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## HOCKLEY TOWN CENTRE ENHANCEMENT SCHEME

### 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek agreement to the release of capital funding in order to progress the above scheme.

### 2 PROGRESS

- 2.1. Following approval of the design brief by this Committee on 4 July 2001, Essex County Council has now produced a series of costings for the scheme.

- 2.2. The essential costs are:-

	£	£
Full scheme including removal of overhead power cables (OHP)		212,934.13
Of this sum Essex County Council would make a contribution towards the cost of street lighting in the sum of	11,650	
Hockley Parish Council has now agreed to contribute towards the cost of the project	31,000	
The Council has allocated a budget towards the cost of the project	150,000	
		<u>192,650.00</u>
Excess of expenditure over budget		<u>20,284.13</u>

As may be seen from the above, the cost of the project exceeds the budgetary provision by £20,284.13.

The above scheme is based on the assumption that 24/Seven (electricity supplier) will meet the cost of undergrounding the OHP cables from their own resources, estimated at £25,000.

The full cost of the scheme excluding the OHP cable works would reduce by £11,110.09.

Hockley Parish Council has also indicated that they would be prepared to consider further funding to the project, once the actual shortfall in budget is known.

In addition to the above, the County Council will endeavour to carry out planned maintenance works which are complementary to the scheme at the same time. The estimated cost of these works is £20,000.

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- 2.3. It should be noted that, whilst the above costings may appear very precise, they are not fixed as the County contract is let essentially on a day work basis. It is, therefore, possible by close monitoring of the scheme, to forecast at what point the budget will be spent and curtail the works in an appropriate manner.
- 2.4. Major businesses in Hockley have been approached for possible sponsorship.
- 2.5. The Working Group has agreed two minor changes to the design brief. Plastic bollards will be used in place of cast iron. Street lighting equipment will now be supplied by Windsor as there is a much shorter delivery time.

### **3 PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

- 3.1. A public consultation exercise has been undertaken by providing an exhibition at the Parish Rooms, the use of the Council's mobile exhibition unit and the participation of local shops.
- 3.2. A copy of the questionnaire used is shown at Appendix 1 of this report and a summary of the responses received at Appendix 2.
- 3.3. As may be seen from the responses, 160 out of the 165 completed approved of the scheme. The top four priorities were:-

Repave with slabs  
Provide better access for disabled  
Remove OHP cables  
Update street lighting

### **4 PROPOSED WAY FORWARD**

- 4.1. The Working Group would now wish to commence the project in early January 2002. The preferred scheme would include the removal of the OHP cables.
- 4.2. As it is still not certain at this time whether 24/Seven will contribute to the scheme, the Working Group would seek delegated authority to revise the scheme accordingly if funding were not to be received.

### **5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1. There is provision of £150,000 in the capital programme for contribution to the scheme.

### **6 RECOMMENDATION**

It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

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1. That it be agreed that the scheme goes ahead as outlined in the report
  2. That the Hockley Town Centre Working Group be given delegated authority to agree changes for the scheme in order to ensure it remains in budget.
  3. That the Council contribution be fixed at a maximum of £150,000.

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