



PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE

INDIVIDUAL DECISION BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR COMMUNITIES AND TRANSPORT

TOPIC – CAR PARK IMPROVEMENT AT WICKHAM

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 Chief Operating Officer, the Chief Executive and the Chief Finance Officer 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.

Contact Officers:

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SUMMARY

Cabinet agreed to allocate funding to support an improvement scheme at Station Close in Wickham at its meeting on 12 February 2014 (CAB2545 refers) subject to further details being submitted in order to release the funding. This Decision Notice sets out an update and resource implications for the scheme and seeks approval to release the funding so that the project can be implemented. The project is set out in, and is in accordance with, the City Council's District Car Parking Strategy.

The provision of additional parking provision in Wickham to meet the needs of the village has been explored extensively over the last 12 months in discussion with the Parish Council, Portfolio Holders and Ward Councillors. Parking in Wickham Square is at capacity on most days of the week and additional space needs to be provided elsewhere for those who work in the Square to free up space for visitors and shoppers. After thorough consideration, it was concluded that the only feasible location for additional parking is an extension to the existing car park at Wickham Station on City Council-owned land. This would provide an additional 37 car parking

spaces. Full planning approval has now been granted for these works including the necessary supporting design and access statements and ecological and tree assessments. Based on detailed cost estimates, the cost of providing these additional car parking spaces is around £110,000. This is relatively expensive in relation to the number of spaces that would be provided but this is due to the specific site requirements which require a specialist surfacing material which is porous and will not impact on tree roots, together with the need to provide adequate lighting. The scheme will provide much-needed additional car parking spaces for the Village and has the full support of the Parish Council and local Members. A possible contribution from Hampshire County Council is still under discussion but is unlikely to be forthcoming so the City Council will have to provide the full cost of the scheme which has already been allowed for in the car parks repairs and improvements programme.

DECISION

That the capital expenditure on car park improvement schemes at Station Close, Wickham as set out in the Decision Notice, be approved under Financial Procedure Rule 6.4.

REASON FOR THE DECISION AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The project which is the subject of this Decision Notice will provide additional car parking spaces which are required to meet demand in Wickham.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

Funding was allocated in the Car parks Major Repairs Fund by Cabinet on 12 February 2014.

It is now proposed to incur this capital expenditure as set out below in order to implement the scheme.

- Station Close Wickham £110,000, to be funded from the car parks property earmarked reserve.

It will be necessary to allow for the increased cost of running and maintaining this additional parking area but this can be accommodated from within the existing revenue budget. The additional costs are set out below.

Car Parking charges are not currently applied to this car park. After consultation and discussion with the Parish Council, local Members and local businesses, it is felt that no charges should be applied initially in order to encourage a shift in parking behaviour of people employed the villages businesses from the main car park in Wickham Square to Station Close. This will make more spaces available in Wickham Square to the benefit of local business.

Wickham Station Car Park – Revenue costs

<u>Annual Revenue Costs from 2015/16 onwards</u>	<u>£</u>
Street lighting, maintenance and energy	300
Sweeping and cleaning	1,000
<u>Total Revenue Costs per annum</u>	<u>1,300</u>

It is anticipated that the longer term maintenance costs of the car park will be c£30,000 every 10 years. This will need to be considered in the longer term planning of the car parks property earmarked reserve which supports major capital and revenue car park works.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN ON THE DECISION

Parish Council, local Members, business groups and stakeholders have been fully involved in the development of both schemes.

The Portfolio Holder has been involved in the development of the project and is in full support.

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

None

DISPENSATION GRANTED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

None.

Approved by: (signature)

Date of Decision: 07.01.15

Councillor Mike Southgate – Portfolio Holder for Communities and Transport