

## PORTFOLIO AREA: ENVIRONMENT & HOUSING

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Date of Meeting: 5<sup>th</sup> April 2012

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Public

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Key Decision: Yes

Recorded in Forward Plan: Yes

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Inside Policy Framework

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**Title:** CASTLE STREET PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS  
**Report of:** The Director of Local Environment  
**Report reference:** LE10/12

**Summary:** This report seeks member's approval for surplus funds from the Castle Street Public Realm Improvement Scheme to be used to carry out other enhancements in the City Centre; specifically improvements to the corner of Annetwell St/Abbey St.

**Recommendations:** It is recommended that members agree to the virement of the surplus funds from the Castle Street Public Realm Improvement Scheme to fund the following works in the City Centre:

- i) £60,000 for enhancement works to the Junction of Annetwell St/Abbey St as specified in paragraph 1.3(a) of the Report;

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**Note:** in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None

# 1.

## 1.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS

- 1.1 A number of years ago comprehensive proposals were developed for the improvement of the Historic Quarter of the City. These plans were developed by a sub-group from the Highways and Transport Working Group and City Council. Due to expected budget limitations it was not possible to implement all the works originally proposed. Work in Castle Street and at two points on West Walls have taken place but proposals to enhance the junction of Annetwell Street/Abbey Street were shelved.
- 1.2 The City Council works in Castle Street have been completed apart from some traffic management works in the area costing an estimated £10,000 which await a traffic order from the County Council. Funding of £86,792 still remains from the Castle Street Scheme after allowing for the Traffic Management works still to be completed.
- 1.3 It is proposed that members agree to this surplus funding to be used to carry out the following works:
- a) To implement the improvement works shown on the attached plan at the junction of Annetwell St/Abbey St. This work was originally part of the proposals for the Historic Quarter but was deleted due to concerns that sufficient funding was not available. The proposed works use the same pallet of materials used in Castle Street. Details have been agreed with the County Council and relevant safety audits have been carried out. The County Council Highways and Transport Working Group have endorsed this scheme. Work is estimated to cost £60,000 and would be implemented in early summer if approval is given. Frontagers affected by the works will be consulted prior to work taking place to ensure disturbance to them is minimised and any specific requirements can be satisfied.

## 2.0 CONSULTATION

### 2.1 Consultation to Date

- 2.1.1 Consultation has already taken place with Frontagers in the area around the junction of Annetwell St/Abbey St at the time the original plans for the Historic Quarter were being developed. Consultation has also taken place with County Council officers who have been fully involved in developing these proposals. The

Highways and Transport Working Group at its meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2012 endorsed the proposed work and the Local Committee have subsequently agreed.

## **2.2 Further Consultation Proposed.**

2.2.1 It is proposed to consult again with those businesses directly involved with the proposed works at Annetwell St/Abbey St to ensure they can operate during construction and we can incorporate any minor amendments required in the work that we do.

## **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 It is recommended that members agree to the virement of the surplus funds from the Castle Street Public Realm Improvement Scheme to fund the following works in the City Centre:

- i) £60,000 for enhancement works to the Junction of Annetwell St/Abbey St as specified in paragraph 1.3(a) of the Report;

## **4.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.1 The enhancements to the junction of Annetwell St/Abbey St were originally included in the Castle Street enhancements but were deleted when cost estimates increased. Now that the Castle Street Scheme has been completed, below estimate funding is available to carry out the works originally proposed.

