
HOCKLEY TOWN CENTRE ENHANCEMENTS

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report advises Members on the progress made to date by the Hockley Town Centre Working Group in suggesting improvement works to the Town Centre.
- 1.2. The report seeks approval to the scheme and authorisation for the design brief to be released to the Essex County Council Design Consultant..

2 PROGRESS

- 2.1. The Group will have met on 8 occasions, one of these meetings having included a site visit.
- 2.2. A design in principle has been agreed. Plans and artists' impressions are on display in the Members Rooms at Rayleigh and Rochford.
- 2.3. A design brief has also been agreed, a copy of which is also on display in the Members rooms at Rayleigh and Rochford.
- 2.4. The Parish Council wishes to be involved with consulting the public and the Parish Rooms will be made available to display designs and materials.
- 2.5. Members of the Working Party have received representations from disabled organisations regarding the provision of additional layby parking. On the basis of information received from statutory undertakings the provision of laybys is problematic and could use a considerable element of the funding available. The preferred option of the Working Party is for a scheme without additional laybys. The design consultant will, however, be requested to cost out the provision of the laybys in order for a fully informed decision to be made on the issue.

3 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1. The scheme will enhance the visual aspect of the main shopping area and allow easier access for the disabled.

4 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. The scheme has been designed in partnership with Hockley Parish Council.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. Once the brief is handed over to Essex County Council, that authority will carry out full design and monitor the contract works.
- 5.2. At present, there is provision of £150,000 in the capital programme for these works. The eventual scheme will need to be tailored to come within the cost allowed.

6 RECOMMENDATION

It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

- 6.1. To agree the design for the Hockley Town Centre Improvement Scheme and to instruct Essex County Council to proceed with the design of the scheme
- 6.2. That, subject to 6.1 above, a report be made to this Committee with a fully costed design for the scheme.

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