



Council

19 February 2015

Matter for Decision

Title: **Bell Street, Wigston**

Author: Mark Hall - Chief Executive

1. Information

- 1.1 This report is being presented to Council due to the need to act expediently following a meeting of the County Council's Oadby & Wigston Highways Forum on 27th January 2015 where actions were agreed in relation to Bell Street, Wigston.
- 1.2 The meeting discussed the success of the town centre public realm improvements which have been jointly funded by Leicestershire County Council, Borough Council and European Development Fund.
- 1.3 The new town centre public realm scheme was launched in December 2014 and focuses on Bell Street as the retail heart of the town. A key element of how successful the scheme will ultimately be is the potential of full pedestrianisation. Historically Bell Street has been pedestrianised between the hours of 10am and 4pm every day when a removable bollard should be locked into place.
- 1.4 This arrangement is increasingly proving to be impossible to regulate, manage and enforce resulting in motorists illegally driving down Bell Street and parking. The new public realm works and street furniture are now regularly being damaged and there is a real risk to public safety.
- 1.5 The Highways Forum agreed that the possibility of full pedestrianisation should now be considered prior to a report being presented to the next meeting of the Highways Forum in July 2015. A member site visit will take place in the near future. The County Council, as the highways authority, is the only body that can introduce full pedestrianisation, the Borough Council has no direct power in this area.
- 1.6 On that basis it was agreed that the Chief Executive should request that Council grant him delegated authority to be used in consultation with the members of the Highways Forum to implement any measures that could result in the possibility of the full pedestrianisation of Bell Street. The Borough Council will need to work collaboratively with the County Council if it is to have any possibility of achieving this

2. Recommendations

- a. The Council grants the Chief Executive delegated authority, in consultation with the members of the Highways Forum, to take any reasonable measures that could result in the full pedestrianisation of Bell Street working with the County Council
- b. That the Council allocates an initial sum of up to £10,000 from reserves in order to progress this.

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Background Papers:- none

Implications	
Financial	Allocation of £10k from reserves.
Risk	CR1; Decreasing Financial Resources.
Equalities	No significant implications.
Legal	It is essential that the correct legal processes are adhered to.