## **5.0 IMPLICATIONS**

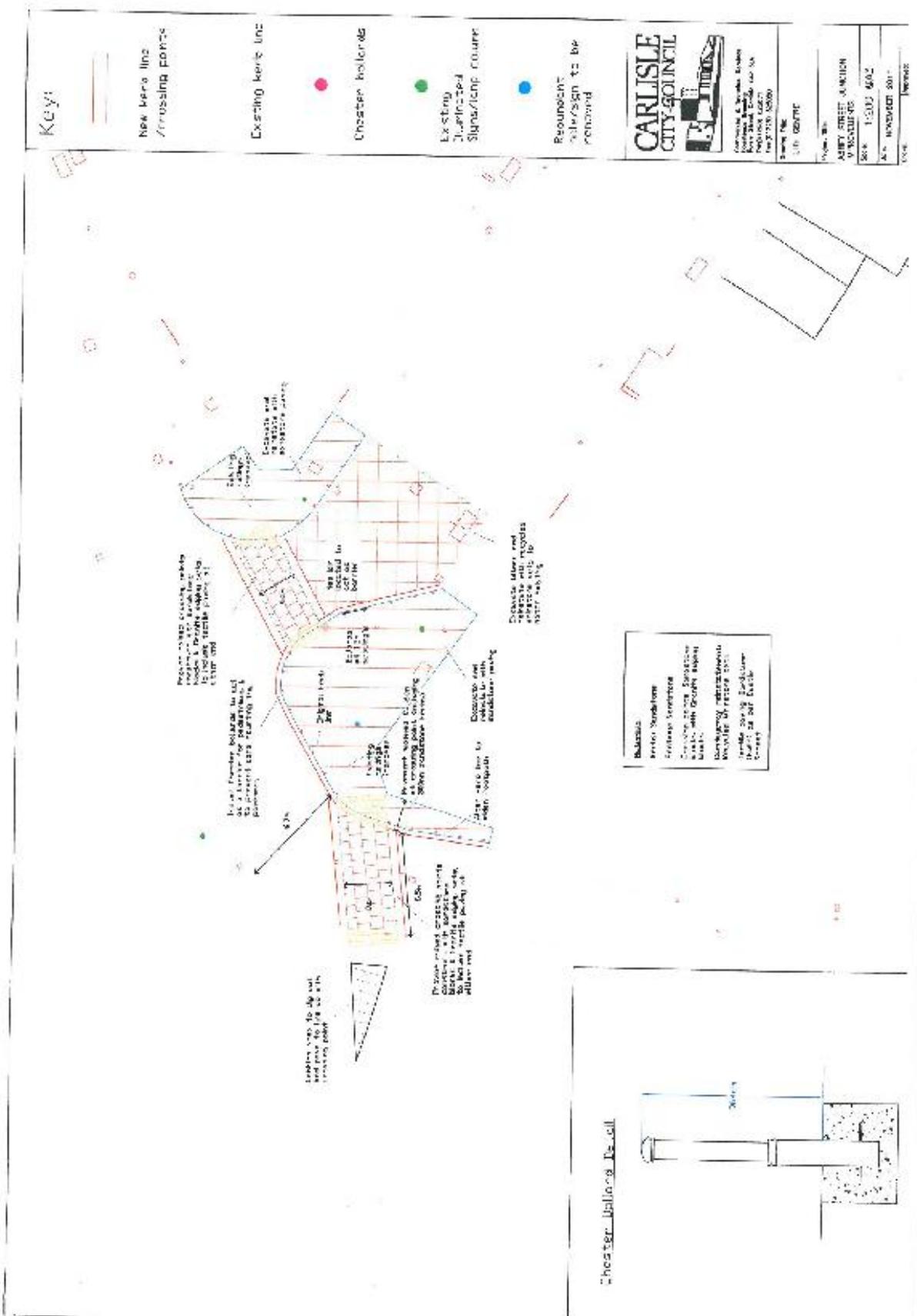
- Staffing/Resources – N/A
- Financial – £838,000 was approved as part of the 2008/09 capital programme for Castle Street Historic Quarter Improvements and £130,000 has been carried forward into 2011/12 to allow work to be completed as originally planned. The additional works proposed can be retained within the balance of budget remaining and will need to be carried forward to 2012/13 if the additional works are to progress. This will be reported and be subject to formal approval as part of the Outturn reports presented to Members in July. If the additional works do not proceed any unused resources will be transferred to capital reserves which could then be used to meet any future priorities of the Council.

- Legal – The Local Government Act 2000 (Section 2) provides that the Council has the power to do anything which it considers likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of its area. The power may be used in relation or for the benefit of the whole or any part of the community or all or any persons present or resident in the Council's area.

The Council is able to incur expenditure but, in exercising the power, the Council must have regard to its Community Strategy. Any works by external contractors must be procured in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. Any Traffic Regulation Orders required (if any are required) will be dealt with by the County Council as the Highway Authority.

- Corporate – N/A
- Risk Management – The work has been designed in conjunction with County Council staff and a safety audit has been carried out of the proposed work.
- Equality Issues – The works proposed will enhance facilities for those with disabilities by improving road crossing points.
- Environment – The appearance of the City Centre and Historic Quarter will be enhanced by the carrying out of this work.
- Crime and Disorder – There are no obvious Crime and Disorder Implications.
- Impact on Customers – It is hoped that residents and visitors will appreciate the enhancements that are proposed.





**Impact assessments**

**Does the change have an impact on the following?**

<b>Equality Impact Screening</b>	<b>Impact Yes/No?</b>	<b>Is the impact positive or negative?</b>
Does the policy/service impact on the following?		
Age	<b>No</b>	
Disability	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Positive</b>
Race	<b>No</b>	
Gender/ Transgender	<b>No</b>	
Sexual Orientation	<b>No</b>	
Religion or belief	<b>No</b>	
Human Rights	<b>No</b>	
Health inequalities	<b>No</b>	
Rurality	<b>No</b>	

**If you consider there is either no impact or no negative impact, please give reasons:**

The proposed works enhance the pedestrian crossing facilities especially for the partially sighted or blind

**If an equality Impact is necessary, please contact the P&P team.**