

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:	2037
Author:	Caroline Nash
Department:	Development
Contact:	Caroline Nash (Job Title: Service Manager, Email: caroline.nash@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 01158765243)
Subject:	Creative Quarter: Castle Approach - Friar Lane Pedestrian Improvements
Total Value:	£220,000 (Type: Capital)
Decision Being Taken:	<p>Recent lottery funding for improvements to the visitor experience at the Castle will mean an increase in the already high level of footfall on the main approach along Friar Lane. In recognition of this, funding has been secured through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to enhance and upgrade this main pedestrian link.</p> <p>The City Council's Mid Term Financial Plan in February 2015 approved an allocation on Friar Lane as part of the Creative Quarter transport improvements programme. Subsequently, detailed design and consultation have been carried out to confirm the scheme details and costs.</p> <p>The decision is for the approval of total expenditure of £220,000 to be met from the Creative Quarter public realm programme's overall approved total of £9.55m funded as £8m City Deal and £1,55m ERDF, as set out in the Medium Term Financial Plan (annexe 3 appendix C).</p> <p>The decision is also for the approval of the final design of the scheme and the use of the Council's in-house contractors, Neighbourhood Services in Communities, to deliver the works in accordance with the Council's financial regulations and grant conditions (ERDF).</p>
Reasons for the Decision(s)	To allow the full implementation of the scheme. The expenditure supports the Nottingham Economic Growth Plan, with the City Deal being the catalyst for change through enabling the development of the Creative Quarter. The project also specifically supports the future increase in patronage of the Castle.
Briefing notes documents:	ERDF Castle Approach Alternative 2.pdf

Other Options Considered: The proposals focus on improved pedestrian space through widening of footways and paving of the carriageway; in order to achieve this it is proposed to relocate existing pay and display parking away from Friar Lane.

Consideration was given to retaining the parking lay-by, but this would not achieve an improvement for pedestrians and would maintain the perceived priority for traffic.

Consideration was also given to closing the road to through traffic and making the area fully pedestrianised. However, further investigations showed that traffic flows were relatively low and the other measures would be sufficient to reduce the impact of traffic through the area.

The do nothing option would retain existing narrow footways, an uninteresting and uninspiring streetscape and significant traffic intrusion at normal highway speeds, and would provide no additional incentive or interest in pedestrians walking to the Castle.

Background Papers: Nottingham Growth Plan <http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/static/nottinghamgrowthplan/index.htm>, Mid Term Financial Plan 2015

Published Works:

Affected Wards: Radford and Park

Colleague / Councillor Interests: None

Consultations:

Date: 16/02/2015
Ward Councillors: Liaqat Ali, Anne Peach
No comments received so far.

Date: 23/02/2015
Area Committees: Area 4: Arboretum, Dunkirk and Lenton, Radford and Park (from May 2012)
No comments received so far.

Date: 23/02/2015
Other City Council Bodies: Bodies on the statutory consultation list
General support received from several consultees.

Date: 05/01/2015
Other: Civic Society and local frontages
Preliminary discussions held to agree principles prior to formal consultation.

Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications:

The scheme should create a more relaxing and pedestrian-friendly environment, clearer sight lines, slower traffic and more open space resulting in people feeling safer. This fulfils our obligations under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Equality:

Please login to the system to view the EIA document: Friar Lane Equality Impact Assessment revised.pdf

Decision Type:

Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In:

Yes

Call In Expiry date:

26/06/2015

Advice Sought:

Legal, Finance, Equality and Diversity

Legal Advice:

This recommendation appears to be within the remit of the selected Portfolio Holder, which includes highway design and maintenance.

It is noted that it is proposed that the works will be delivered by the Council's in-house contractors, and that it is proposed that the works will be delivered in accordance with the Council's financial regulations and grant conditions (EDRF).

Some elements of the proposed scheme may fall within the terms of reference of the relevant Area Committee, which include highway environmental improvements of a local nature. The relevant Area Committee may therefore also need to consider the elements which fall within their terms of reference.

The Council is under a duty to provide footways by virtue of section 66(1) of the Highways Act 1980, and the Council has the power to vary relative widths of existing carriageway and of any footway maintainable at the public expense by virtue of section 75 of the Highways Act 1980. These changes must be exercised by a person so authorised by the Council.

Changes to parking provision which result from the proposal will necessitate the making of traffic regulation orders under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

The proposed changes will also require individual authorisation by either Portfolio Holder/officer delegated powers depending on the nature of the changes, and will be subject to separate legal processes such as the traffic regulation orders/variations to existing traffic regulation orders, which include notification, publication and consultation response periods. Advice provided by Tamazin Wilson (Solicitor) on 01/04/2015.

Finance Advice:

This project was approved at the February 2013 Executive Board meeting, and included in the refreshed capital programme approved at the February 2015 Executive Board meeting.

This decision seeks approval to commence transport improvement works along Castle Approach on Friar Lane at a total scheme cost of £0.220m. This cost can be contained within the City Deal - Creative Quarter Programme totalling 9.550m. This will be resourced by £8.000m from the City Deal programme to be funded from prudential borrowing with repayments met from future business rate growth and £1.550m European Regional Development Fund grant.

Completion of works and expenditure must comply with the ERDF grant conditions to maximise grant drawdown and avoid clawback of funding.

The works will be delivered by the Council's in-house contractor Highways Services in Communities in accordance with the Council's financial regulations and ERDF funding conditions.

Advice provided by Maria Balchin (Finance Analyst) on 01/04/2015.

Equality and Diversity Advice:

The proposal has clear benefits for the city and its citizens, particularly those requiring improved access. Whilst consultation has been a factor in the developments, it is vital that citizens for whom accessibility is a pre-requisite to full inclusion that consultation is a constant process and that where issues are raised a strong problem solving approach based on the notion of the social model of disability be adopted. Advice provided by Adisa Djan (Equalities and Diversity Consultant) on 31/03/2015.

Signatures

Nick McDonald (Portfolio Holder for Jobs, Growth and Transport)
SIGNED and Dated: 19/06/2015
David Bishop (Deputy CE, CD for Development and Growth)
SIGNED and Dated: 18/06/2015