



CABINET REPORT

Report Title	St Giles Street – Public Realm Improvement
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AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC

Cabinet Meeting Date:	11 th November 2015
Key Decision:	Yes
Within Policy:	Yes
Policy Document:	No
Directorate:	Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning
Accountable Cabinet Member:	Cllr Tim Hadland
Ward(s)	Castle

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To consider and approve a proposal to enhance the public realm of St Giles Street via the improvement to pavements and carriageway.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To give approval for the Council to improve the first phase of the public realm improvements to St Giles Street by renewing the footpaths and carriageway surfaces.
- 2.2 To give approval for the Council to enter into a Funding Agreement with Northamptonshire County Council enabling the works to be completed by them as Highways Authority.
- 2.3 To give approval for currently identified capital monies within this year's Capital Programme for 'Town Centre Public Realm' to be allocated to this project.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

- 3.1.1 The Borough Council has already successfully completed public realm improvement works to both Abington Street and Guildhall Road which are helping to improve the offer of the Town Centre.
- 3.1.2 Both projects were completed in partnership with Northamptonshire County Council utilising their supply chain as Highways Authority.
- 3.1.3 The public realm improvements to St Giles Street will enhance the experience of visitors to the area by way of a unique appearance which is in fitting with the ambience and appearance that a high number of independent traders brings.
- 3.1.4 Guildhall Road offers visitors entering the town from St John's car park an enhanced public realm and the works to St Giles Street will further develop the 'Cultural Quarter' feel within the town.
- 3.1.5 Members will also be aware that St Giles Street has recently been nominated for 'High Street of the Year'.
- 3.1.6 Initial engagement with traders based on St Giles Street has already commenced with the completion of a recent Business Breakfast event. As the design of the scheme develops further dialogue will be completed with businesses on an individual basis.
- 3.1.7 These works form Phase 1 of wider regeneration works which include St Giles Square and Fish Street. It is planned that the works will start in the New Year, so as not to disrupt Christmas trade.

3.2 Issues

- 3.2.1 The key deliverables of the project will be the enhancement to the pavements and the carriageway. This work will result in disturbance to traders. Disturbance will be minimised by effective communication and dialogue.
- 3.2.2 Whilst St Giles Street will remain open to pedestrians throughout the works, there will be a need to close the road to vehicles to enable works to be completed. Effective traffic diversions will be put place and these will be communicated in advance of them coming into force.
- 3.2.3 Building on the Guildhall Road experience, include the necessity to retain double yellow lines, allowing loading/unloading and parking for disabled drivers within legal limits will be incorporated within the project. Double yellow lines have been retained in all areas other than opposite the St Giles Street/Castilian Street junction where they are being removed for safety reasons.

- 3.2.4 The carriageway and pavement areas are the asset of Northamptonshire County Council and their improvement will need to be completed in partnership with the County Council.
- 3.2.5 Initial discussions with traders have identified a need to complete the works in low trading periods. It is envisaged that works will commence in Jan/Feb 2016 to cater for this. As was highlighted above, further extensive consultation with businesses in St. Giles Street will be undertaken in advance of the works starting.

3.3 Choices (Options)

- 3.3.1 Cabinet can choose to approve the public realm improvement works to St Giles Street.
- 3.3.2 Cabinet can choose to enter into a Funding Agreement with Northamptonshire County Council to deliver these works.
- 3.3.3 Cabinet can choose to not complete the public realm improvement works to St Giles Street.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

- 4.1.1 The recommendations within this report do not set policy or have implications on existing policies.

4.2 Resources and Risk

Risks

- 4.2.1 The recommendations within this report does not require Cabinet to approve further capital monies over and above those already approved as part of this year's capital programme.
- 4.2.2 The works will require careful planning and consideration of implications for independent traders situated upon St Giles Street.

Resources

- 4.2.3 The monies being released for Phase 1 of the works to St Giles Street will be drawn down from monies already approved in the Public Realm block of the Council's approved Capital Programme for 2015/16. Funds available for the delivery of this project are £750,000 .The funds for future phases of works to St Giles Street will need to be prioritised and incorporated into future years capital programmes.

4.3 Legal

- 4.3.1 To enable the project to move forwards the Borough Council will need to enter into a Funding Agreement with Northamptonshire County Council.
- 4.3.2 A standard form of Funding Agreement has already been developed through the works completed to Guildhall Road and Abington Street.

4.4 Equality and Health

- 4.4.1 No specific health or equality matters have been raised by these proposals.

4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)

- 4.5.1 The Borough Council will complete engagement processes with traders of St Giles Street during the early stages of the project.
- 4.5.2 The Borough Council will develop a planned process to ongoing communication with traders during the works period.
- 4.5.3 Consultation with the emergency services has already been undertaken towards this project.
- 4.5.4 Consultation with Service Providers will be completed during the works period.

4.6 How the Proposals deliver Priority Outcomes

- 4.6.1 The proposed works will continue to deliver key improvements to the public realm within the Borough of Northampton.

4.7 Other Implications

- 4.7.1 The design whilst driven by Northampton Borough Council will be refined and approved by Northamptonshire County Council as Highways Authority to ensure that all works are within legislation.

5. Background Papers

- 5.1 No background papers are offered in support of this report.

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