

REVIEW OF HOCKLEY, HULLBRIDGE AND ROCHFORD CENTRE SCHEMES

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report updates Members on the Hockley, Hullbridge and Rochford centre schemes, expenditure to date and update of scheme progress, programme and estimates.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1. Rochford District Council allocated capital funding to these three schemes in November 2000. In December 2000 working groups were set up for Hockley and Hullbridge. The Rochford Town Centre Working Group was already in place. Essex County Council allocated money to improvements in Rochford and Hockley in the 2001/02 financial year.
- 2.2. The working parties have developed the schemes and carried out consultation on the proposals. Parish Councils, adjacent property owners and local businesses are contributing to the schemes.
- 2.3. The Hockley Town Centre Working Group wished to remove overhead electricity wires and place the services underground. TXU ED have agreed to contribute £24,000 towards the costs of supplying, laying, jointing and termination of mains and service cables plus the associated dismantling costs of the existing overhead line in part of Spa Road, Hockley.

3 PROGRESS ON SCHEMES

3.1. Hullbridge

Trial holes were dug on the 24 February and works began 10 March 2002. Phase 1, the south side of Ferry Road between Malyons Lane and number 147 Ferry Road, is mostly complete at 31 May. The provision of bollards, ducting for street lighting electricity supply and the installation of the lanterns and connection of the lighting to electricity supply are to be completed shortly. Works to private forecourts are programmed for the second week in June.

The contractor is still awaiting information to confirm that access to the private forecourts is fully authorised by the owners.

3.2. Hockley

A project group was set up for this scheme as it involves the co-ordination of three stages. The first stage of the scheme is installing

ducting. This is being carried out by the County's term contractor for the south of the county Alfred McAlpine. The second stage is installing the electricity supply cables, making connections and removing the overhead supply system. This will be done by 24Seven and should take three weeks. The third stage of the scheme is re-paving foot way areas in Spa Road.

Work on placing ducts to contain the underground electricity cables started on 24 March 2002. There is more work involved with this than initially allowed. The work on the ducting should be completed in June. The paving works will begin after 24Seven have finished stage 2 and will proceed in the priority order agreed by the Hockley Town Centre Working Group.

3.3. Rochford

Work started on this scheme on 17 April 2002 and will be substantially complete by the third week in June. There will be some small faults to rectify after this. The key aspect to this scheme has been keeping as much paved area open on Tuesday for market traders as possible. Traffic orders for the scheme are not yet completed. Consequently, the road humps will not be installed until the orders are confirmed.

4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 All three schemes go towards improving the visual environment of the areas.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1. Initial allocations and order of costs

Rochford District Council allocated £150,000 to Hockley, £100,000 for Hullbridge and £100,000 for Hockley. In addition from the 2000/2001 budgets Essex County Council allocated £50,000 for improvements in Rochford and £20,000 for improvements in Hockley. Parish Councils, local property owners and businesses are making other contributions.

5.2. Essex County Council funded work 2000/2001

The funding has been used for works in the area of the improvements to Hockley and Rochford on items which needed tidying up but would not otherwise have received funding. Examples are the raising of kerb height and re-paving of footways in Main Road Hockley, the replacement of many broken paving slabs in Rochford town centre and the resurfacing of the parking area in The Square, Rochford.

5.3. Hullbridge Scheme

Spend to complete phase 1 £85,000. However, the initial order of cost for phase 1 was £64,514. The initial estimate did not allow for work on two walls in private forecourts or additional work to the private forecourts requested by members of the working party on site visits.

The completion of phase 1 should leave £15,000 for phase 2. The estimate for phase 2 is £24,000. As this is not covered by funds remaining consideration needs to be given as to how to proceed. There are four possible options: -

A – Continue the paving of Phase 1 north to Ambleside Gardens

B – Construct half of phase 2, the west side between Wallace Close and number 267 Ferry Road.

C – Construct half of phase 2, the east side between numbers 222 and 236 Ferry Road.

D – Do no more work in Hullbridge other than complete Phase 1 and transfer the finance to Hockley to contribute to the works there.

To assist Members in considering this item, a plan of the scheme will be available at the meeting.

5.4. Hockley Scheme

To the week ending 26 May £27,500 has been spent on installing ducting. Duct work on the south east side of Spa Road has been completed. Work on the north west side is not completed. The ductwork is costing more than the initial estimate for this work of £15,110. This is for a number of reasons.

A There are more services than expected in the footway resulting in the need to dig trial holes ahead of the ducting trenching to determine the best route for it. This has slowed the progress of the works.

B The order of cost (based on a site visit) allowed for 266.5 linear meters of duct trenching. The actual length required is 400 meters.

C The allowance for hard dig was as would be expected on works of this nature, 19.8 cubic meters of bituminous material. So far 30 cubic meters of concrete have had to be dug through as well as 33 cubic meters of bituminous material.

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- D The presence of other services in the footway has pushed some of the duct trenches closer to the foundations of buildings which has required more careful digging than initially anticipated.

The revised order of cost for completing the ductwork is now £40,000. Officers of Rochford District Council were informed of this anticipated overspend on this element of the work on 17 May and requested that work continue but the problem be reported to Members. The decision taken by Rochford officers reflected the fact that placing the cables underground was fundamental to the scheme as the funding from 24Seven provided an opportunity unlikely to be repeated in the future.

5.5. Rochford Town Centre Scheme

Up to 31 May £67,500 has been spent. This includes for the completion of the street lighting. To complete the scheme including street furniture humps and finishes will require £19,000.

6 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The works covered in this report are within the Hullbridge, Hockley and Rochford parishes.

7 RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 It is proposed that the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) reprioritises the schemes at Hullbridge and Hockley in accordance with Members wishes. (CD(F&ES))

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Background Papers:

Notes from Hullbridge, Hockley and Rochford Town Centre working groups

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