

Design & Cost Report: Armley Town Street Project

Date: 6th February 2024

Report of: Senior Regeneration Officer

Report to: Chief Officer Asset Management & Regeneration

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

- The Local Centres Programme (LCP) was established in 2017 to deliver against the Inclusive Growth Strategy through projects that would support the vitality, viability and resilience of Town and Local Centres via eligible interventions identified by members, front line services and partners.
- Armley Members have agreed to use LCP funds allocated to the ward as match towards revitalising Armley Town Street to supplement the £2.9m of funding from Active Travel England through the Active Travel Fund Tranche 4. Highways will be responsible for leading on this project and taking decisions. The £75k of LCP funds will create added value to the Armley Town Street Active Travel scheme with a series of project ideas being promoted by the Armley ward members in conjunction with local stakeholders that will generate additional footfall to the town centre thereby supporting local businesses and the local economy.
- This report seeks approval of the expenditure of £75,000 from the LCP budget and the subsequent injection of funding into the Armley Town Street budget for the

Recommendations

The Chief Officer Asset Management & Regeneration is requested to:

- a) Approve the expenditure of £75,000 and the subsequent injection of this funding into the Armley Town Street budget which forms part of the Active Travel Fund Tranche 4 Programme for the implementation of the scheme.

What is this report about?

- 1 The purpose of this report is to seek the approval of the Chief Officer Asset Management and Regeneration for expenditure of £75,000 from the LCP programme to use as match funding towards the Armley Town Street Active Travel scheme.
- 2 The ward members have identified this scheme as their priority for investing the LCP funds following a briefing with them on 6th November 2023.
- 3 Some of the ideas that are being considered for this funding as part of the Armley Town Street scheme include:
 - Introducing signage at the bottom of Branch Road to welcome people to Armley Town Street shopping area;

- Introduction of a 'Play Box' to be used as part of the engagement process;
- Increasing the number of street markets on Armley Moor and Town Street – creation of flexible public realm to enable this;
- Improved street lighting on Armley Town Street for the benefit of community safety in the evenings;
- Provision of public toilets on Armley Town Street –subject to a revenue case being made for future maintenance and management.

4 Further discussions will take place with ward members to prioritise which ideas will come forward using the LCP funds with each option being designed and costed up by the Armley Town Street Active Travel project team.

What impact will this proposal have?

- 5 The Active Travel scheme will support the vitality and viability of the Armley Town Centre through the generation of additional footfall and dwell time to the area that will benefit local businesses and the local economy.
- 6 The additional investment from the LCP funds will complement the main scheme and enable improvements that will enhance the attractiveness and safety of the Armley Town Centre for the people who live, work and visit there.

How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- 7 The LCP investment will deliver against the Inclusive Growth Strategy through identifying and delivering projects that would support the vitality, viability and resilience of Town and Local Centres.
- 8 The LCP investment will support health and wellbeing through creating a safer, more pedestrian and cycle friendly town centre that will encourage more dwell time for people to meet, relax and socialise.
- 9 The LCP investment will support the zero carbon ambitions of the Active Travel scheme through improving air quality by reducing traffic volumes and vehicle speeds on Armley Town Street and through public realm improvements.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected: Armley

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

10 Using the LCP funds as match to add value to the Armley Town Street Active Travel scheme was supported by Councillors McKenna and Parnham in a briefing on 6th November 2023. Armley Action Team are also supportive of this approach. The project ideas will undergo further consultation and engagement with local stakeholders and the local community as part of the wider Active Travel scheme public consultation.

What are the resource implications?

11 The Active Travel project will be project managed in house with Highways Active Travel team leading on this. The project team will also be responsible for procuring consultants to assist with the design and delivery of the project.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

12 Risks are limited to those normally encountered when working in public spaces and no significant risks have been identified with this project.

What are the legal implications?

13 There are no legal implications arising from this project.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

14 Previously ward members had considered utilising the LCP funds on a project in New Wortley to create a gateway including new signage to improve the appearance and safety of the junction of Green Lane and Tong Road. However, this scheme did not proceed and was withdrawn. A further proposal to improve the appearance of the parade of privately owned shops on Armley Town Street through the painting of the canopy, upper floor windows and fascias was also withdrawn. As the LCP is now closing, this remains the only remaining option to ensure development and delivery of eligible works.

How will success be measured?

15 The success of the project will be measured through the increase in footfall to Armley Town Street, increase in trade of local businesses and positive local stakeholders/community feedback.

What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?

16 Highways will be responsible for leading on this project and taking decisions. The LCP funds will be transferred to Highway's Active Travel budget and thereafter will be deployed to deliver the Armley Town Street Active Travel scheme, with specific targeted interventions identified to benefit from the LCP funding. It is anticipated that work will start on site towards the end of the 2024/25 financial year and be completed by the end of the 2025 calendar year.

17 The Armley Town Street scheme will be delivered using one of the Council's approved framework contractors, and will subsequently be maintained from the Highways maintenance budget.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Concept Design Plan