

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Date:	19 September 2017
Title:	Project Appraisal Update – Bell Street, Romsey
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The project is an accessibility highway improvement scheme to Bell Street in Romsey (“the Scheme”) and is the second of three phases of improvement works in Romsey town centre. A detailed Project Appraisal was previously approved by the Executive Member for Environment and Transport on 15 September 2016.
- 1.2 The September 2016 Executive Member report proposed a single phased approach with planned commencement in January 2017 for duration of 26 weeks. This Project Appraisal update seeks further funding to meet the additional costs of delivering the Scheme in two phases in order to avoid the adverse impact to local businesses of undertaking works during their peak summer trading period, and also to replace a greater extent of the existing drainage than had previously been thought necessary.

2. Contextual information

- 2.1 The need to re-sequence the scheme to help protect local businesses by avoiding works during their key summer trading period between June and August has meant rescheduling the scheme to start in September 2017 rather than January 2017, as originally planned. This has added additional costs to meet the need of demobilising and remobilising to avoid working during the busy Christmas period.
- 2.2 Original survey information had identified that only part of the existing Bell Street drainage system would require replacement. However, further investigation identified the existing system to be in a far worse condition than had originally been thought, and further funding is now required in order to meet the additional costs of replacing the whole of the system.
- 2.3 These issues along with additional fees required to facilitate these changes, and the inflationary price increase incurred by rescheduling the works to start in the next financial year, have increased the overall forecast cost of the scheme by a further £180,000.

3. Finance

- 3.1 The scheme was previously approved to a value of £872,000. The current estimated cost of rescheduling the works and extending the drainage will increase the scheme cost by £180,000 to a total scheme value of £1,052,000.
- 3.2 A bid will be made to the County's Market Town Fund to support this funding shortfall, and a report will follow to the Executive Member for Policy and Resources on 22 September 2017 should this increase be agreed.

4. Consultation and Equalities

- 4.1 A public consultation was held from Monday 29th February 2016 to Friday 29 April 2016. The outcome of the consultation has been previously reported in the [Project Appraisal approved by Executive Member for Environment and Transport in September 2016](#), which is attached to this report.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1. That the Executive Member for Environment and Transport gives approval for a revised Project Appraisal for the improvements at Bell Street, Romsey, including a capital increase in the cost of the highway improvements of £180,000, with a revised total scheme value of £1,052,000.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Strategic Plan**

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Romsey Town Centre Improvement, Phase 2 Bell Street	15/09/2016
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

All impacts are seen to be positive to all users in terms of accessibility. The consultation on the Bell Street proposals provided 96 responses from a range of users. Of these responses 70% supported the scheme with only 18% not supporting the scheme as designed. One guide dog user expressed concerns over the crossing at the junction of the Cornmarket and Bell Street, requesting tactile paving on the two corners between the Butchers and cake shop. This has been added to the design, as have other locations now identified for tactile paving. The scheme is designed to provide a level highway surface from building line to building line.

This will remove the kerbs, thus allowing all users easy access to the area and the ability to cross the road at any location and not rely on drop kerbs for access. The level surface will enable the widening of all footway areas on Bell Street which will increase the accessibility of the street for wheelchair users, mobility scooter users, as well as removing trip hazards for those with mobility impairments.

All pedestrian movements will be improved and the wider footways will remove the need for people to walk in the road to avoid pedestrians from the other direction. The visually impaired have been consulted and whilst they would prefer the same street scene, their needs in terms of orientation, including tactile paving at key crossing points, has been taken into account

and will be provided. The drainage channel adjacent to the carriageway has also been designed to aid the visually impaired, which will help them recognise the edge of the carriageway/footway.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. None.

3. Climate Change:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?
- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

The scheme seeks to provide improved access for all, with slower vehicle speeds and a more pleasant pedestrian experience. This will provide an improved environment for cycling due to the lower vehicle speeds. Improving pedestrian accessibility will also reduce dependency on car journeys for short trips and therefore will look to increase the opportunities and ability for behavioural change to more sustainable travel choices.