

Chichester District Council

THE CABINET

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WSSC Pavement Feasibility Study Funding

1. Contacts

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2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet approves the request for £10,000 from Council Reserves as a contribution from CDC to West Sussex County Council to enable the Pavement Feasibility Study to progress for the city centre.**

3. Background

- 3.1. Public realm improvement in Chichester is cited as a priority in the current Growth Programme and the Chichester Vision. Previous studies have extensively documented the degradation of high street surfaces and the disjointed state of the public realm, underlining the mounting maintenance liabilities for West Sussex County Council to uphold health and safety standards. This, in turn, significantly impacts the town's ability to attract and retain visitors and businesses.
- 3.2. WSSC have developed a proposal to explore options, focussing on design, material palette and development of a phased programme of works for Chichester City centre public realm improvements. This will achieve a concept design to inform a future steer and decision, but significant cost remains to develop detailed design, contract documents and other related project deliverables. A partnership project is being developed by West Sussex County Council based on the costs and risks identified in the study and will require future capital funding allocation as the preferred option(s) develops.
- 3.3. WSSC are seeking partnership funding towards the cost of the Pavement Feasibility Study, estimated at £110,000 and has requested £10,000 from CDC Reserves to enable this work to progress.

4. Outcomes to be Achieved

- 4.1 Improvements to the city centre pavements would seek to better connect key amenities, heritage and cultural locations and support the economic growth of the city centre as a key tourism destination. Consensus on any future proposal needs to be agreed in the context of Chichester being considered as the County Town of West Sussex and an area with significant architectural heritage.
- 4.2 Good quality streetscape and public areas are vital to leaving people with a positive lasting impression and in turn encouraging footfall to the city centre.

5. Proposal

- 5.1 It is recommended that £10,000 is allocated from Reserves as a contribution to the Pavement Feasibility Study being led by West Sussex County Council.
- 5.2 West Sussex County Council have been advised by CDC that the Feasibility Study should utilise existing reports and develop a clear strategy that sets out a programme of options to resolve the issues at speed and minimal disruption to residents. In addition, the need to consider options for installation of underground ducting to eradicate future need to dig up pavements and to consider other enhancements that will support economic growth.
- 5.3 A contribution to the Feasibility Study continues to demonstrate CDCs urgent consideration of regeneration of the city centre.

6. Alternatives Considered

- 6.1 Not to agree to support the project in the form of funding suggested. However, this could be detrimental to the project progressing and partner relations.

7. Resource and Legal Implications

- 7.1 There is no statutory requirement for CDC to contribute to the project, however the improvement to the public realm is beneficial for the city for a number of reasons as mentioned in this report.
- 7.2 The County Council, as Highway Authority for West Sussex, has a statutory duty for highway safety across the whole of the publicly maintained highway in the county. WSCC meets this duty by the application of its Highway Inspection Manual, a document that sets out the steps taken to formally inspect and repair defects on the network. The manual takes account of the guidance set out in the 'Well Managed Highway Infrastructure' code of practice, which is endorsed by the Department for Transport and other national bodies. All publicly maintained footways, cycle tracks and carriageways across West Sussex are formally inspected at least once every year. The frequency of those inspections is dependent on several factors, including hierarchy, classification, volume of use and can range between monthly and annual. Chichester City Centre is inspected monthly through walked inspections.

- 7.3 The £10,000 from capital reserves, if approved, would be deducted from any future requests for a contribution. Any future funding contributions agreed would first be subject to a scheme being agreed by the Council.

7. Consultation

- 8.1 WSCC have advised that they will undertake stakeholder and public engagement as part of the project.

8. Community Impact and Corporate Risks

- 9.1 Risk that expectations will not be met if the Feasibility Study does not meet the anticipated needs.

9. Other Implications

	Yes	No
Crime and Disorder		X
Climate Change and Biodiversity Improved and enhanced public realm may encourage more walking and cycling in and around the city.	X	
Human Rights and Equality Impact - Positive impact given that the improvements to the pavements will provide a better experience for disabled and older people.	X	
Safeguarding and Early Help		x
General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)		x
Health and Wellbeing – Positive – improved pavements assist with supporting independence for older and disabled people.	X	
Other (please specify) Visitor economy may be supported by an enhanced public realm which provide a positive lasting impression, reduced levels of complaints and reduced maintenance regimes.	X	

10. Appendix

11.1 None

11. Background Papers

12.1 None