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## **THAMES GATEWAY FUNDING - WEBSTERS WAY ENHANCEMENT**

### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report updates Members on the proposals for enhancement of the Websters Way area of Rayleigh Town Centre, following the announcement of project funding by the Deputy Prime Minister on 9th November 2004.

### **2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Following a review, the ODPM invited bids for projects in the Thames Gateway that could be commenced in the current financial year. Rochford submitted two bids, and on 9th November 2004 the Deputy Prime Minister announced that £700,000 had been allocated for a Websters Way Enhancement Project (plus funds for the Windmill project).
- 2.2 The basic principles of the enhancement project were prepared by consultants during the assessment of the possible options for the redevelopment of the Websters Way car park. This project was last considered by the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 21 January 2004, when it was concluded that, notwithstanding the benefits that would accrue from the scheme, the costs of implementation were beyond the Authority's means. The offer of funding from ODPM through Thames Gateway South Essex provides a welcome opportunity to extend the enhancement works that have been completed in the High Street and Eastwood Road.

### **3 OUTLINE OF SCHEME**

- 3.1 Detailed drawings of the enhancement scheme are currently being prepared for submission to the ODPM and will be presented to the meeting, if available.
- 3.2 The key features that are being worked into the scheme are:
- Improved car park boundary
  - Improved footways - paving and kerb edges
  - Enhanced footpath link from car park to High Street
  - Possible covered walkway to pedestrian link
  - Enhanced cycle parking within car park
  - Enhanced recycling area within car park
  - New street furniture
  - Enhanced street lighting
  - Revised signage
  - Bus stop telemetry

- Tree and shrub planting

3.3 These elements reflect the components of the scheme prepared by the consultants during the assessment of the options for the Websters Way car park. It is intended that the materials to be used in the scheme will follow the pattern agreed for the High Street enhancement and therefore paving, kerbs, street furniture and street lighting designs have all previously been agreed. Utilising the same palette of materials will ensure that Websters Way integrates with the rest of the town centre.

3.4 The other parts of the scheme will seek to better integrate the public car park with the High Street, enhance the bus stop/public transport interchange, and improve the boundary treatment of the car park.

#### **4 RISK IMPLICATIONS**

##### **4.1 Strategic Risk**

It is essential that appropriate final approvals are obtained from ODPM before contracts are issued for these works.

##### **4.2 Resource Risk**

Subject to final approval from the ODPM, the resources for the project will be provided through grant funding.

#### **5 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Whilst not a central component of the enhancement scheme, it should be possible to introduce some additional CCTV equipment to monitor the Websters Way area.

#### **6 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The ODPM grant offers the opportunity to extend the town centre enhancement scheme to a part of the town that will significantly benefit from improvement.

#### **7 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 The cost of the works is to be funded through the ODPM TGSE grant. Given that a significant proportion of the works will be in the public highway, these works must be carried out by the County Council's approved contractor. There will be no loss of spaces from the car park as a result of the scheme.

**8 RECOMMENDATION**

8.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

That, subject to comments from Members, the principles for the Websters Way enhancement scheme, as outlined in the report, be agreed.

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**Background Papers:-**

None

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