012.**

#### **Contact Officers:**

**Case Officer:** Eloise Appleby, Asst Director (Economic Prosperity), 01962 848 181, eappleby@winchester.gov.uk

**Committee Administrator:** Nancy Graham, 01962 848 235, ngraham@winchester.gov.uk

#### **SUMMARY**

- 2012 was a year of celebration across the UK, fuelled by the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the London Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- In the Winchester District, the Council supported community events ranging from street parties in villages to the Olympic Torch relay which drew crowds of around 30,000 people.
- The Council played an active role throughout the celebrations, from awarding small grants to dealing with road closures; providing a free service from a commissioned Parish Celebrations Advisor; by marketing and sharing information, and by organising a number of its own high profile events.

- What became clear during the course of the year is that the District lacks covered, informal event spaces which can be used on special occasions or indeed throughout the year.
- There has often been discussion of the fact that Winchester itself, unlike many other English towns, does not have a bandstand. Whilst informal feedback suggests that a traditional bandstand is not what is needed, officers have met with encouragement from a range of stakeholders and Members when setting out the idea of a 'portable event space' for the District.
- It is therefore proposed that the Council commissions the design and creation of an event space which can be moved from site to site, in the Town area and across the wider District, to provide such a venue.
- This project would, as Members have heard at Full Council in recent months, be the City Council's Jubilee Legacy Commission.
- Winchester Cathedral has offered to be the 'default' home for the space, as the Dean is keen to see the Close used increasingly for social gatherings. The design would therefore be sympathetic to such surroundings.
- It is possible that the structure will therefore require planning permission, although it will not be fixed into the ground.
- The commissioning process would be overseen by a small steering group, including the Portfolio Holder, the Cathedral, a representative of the Town Forum and a representative of one of the Parish Councils.
- The process would also include a public exhibition of the shortlisted designs, as well as consultation with potential users about the technical/logistical features.
- It is hoped that the new space might be available from summer 2013, depending on the availability of the selected artist/designer; the nature of the design; the need for planning permission and other variables.
- The structure would be covered by the Council's insurance policies, but groups using the Jubilee Event Space would be required to hold their own cover for accidental damage and public liability.
- The commission directly supports the Winchester District Community Strategy outcome of Active Communities, by providing a space which will make a positive contribution to community events and celebrations.

### **PROPOSED DECISION**

1. That the commissioning of a Jubilee Event Space for the Winchester District be approved, and
2. That the expenditure of up to £25,000 funded by virements from existing budgets, and consequential changes to the Capital Programme and General Fund Revenue Budget (as set out in the Resources section below) on this commission be approved.

### **REASON FOR THE PROPOSED DECISION AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

During the year, Members have enquired about plans to provide a lasting commemoration for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee year. Suggestions have included a plaque, a clock, a piece of artwork in St Maurice's Covert and a water feature. The Portfolio Holder has considered these but feels that a tailor-made event space would both provide a piece of attractive public art and at the same time fulfil a practical function. This function – supporting community celebrations - is in keeping with the three strands being developed to form the 2012 Legacy Plan previously shared at Council.

Another alternative would have been to buy a small marquee of similar, which could be stored by the Council in between events. This idea has been rejected because of the wish to provide a more durable and unique feature to mark the Diamond Jubilee.

### **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

It is estimated that a budget of **£25,000** will be required for the project. This would include:

£20,000 design and construction fee

£3,000 fees for three shortlisted artists/designers to produce design concepts

£2,000 for a small public exhibition of the shortlisted designs, leaflets to promote the availability of the space, initial transport costs and other project expenses,

It is proposed that this is taken from the following existing budgets:

**£12,000** from the High Street Enhancement budget, originally intended to retrofit public art features following the refurbishment. (This is the remainder of a £30,000 LABGI allocation, the rest of which was used to pay for the refurbishment and extension of the painted bollards in The Square over the past year.)

**£8,000** from the Active Communities commissioning budget, in view of the fact that the initiative directly supports community events.

**£2,000** from the arts development budget.

In addition, **£3,000** has been offered by the Winchester Business Improvement District.

This would have the following impact on existing budgets:

	<u>2012/13</u>	<u>2013/14</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b><u>PROPOSED EXPENDITURE</u></b>			
<b><u>Revenue - (one-off)</u></b>			
fees for three design concepts for a small public exhibition etc	£3,000		£3,000
		£2,000	£2,000
<b>Net Revenue Cost</b>	<b>£3,000</b>	<b>£2,000</b>	<b>£5,000</b>
<b><u>Capital</u></b>			
design and construction fee		£20,000	£20,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,000</b>	<b>£22,000</b>	<b>£25,000</b>
<b><u>EXISTING BUDGETS</u></b>			
<b><u>Revenue</u></b>			
Active Communities Commissioning	£8,000		£8,000
Arts Development	£2,000		£2,000
<b>Net Revenue Cost</b>	<b>£10,000</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£10,000</b>
<b><u>Capital</u></b>			
Winchester High Street	£12,000		£12,000
<b><u>Reserves</u></b>			
LABGI release	-£12,000		-£12,000
<b><u>REVISED BUDGETS AFTER VIREMENTS</u></b>			
<b><u>Revenue</u></b>			
Active Communities commissioning	£3,000	£2,000	£5,000
BID contribution to project (Income)	-£3,000		-£3,000
<b>Net Revenue Cost</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£2,000</b>	<b>£2,000</b>
<b><u>Capital</u></b>			
Jubilee Event Space		£20,000	£20,000*
<b><u>Reserves</u></b>			
LABGI release		-£12,000	-£12,000
Revenue Contribution to Capital		-£8,000	-£8,000
	<b>£0</b>	<b>-£20,000</b>	<b>-£20,000</b>
*Depreciation charges would be £4,000 pa over a 5 year life			

It is likely that some additional costs (eg for minor repairs) will be required during the life of the structure. These are unknown, but will be found as far as possible from existing revenue budgets.

**CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN ON THE PROPOSED DECISION**

Consultation has thus far been informal. It has included Leading Members, the Winchester Business Improvement District, Winchester Cathedral, The Theatre Royal and officers. All have indicated warm support for the commission.

The proposal for a similar commission for West of Waterlooville (using Section 106 contributions for public art), also received widespread support from the local community. Due to the nature of S106 agreements, the 'WoWPod' – as it is being called – will not be able to be used away from the West of Waterlooville area.

As has been indicated above, there would be open public consultation on the three shortlisted design concepts.

**FURTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF THE DRAFT PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE**

n/a

**DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY THE DECISION MAKER OR A MEMBER OR OFFICER CONSULTED**

n/a

**DISPENSATION GRANTED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

n/a

**Approved by: (signature)**

**Date of Decision**

**Councillor Cllr Patricia Stallard – Portfolio Holder for Communities, Culture and Sport**