



**DRAFT PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE**

**PROPOSED INDIVIDUAL DECISION BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

**TOPIC - RIVER ITCHEN MAINTENANCE**

**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 Thursday 24 January 2013.**

**Contact Officers:**

**Case Officer:** Patrick Aust, 01962 848 254, paust@winchester.gov.uk

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

**SUMMARY**

- The purpose of this Decision Notice is to seek authorisation to the release of funding amounting to £60,000 which was included in the Capital Programme approved by Cabinet on 8 February 2012 (report [CAB2297](#) refers). The capital programme includes funding allocations for 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15 to enable works to be undertaken in 3 phases. This decision notice relates to phase 1, and further authority will be sought for phases 2 and 3 in due course.
- Winchester City Council, working in partnership with Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, seeks to contract Phase I of a 2-3 year programme of channel enhancements along selected reaches in Winchester City. This is based upon concept plans commissioned in 2007 and following recent assessments of site suitability, as outlined in Cabinet Report [CAB1711](#) presented on 18 November 2008.

- Phase I includes the municipal channels at Abbey Gardens & Friarsgate. Enhancements should seek to improve the visual aesthetics of these modified and degraded channels, as well as enhance their ecological/wildlife potential. Such channels form an important feature and backdrop to the urban environment and can greatly improve the general public's appreciation and ownership.
- The works will involve a contractor carrying out repairs and making modifications to the river banks. The contractor will be selected following the completion of a tender exercise carried out in accordance with the Contracts Procedure Rules.

### **PROPOSED DECISION**

That the expenditure of £60,000 be authorised in accordance with Financial Procedure Rule 6.4 to enable the works for Phase 1 of the River Itchen Maintenance Project to be undertaken.

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

Although the project is included in the approved Capital Programme, authorisation under Financial Procedure Rule 6.4 is still required to release the funds. The Project is now ready to be commenced, and the release of the funds will allow a contract for the work to be let.

Given their experience in similar schemes, the project will be managed by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust on behalf of the City Council. Contracts will be tendered and arranged by the Trust, but will be entered into directly by the City Council with the selected contractor.

### **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

The City Council officers will liaise with the Trust and assist with consultation and this can be undertaken within existing resources.

The work is to be split into phases which may stand alone and individually provide benefits and improvements to distinct sections of the River, but do form part of a wider strategy for the River Banks through the Town and continues work already carried out by the City Council and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust to the south of the City to improve wildlife diversity and manage the flow of the river.

Phase 1 is out to tender and it is hoped to appoint a contractor at the end of January 2013, and to start works soon after. Phase 1 has a budget of £60,000 and the scheme has been designed so that it should be in line with the available budget. The two subsequent Phases for 2013/14 and 2014/15 have budgets of £40,000 and £75,000 respectively and works will be designed and tendered to accord with these

amounts. Should tenders not be in line with the budgets then they will have to be redesigned but the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust is experienced at procuring and designing such works and therefore officers are confident that this will not be necessary.

This Phase relates to land within the General Fund. Future phases will be also chargeable in part to the Winchester Town Account and the Housing Revenue Account, details of which will be set out in future approvals of such phases.

Payments will be made by the Council direct to the contractor based on completed works and valuations.

The Trust will be undertaking the project management element of this project on the City Council's behalf and will not be charging a fee for this service.

### **CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN ON THE PROPOSED DECISION**

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust are to project manage the scheme on behalf of Winchester City Council. The Trust has gained the consent of the Environment Agency in order to carry out work on Main River.

The Trust has drawn up the scheme in consultation with the Environment Agency and City Council Officers.

### **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 Stephen Godfrey – Portfolio Holder for Finance and Administration**