

HTM/12/12

Torrige Highways and Traffic Orders Committee  
5 March 2012

## **Environmental Enhancement of Jubilee Square, Bideford: Update on Project Progress**

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 proposals for enhancement of Jubilee Square be welcomed and that any representations received to the advertised traffic orders be considered.

### **1. Summary**

An environmental enhancement scheme for Jubilee Square is being promoted by the Joint Delivery Team of North Devon Plus as part of the regeneration programme for northern Devon. This report advises on the scheme details, progress to date and intended delivery programme.

### **2. Background/Introduction**

The Joint Delivery Team of North Devon Plus has a remit to deliver physical regeneration in northern Devon. The work of the team is guided by the Strategic Investment Framework endorsed by Torrige District Council, SWRDA, North Devon District Council and Devon County Council.

The need for environmental enhancement of Jubilee Square was identified as a priority for the Joint Delivery Team. There is an identified need for a high quality public space in Bideford that would enhance the economic viability of this area of the town and promote community cohesion by providing an area that facilitates social activities, events and gatherings as well as improving the wider communities' perception of Bideford.

Agreement in principle for funding of the scheme was achieved by the Joint Delivery Team and a project Board comprising representatives of the funding bodies was formed. The Board comprises representatives of Bideford Bridge Trust, Bideford Town Council, Bideford Chamber of Commerce, Torrige District Council and Devon County Council. The Engineering Design Group of Devon County Council was commissioned to undertake the design of the scheme in 2010/2011.

North Devon Plus undertook public consultation on the scheme and has agreed the scheme details.

Approval of the scheme for construction was given by the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation on 29 September 2011.

### **3. Scheme Information**

The proposed scheme is shown on drawing EATS(N) 502-05-03 (attached).

The existing square will be remodelled to minimise the impact of traffic and promote a high quality pedestrian environment paved in natural stone. This entails relocation of loading bays, pedestrianisation of the northern carriageway of the square and removal of parking in front of Quay House. A shared use pedestrian/vehicular corridor will be introduced on the south and west sides of the square to facilitate access by vehicle to Queen Street. A loading bay is to be created on The Quay adjacent to Quay House to serve local businesses the signal controlled pedestrian crossing is to be moved to link better with the newly created pedestrian space. These alterations require traffic orders to regulate the movement and parking of vehicles. The required orders are being advertised at the time of writing this report, and any representations received will be reported at Committee meeting.

The lighting of the square is to be upgraded and additional public seating provided. It is intended to provide service bollards to provide power for equipment at community events.

In conjunction with works in the square Manor Car Park is to be refurbished as part of the same contract but wholly funded by Torrington District Council.

The works will be procured and managed by DCC as Highways Authority.

Construction is due to start on 16 April and the works are expected to take 14 weeks to complete.

#### **4. Financial Considerations**

A funding agreement has been entered into between Devon County Council, Torrington District Council and North Devon Plus. DCCs contribution to the scheme is the provision of design and procurement functions and funding for the scheme will be provided by third party bodies.

#### **5. Sustainability Considerations**

The scheme will provide both social and economic benefits to the town of Bideford by creating an attractive public space. The environmental enhancement provides a basis for sustainable economic activities within the town.

#### **6. Carbon Impact Considerations**

The scheme has a neutral carbon impact. Vehicle movements will be displaced but the servicing of businesses in the area will continue as will use of private vehicles.

#### **7. Legal Considerations**

There is a legal obligation to undertake statutory consultation on any changes to Traffic Regulation Order(s). Following advertising of proposals all objections received in the statutory consultation period will need to be considered along with officer recommendations and a decision made on how to proceed.

#### **8. Risk Management Considerations**

The scheme and agreements with third parties have been assessed and all necessary safeguards or actions have been taken/included to safeguard the Council's position.

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Head of Highways and Traffic Management

**Electoral Divisions: County: Bideford East  
District: Bideford North**

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

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Background Paper	Date	File Ref.
None		

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sc/cr/jubilee square bideford update on progress  
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