

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Executive Decision Record

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Environment and Transport
<b>Date:</b>	17 July 2018
<b>Title:</b>	Project Appraisal: Romsey Town Centre Improvements Phase 3 – Market Place
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

**Contact name:** Brandon Breen

**Tel:** 01962 846239

**Email:** brandon.breen@hants.gov.uk

#### 1. The decision:

- 1.1 That the Executive Member for Environment and Transport approves the Project Appraisal for the Phase 3 Market Place, Romsey, accessibility improvement scheme, as outlined in the supporting report.
- 1.2 That approval is given to procure and spend and enter into necessary contractual arrangements to implement the proposed improvements to Market Place, Romsey, as set out in the supporting report, at an estimated cost of £1,594,000 to be funded by developer contributions, Test Valley Borough Council funding, and Hampshire County Council Market Town and public realm improvement funding.
- 1.3 That authority to make the arrangements to implement the scheme, including minor variations to the design or contract, is delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment.

#### 2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1 To make Romsey town centre more accessible to pedestrians and cyclists, and the area more attractive for all who live, work and shop there. The improvements will provide residents, as well as the many visitors to the area, with a fresh looking town centre that will be easier to navigate on foot, and will also be in keeping with the town's historic character.
- 2.2 The scheme will provide an increased, well defined pedestrian area and wider level pavements, which provide more space for pedestrians to enjoy the town centre, with better crossing opportunities for all users.
- 2.3 The improvements will widen existing footways around Market Place while also creating a large open pedestrian area around the existing Lord

Palmerston statue which can also be utilised for public events or for the provision of additional market stall areas to help the town centre thrive.

- 2.4 To reduce vehicle speeds and remove the dominance of motor vehicles in the town centre area which will encourage visitors to walk and explore the town centre.

### **3. Other options considered and rejected:**

- 3.1 Alternatives to this option (option 1) were considered, and these included:

- Option 2, creating the large piazza style build out on the southern side of Market Place while maintaining two way traffic, and
- Option 3, which was an alternative to option 2. This entailed the same layout of option 2 but with the introduction of a one way system for northbound traffic.

- 3.2 Option 2 and Option 3 were rejected as a result of the consultation undertaken in November and December of 2016 where Option 1 was the preferred option as voted on by the public. In February 2017, the Romsey Town Centre Enhancement - Project Board agreed to progress Option 1 to detailed design.

- 3.3 The “do nothing” option, was rejected due to the poor pedestrian facilities currently available and the fact that the existing arrangements preclude access for some visitors to Romsey. Improving the surfaces of the footway, but not providing a level surface was also considered, but this was rejected as it would not provide the improved accessibility options required to meet the needs of all users.

### **4. Conflicts of interest:**

- 4.1 Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None

- 4.2 Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None

### **5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: None.**

### **6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: Not applicable.**

### **7. Statement from the Decision Maker:**

**Approved by:**

**Date:**

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**17 July 2018**

**Executive Member for Environment and Transport  
Councillor Rob Humby**