



HIGHWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

18 September 2012

REPORT

Subject Heading:

**South Street, Romford
Enhancements Package
Phase 3 (Revised)**

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The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

Clean, safe and green borough	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Excellence in education and learning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Opportunities for all through economic, social and cultural activity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Value and enhance the life of every individual	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
High customer satisfaction and a stable council tax	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUMMARY

This report sets out the revised principles of the South Street, Romford Enhancement Package (Phases 3) and seeks a recommendation to the Cabinet Member for Community Empowerment that work to widen a section of the footway in South Street as part of Phase 3 be implemented.

This scheme is within **Romford Town** ward.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Committee recommends to the Cabinet Member for community Empowerment that the footway widening proposed in the revised plan for Phase 3 of the scheme be implemented, as described in paragraph 1.8 of this report and shown on Drawing QL016/SK001A.
2. That it be noted that the estimated cost of £300,000 will be met from the Romford Master Plan Capital Allocation (£150k) and 2012/13 Transport for London Local Implementation Plan allocation for the Romford Public Realm Package (£150k).

REPORT DETAIL

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Council's Regeneration Service, in conjunction with StreetCare, has undertaken a master-planning exercise within Romford Town Centre with the aim of promoting a package of public realm improvements. This builds on work undertaken during 2010/11 where a decluttering scheme was implemented on the northeastern side of South Street between Western Road and Eastern Road.
- 1.2 The master-planning exercise reviewed the core area of the town centre comprising of the following areas;
 - South Street (north of the railway)
 - Western Road
 - Market Place
 - High Street
 - North Street

- 1.3 The issues raised during the review varied with each street, depending on the quality of the existing situation, but common issues were highlighted such as;
- The quality of the public realm is below that which may be expected of an important town centre such as Romford,
 - Conflicts between people and vehicles (certain locations),
 - Redundant street furniture,
 - Wide range and differing quality of street furniture,
 - Areas where footways are not sufficient for the amount of pedestrians,
 - Lack of cohesion of paving materials within town centre,
 - Much of the existing public realm does not enhance the historic character of the town centre conservation area.
- 1.4 The Masterplan is currently in a draft format, but initial ideas for South Street were presented to the Romford Programme Board at its meeting of 6th October 2011 which seek to provide the following benefits;
- Improve the quality of the street environment, using high quality and robust natural materials,
 - Remove redundant street furniture which no longer serves a useful purpose,
 - Provide a consistent use of paving materials and street furniture within the core of Romford Town Centre,
 - Widening of the footway on the southwestern side of South Street between The Battis and Havana Close,
 - Provide a new paving layout to complement construction of the Visitor Information Centre
- 1.5 A report was presented to the Highways Advisory Committee on 24th January 2012 showing proposals for three phases of works. The HAC recommended that the works proceed and this was consequently signed off by the Cabinet Member for Community Empowerment. The works have progressed on two phases as follows.
- 1.6 **Phase 1 – Western Road to Arcade Place** – The area has been repaved with York stone and granite pavements to complement the development of the Visitor Information Centre.
- 1.7 **Phase 2 – South-western side of South Street between Romford Station and Havana Close** – The footway between the Battis and Havana Close has been repaved in York stone and granite pavements. In addition the existing loading bay outside no.110 has been incorporated into the area and is available for use by pedestrians when loading is not taking place.

- 1.8 **Phase 3 – South-western side of South Street between Havana Close and Western Road.** This phase had been planned to proceed following the London Olympics and so during the summer of 2012, further design development has taken place based on the plan originally presented to HAC (Drawing QK040/SK202).
- 1.9 The design development now shows further widening of the footways to give more space to pedestrians (building on the design concept for the section between Romford Station and Havana Close) with a simplified paving layout. The road would be narrowed as for Phase 2.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks:

The estimated cost of £300,000 will be met from the LBH funded Romford Master Plan Capital Allocation (£150k) and 2012/13 Transport for London Local Implementation Plan allocation for the Romford Public Realm Package (£150k). The TfL element will need to be spent by 31st March 2013, to ensure full access to the grant.

This is a standard project for Streetcare and there is no expectation that the works cannot be contained within the cost estimate. There is an element of contingency built into the financial estimate. In the unlikely event of an overspend, the balance would need to be contained within the overall budget.

Legal implications and risks:

None.

Human Resources implications and risks:

None.

Equalities Implications and Risks:

The Council has a general duty under the Equality Act 2010 to ensure that its highway network is accessible to all. Where infrastructure is provided or substantially upgraded, reasonable adjustments should be made to improve access. In considering the impacts and making improvements for people with protected characteristics (mainly, but not limited to disabled people, the young and older people), this will assist the Council in meeting its duty under the Act.

Good quality footways and reduced street clutter can help pedestrians of all abilities to negotiate and navigate the public realm and is especially helpful for disabled people.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Project Scheme File Ref: QL016 Romford Public Realm (South Street) 2012/13