
EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE HELD ON 7 APRIL 2015

EX.28/15 PUBLIC REALM
(Key Decision – KD.07/15)

Portfolio Cross-cutting

Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel Environment and Economy

Subject Matter

In the absence of the Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder, the Leader reported (ED.15/15) that in March 2014 the Executive had granted consent for the development of a comprehensive signage and interpretation package (ED.10/14 referred) in order that public realm projects could be undertaken as part of the process of improving public realm in the City.

Over the past 12 months a City Centre Signage Audit & Strategy had been commissioned; an initial signage suite developed and subsequently cost engineered to provide cost effective signage solutions; and a procurement process had been completed to appoint a contractor to manufacture and install signage.

Now that the background preparation and design work was complete it was proposed to move forward a number of public realm projects.

The Leader provided a detailed overview of the proposals outlined at Section 2 of the report, which related to Gateway Signage; City Centre Orientation; Car Park Renaming; Court Square; and a Replacement Bandstand. He added that the costings for each project, together with the current available budget, were contained in Table 1 to the report.

In conclusion the Leader advised that the projects outlined would significantly enhance public realm in the City, improve the Carlisle Welcome and significantly improve visitor navigation and help drive the visitor economy. A comprehensive signage package would also allow significant progress to be made in de-cluttering the City Centre. He then moved the recommendations detailed within the report.

The Deputy Leader, and Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder seconded the recommendations. In so doing she indicated that it was essential that car park names reflected the position of the car parks, especially in relation to the Castle. The car park renaming would be undertaken concurrently with the other City Centre navigation proposals to ensure a smooth transition to the new system.

The Deputy Leader added that she had raised the issue of the underground toilets at Court Square as part of her election address. She was therefore very pleased that the key gateway into the City Centre could be significantly enhanced by the removal of the railings and copings around the former underground toilets and by covering the steps.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Executive:

1. Approved the proposed programme of public realm projects, as detailed within Report ED.15/15.
2. Approved the release of £255,000 identified within the Capital Programme to fund the proposed works.
3. Authorised the Director of Governance to amend any of the Car Park Orders as appropriate.

Reasons for Decision

The projects outlined would significantly enhance public realm in the City and improve the Carlisle Welcome. They would significantly improve visitor navigation and help drive the visitor economy.

A comprehensive signage package would also allow significant progress to be made in de-cluttering of the City Centre.