HTM/12/48 North Devon Highways and Traffic Orders Committee 23 October 2012

Fore Street Ilfracombe – Proposed Environmental Enhancement

Report of the Head of Highways and Traffic Management

Please note that the following recommendation is subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the scheme shown on drawing number EATS(N) 546-007-00 be approved at an estimated cost of £110,710 subject to the completion of a funding agreement with Ilfracombe Town Council.

1. Summary

The scheme entails environmental enhancement of the end of Fore Street, Ilfracombe by replacement of the existing surfacing with small element paving.

2. Background/Introduction

Fore Street forms a link between the historic harbour area of Fore Street and the eastern end of the high street. The purpose of the scheme is to assist economic regeneration by creating an attractive gateway which will help to draw visitors into the main shopping area of the town.

In Autumn 2011 the road was resurfaced with a buff coloured aggregate however this material has not performed as expected. Ilfracombe Town Council expressed a desire for a higher quality surfacing material and has promoted an enhancement scheme utilising pavers which are considered to be more appropriate for the historic built environment of the area. Funding of the scheme will come from a number of non highway budgets with contributions pledged by North Devon Council, Ilfracombe Town Council, Devon County Council's Economic Regeneration budget and the Devon County Council Local Member's Investing in Devon funding allocation.

A funding arrangement for the scheme has been developed and a formal agreement is currently being drafted for the project.

3. Proposal

The proposal is illustrated shown in drawing EATS (N) 546-007-00. It is proposed that the existing surfacing is removed and the area resurfaced with Tegula pavers. The existing granite detailing which denotes the edge of the carriageway is to be retained.

4. Consultations/Representations/Technical Data

Consultation has been sought on the scheme by the Devon County Council Local Member, Ilfracombe Town Council and North Devon Council. All consultees have shown support for the proposal.

5. Financial Considerations

The estimated cost of this scheme is £110,710. This budget is built up of £45,000 (or 50% of the Project Cost if less than £90,000) from Devon County Council Economic Regeneration Budget; £14,117 Devon County Council IID funding; £30,000 (or 33% of the Project Cost if less than £90,000) from North Devon Council and £21,593 from Ilfracombe Town Council.

6. Sustainability Considerations

The objectives and strategies of the Devon Local Transport Plan aim to improve Devon's environmental, social and economic well being.

The scheme supports this objective by enhancing the built environment which should assist the economic wellbeing of the town.

7. Carbon Impact Considerations

The scheme will not significantly change the use of vehicle in the area and is therefore has no impact other than construction.

8. Equality Considerations

There are not considered to be any equality issues in regards to this scheme.

9. Legal Considerations

There are no specific legal considerations.

10. Risk Management Considerations

Financial risk has been identified and appropriate allowances within the scheme estimate have been made to protect the Council's position. Ilfracombe Town Council have accepted the liability for overspend.

11. Public Health Impact

There will be no specific impact to public health.

12. Options/Alternatives

Various options have been considered in iterative consultation with Ilfracombe Town Council and the current proposal is considered to offer the best balance in terms of contribution to the built environment and cost.

13. Reason for Recommendation/Conclusion

The proposed scheme will enhance the built environment of this historic area of Ilfracombe and will assist with economic regeneration of the area.

Lester Willmington Head of Highways and Traffic Management

Electoral Division: Ilfracombe

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

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Background Paper Date File Reference

Nil

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