

## Local Centres Programme – Upper Town Street Parade, Bramley

Date: 22 March 2023

Report of: Jonathan Waters – Senior Traffic Engineer

Report to: Chief Officer Highways & Transportation

Will the decision be open for call in?  Yes  No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

### Brief summary

This report seeks the approval of the Chief Officer Highways & Transportation, to introduce a project in Bramley that will introduce uplift to a commercial area on the public highway, fronting shops on Upper Town Street.

The project, as part of Regenerations' Local Centres Programme, seeks to support local businesses by making the area of Bramley in question more aesthetically pleasing, offering a higher quality of environment for visitors with a view to supporting local businesses through an uplift in customers.

The project cost is £50,000 and has approval of all three Ward Members and would be delivered within 2023.

### Recommendations

- a) Approve the detailed design and subsequent implementation of a project to introduce forecourt improvements on Upper Town Street, Bramley as shown on the associated drawing 918-LCC-06-XX-DR-TM-01-01b (Appendix 2).
- b) Note the required expenditure of £50,000, comprising £45,000 works and £5,000 staff fees, to be funded from Regeneration's Local Centres Programme, with injection of the funds to be approved separately by the Chief Officer Asset Management & Regeneration.

## **What is this report about?**

- 1 The purpose of this report is to seek the approval of the Chief Officer Highways & Transportation for the detailed design and subsequent implementation of a scheme to uplift the highway environment on the forecourt on Upper Town Street, Bramley, as part of Regeneration's Local Centres Programme.
- 2 The existing forecourt is adopted public highway and is made up of a tarmacadam surface with no other features.
- 3 Elected Ward Members for Bramley & Stanningley identified this area as a popular local centre, being close to the centre of Bramley and serving the community in different ways through the varying commercial premises. The Ward Members highlighted how the forecourt itself was not aesthetically pleasing and did not encourage visitors to stop enjoy this space.
- 4 The proposals as shown on the associated drawing 918-LCC-06-XX-DR-TM-01-01b (Appendix 2) indicate that the existing land will be changed from its existing layout, to include:
  - A new surface, specifically an 'Imprint' tarmacadam surface formed and coloured to take the appearance of stone paving flags, but without the cost.
  - A tree pit with a planted tree (species TBC), as a focal point on the parade.
  - Provision of new cast iron street furniture (bench and litter bin), to offer a high-quality product giving visitors either a place to sit or discard litter.
  - Provision of cast iron bollards, along with the street furniture above, to prevent vehicles from parking on the forecourt area.
  - Resurfacing of the rear car park access, with road markings and bollards to advise of the existence of the car park and encourage its use.
  - Resurfacing of the footway to the front of the forecourt.

## **What impact will this proposal have?**

- 5 The proposal will support local active travel choices, particularly for the elderly and those with reduced mobility, by providing an area that they can stop and rest on their journey or whilst using the local commercial properties.
- 6 The proposal will similarly benefit the local centres and their businesses by making the general environment more attractive to visit and sit.
- 7 The Best City Ambition, elucidated by way of the Best Council Plan 2020-2025, outlines how Leeds City Council will achieve the vision to become the best city in the UK. The proposals contained in this report contribute to the Leeds vision, particularly introducing "Sustainable Infrastructure", promoting "Health and Wellbeing" as well as the aims of Leeds being a "Child Friendly City" and an "Age Friendly City". By reducing some of the negative effects of traffic through encouragement of sustainable travel, it is aimed to ensure that residents of Leeds can "Move easily around a well-planned, sustainable city that's working towards carbon neutral", promoting sustainable transport and improving access to local facilities and developments.
- 8 An Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening Form has been completed for this project and is attached as Appendix 1. In summary:

The positive impacts of the scheme are:

- The provision of benches will provide a place to stop and rest for those with reduced mobility and an inability to walk longer distances.

- By providing benches for all users, the project is inclusive and may provide those with limited mobility a destination where they know they will be able to sit.

