

Decision Maker: COUNCIL

Date: 2 December 2013

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: BECKENHAM TOWN CENTRE IMPROVEMENTS - CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Contact Officer: Graham Walton, Democratic Services Manager
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Chief Officer: Mark Bowen, Director of Corporate Services

Ward: Clock House; Copers Cope; Kelsey and Eden Park;

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 At its meeting on 16th October 2013 the Executive approved an allocation of £726k from capital receipts and £150k from the Members Initiative earmarked reserve allocated for Beckenham Improvements for the Beckenham Town Centre Improvement Project. This is a match funding contribution to the overall scheme costs of £3,257k, the balance of which is subject to the success of a funding bid for £2,345k to the Transport for London (TfL) Area Based programme. A decision from TfL is expected in December 2013, and Council is requested to approve the addition of the scheme to the capital programme.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

That Council agrees that the scheme with a total estimated cost of £3.257m be added to the capital programme.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy
 2. BBB Priority: Quality Environment Vibrant, Thriving Town Centres:
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: £3,257k
 2. Ongoing costs: Non-Recurring Cost:
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Capital Programme
 4. Total current budget for this head: None – TfL approval is awaited
 5. Source of funding: TfL funding approval awaited; earmarked reserves for member priorities and capital receipts
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): N/A
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: N/A
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: None:
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable:
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): The scheme if approved will bring widespread benefits to Beckenham town centre.
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Yes
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: Ward Councillors have been involved in developing proposals through the Beckenham and West Wickham Town Centres Working Group.

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 The report considered by the Executive on 16th October 2013 is attached as appendix 1. The minute of the Executive's meeting is set out below -

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Following feedback received after the unsuccessful 2012/13 funding application to TfL's Area Based Programme, officers amended the Beckenham Town Centre improvement scheme. A revised application was encouraged from TfL and supported by members of the Beckenham and West Wickham Town Centre Working Party and local Ward Members.

In support of the revised application, and as a match funding contribution to the £3.257m overall scheme costs (28% of the total), approval was sought to set aside capital receipts of £762k along with £150k from the Members Initiative earmarked reserve for Beckenham Improvements. A funding decision on the application was due to be made by TfL in early December 2013.

Councillor Michael Tickner (Copers Cope) addressed the meeting in support of the recommendations. The Portfolio Holder for Education, as a Copers Cope ward Member, also expressed support, confirming that Councillor Russell Mellor, (Copers Cope) also supported the recommendations. The Deputy Leader commended work of the Copers Cope Ward Members concerning improvements for Beckenham town centre. The Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Regeneration highlighted the opportunity presented for Beckenham. On release of £762k from capital receipts, he suggested this sum be replaced with s.106 funding from development at the former Glaxo/Welcome site. The Chairman of the Renewal and Recreation PDS Committee, Councillor Ian Payne, also highlighted national initiatives concerning the renewal of high streets, including the Portas Review.

RESOLVED that:

- (1) the allocation of £762k from capital receipts for the Beckenham Town Centre Improvement Project be approved, with release of the capital funding being subject to approval by Transport for London of the Area Based funding bid of up to £2.345m; and**
- (2) the scheme, with a total estimated cost of £3.257m, be added to the capital programme subject to the approval of full Council.**

Non-Applicable Sections:	See appended report.
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	None