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## **REFERENCE FROM TRANSPORTATION SUB-COMMITTEE – THE APPROACH CAR PARK, RAYLEIGH – CAPITAL WORKS**

### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report relates to a referral from Transportation Sub-Committee of 6 September 2001 to consider additional capital funding in order to undertake work at The Approach Car Park, Rayleigh.

### **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 The Council's Capital Programme for 2001/02 includes provision of £30,000 for car park surface, lighting and security upgrades to The Approach long stay car park in Rayleigh. This budget allocation was based on quotations sought by officers back in 1999 when the matter was first put before Members for approval.
- 2.2 The Building/Engineering Industry is currently enjoying a mini-boom and significantly, only two contractors of the five selected from the 'Approved Tender List' responded to the letter of invitation to tender. The lower of the tenders received is £50,706 which includes £9,610 for lighting to be met from the 'Security Lighting in Car Parks' item in the Capital Programme. This leaves £41,096 relating to car park works, which means a budget deficit of £11,096.
- 2.3 It has been the Council's intention for some years to resurface, reline and make other improvements to this car park. The work is now of an urgent nature.
- 2.4 Consideration has been given to reducing the specification both by officers and Members when the item was discussed at the Sub-Committee. The Original Scheme was devised as part of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy in conjunction with the Secured Car Parks Scheme. The design embraces virtually all of the recommendations contained in that scheme.
- 2.5 The Approach Car Park is a long stay car park which principally serves commuters using Rayleigh Station. Vehicles are left unattended for long periods of time and when drivers do return it is often in darkness or twilight. The car park has been targeted by car thieves in the past and The Approach is listed as a crime 'hot spot'.

- 2.6 Officers and those from the Secured Car Park Scheme believe that there would be significant risks involved in reducing the specification and are recommending that the original proposals be adhered to. The whole of the car park is scheduled for resurfacing. If this element was to be removed from the specification it would probably mean continued expensive patching work following each Winter. The specification also provides for kerbing to prevent vehicle damage to fencing, lamp columns and fretting of the surface edging. Hooped bollards are also included in the specification to prevent motorists exiting the car park onto the unmade part of the Approach and enhanced lighting will reduce the risk of crime to those users returning to their vehicles late at night

### **3 LIGHTING**

- 3.1 At the Sub-Committee Members were concerned that the cost of the lighting works proposed at The Approach (£9,610) should not jeopardise other projects, the cost of which was to be met from the 'Security Lighting in Car Parks' item in the Capital Programme.
- 3.2 The Highways and Building Control Manager advises that, generally, tenders for this type of work are coming in higher than estimated for the reason stated in 2.2 above. The original estimate for The Approach was £4,500; the actual cost quoted is more than double this amount. Tenders for all the security lighting work were invited week commencing 10 September. The tender return date is 5<sup>th</sup> October, accordingly the Head of Service will be in a better position to report when these have been received; consequently a verbal update will be given at the Meeting.
- 3.3 In view of the risk implications associated with this popular car park, the Head of Service is advising Members to consider the original scheme rather than reducing the specification.

### **4 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 In order for the work to proceed it will be necessary for this Committee to agree additional funding from the Capital Programme.

### **5 PARISH IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The Approach Car Park falls within the Rayleigh Town Council area.

### **6 RECOMMENDATION**

- 6.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

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To include an additional £11,100 in the Capital Programme for resurfacing and improvement works to The Approach Car Park.

S J Clarkson

Head of Revenue & Housing Management

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**Background Papers:**

Secured Car Park Scheme Report.  
Tender Documents.

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