There are no noted negative impacts of the proposal, however feedback will be welcomed from any party towards the completed project and considered accordingly.

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

Health and Wellbeing       Inclusive Growth       Zero Carbon

- 9 The proposal directly promotes health and wellbeing and the Council's climate emergency commitment for zero carbon by 2030, by encouraging residents to walk within the Bramley area, by giving somewhere to stop and rest or sit after visiting local businesses, the absence of which may have been a barrier to this activity previously.
- 10 The provision of a tree with an open tree pit for drainage correspondingly contributes towards Leeds City Council's Climate Emergency commitment for zero carbon. This is by way of the fact that – as the tree grows – it will remove carbon dioxide from the air, store carbon within itself and in the soil, and release oxygen into the atmosphere.

### What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected: Bramley & Stanningley

Have ward members been consulted?       Yes       No

- 11 The proposals have been formed through dialogue with Ward Members for Bramley & Stanningley, as part of Regeneration's Local Centres Programme funding provision for their ward. Ward Members are supportive of the proposals, offering support in November 2022.
- 12 Other stakeholders were consulted in November 2022, with no adverse comments being received.
- 13 Local residents and the businesses will be consulted upon approval of this report and any views taken into account and accommodated within the scheme where appropriate. Any substantial changes to the approved project will be communicated to the Chief Officer accordingly.

### What are the resource implications?

- 14 The estimated project cost is £50,000, comprising £45,000 works costs and £5,000 staff costs. The project is to be funded via Regeneration's Local Centres Programme. A Full Business Case has been presented to the Local Centres Programme Board and was approved in November 2022. A separate report will be presented to the Chief Officer Asset Management & Regeneration as the budget holder and Officer with the appropriate delegated authority, to formally approve the funding required for this project.

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

- 15 Construction risks are limited to those normally encountered when working on the public highway and no significant risks have been identified which relate to this project. The Contractors will be tasked with ensuring appropriate access to adjoining businesses is maintained to mitigate the risk of loss of earnings and that works up to property boundaries are undertaken appropriately to mitigate any potential damage risks.

### What are the legal implications?

- 16 There are no legal implications arising as a result of this project, nor this report. The report is not subject to Call-In.
- 17 All works shall be contained within the public adopted highway and are being delivered under Section 62 Highways Act 1980, which provides the Council as local highway authority with a general power for improvement of the Highway – alongside related powers within Part V of the Act. There are no Traffic Regulation Orders required as part of this project.

## **Options, timescales and measuring success**

### **What other options were considered?**

- 18 Under the Local Centres Programme a financial budget was assigned to each electoral ward and bids were invited from various parties for that funding, subject to criteria. Bramley & Stanningley Ward Members highlighted to Officers that their desired project was to introduce this forecourt uplift. A variety of options were considered with respect to material and street furniture choices before this design was settled on as achieving the aims of the project, within the budget provided.

### **How will success be measured?**

- 19 There are no defined parameters onto which the success of this project will be measured. Feedback from elected Ward Members and residents in Bramley will be taken on board before, during and after the delivery of the project and any particular suggestions for improvement will be duly considered for inclusion into the proposals.

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

- 20 It is intended, subject to approval of this report and the separate report to the Chief Officer Asset Management & Regeneration, that the project will be delivered in Spring or Summer 2023.
- 21 Following completion, the contractor will undertake an establishment regime with regards to the tree, watering and pruning at necessary intervals, for a period of two years after which the tree will become part of the general maintenance regime of Leeds City Council.
- 22 The 'Imprint' surface material will not be automatically maintained by Leeds City Council due to it being a specialist product. Any maintenance will be undertaken on a case-by-case basis with specific funding sought at the time to resolve that particular issue. Any defects would be made safe in a standard tarmac product, until a permanent reinstatement is undertaken.
- 23 The new street furniture will be owned and maintained by Leeds City Council Highways & Transportation.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening Form.
- Appendix 2 – 918-LCC-06-XX-DR-TM-01-01b – Project overview drawing.

## **Background papers**

- None.