



**Policy, Finance and  
Development  
Committee**

**25<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

**Matter for Decision**

Title: **Public Realm Works within Wigston and Oadby Town Centres**

Author: **Adrian Thorpe, Planning Policy and Regeneration Manager**

---

## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 The Council is working in partnership with Leicestershire County Council to regenerate the public realm within Oadby and Wigston town centres, specifically along The Parade and Bell Street. Financial support has now been agreed with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Priority Axis 2 programme and Leicestershire County Council is finalising the scheme designs with works due to commence the week beginning 2nd June for Wigston and 5th May for Oadby (2014).
- 1.2 The Council established an ERDF Schemes Reserve of £150,000 to be used as match funding against ERDF funding. £117,793 of this will shortly be transferred to Leicestershire County Council as the Council's agreed contribution towards the implementation of both public realm schemes.
- 1.3 This report seeks Member approval to spend some of the remaining £32,000 left in the ERDF Schemes Reserve on specific projects to complete and further enhance the public realm schemes.

## **2 Recommendations**

It is recommended that Members:

Approve the spending of approximately £20-21,000 on display screens in Oadby and Wigston town centres, bus shelters in Oadby and the public art in Wigston to be funded from the remaining money in the ERDF Schemes Reserve.

## **3 Information**

### Display Screens – Oadby and Wigston

- 3.1 Following previous discussion with Members it has been agreed to remove the existing multi-cultural sign in Oadby and to replace it with a modern display screen that can be used to display multi-cultural messages as well as other Council and town centre related notices and adverts, including the opportunity to rent out advertising space (subject to appropriate permissions) which would generate a source of income to the Council.
- 3.2 Members have subsequently requested a display screen to be provided in Wigston as well.
- 3.3 The type and form of digital display screen used within the two towns will be agreed with the Leader and the Chair of Policy, Finance and Development Committee.

- 3.4 Subject to a procurement process the two display screens are likely to cost in the region of £11-12,000 (plus possible installation/electrical costs if the County Council is unable to fit as part of the ERDF works).

#### Bus Shelters - Oadby

- 3.5 Within the current Bill of Quantities for the Oadby ERDF public realm scheme that Leicestershire County Council has produced; £6,000 has been attributed for two replacement bus shelters. Leicestershire County Council has been able to source replacement shelters within the £6,000 budget, however it is believed that they are not up to the high quality standards of the rest of the scheme or those proposed within the Council's Public Realm Strategy and the Town Centres Area Action Plan.
- 3.6 As with the rest of the ERDF public realm scheme, bus shelter design is to follow guidance and principles set out in the Council's Public Realm Strategy which seeks a contemporary and modern town centre core.
- 3.7 An additional funding contribution of approximately £6,000 (£3,000 per bus shelter) would enable higher quality design bus shelters to be provided that would be more in keeping with the scheme. Agreement with the Head of Environmental Development and Operations would be sought to ensure that any alternative bus shelter is appropriate from a maintenance point of view.

#### Public Art – Wigston

- 3.8 The Wigston Civic Society is donating a large granite stone to celebrate the history of Wigston, which will form a piece of public art within the 'Pocket Park' in the former 'Bank' area of the town.
- 3.9 The pocket park is included within the public realm scheme however the public art is not because public art is not eligible for ERDF funding.
- 3.10 In association with the Council and the Wigston Civic Society (and with input from Members), Leicestershire County Council has produced an example of a worded timeline that would form a plinth on which the stone and granite structure will stand. The cost for the engraving of the words would be approximately £3,000.
- 3.11 Although Wigston Civic Society has donated the granite stone it has indicated that it would not be able to contribute towards the cost of the engraving as their finances are currently extremely restricted.

**Email: Jamie.carr@oadby-wigston.gov.uk**

**Tel: 0116 257 2652**

<b>Implications</b>	
Financial	The necessary funding is available within the ERDF Schemes Reserve.
Risks	None
Equalities	The abovementioned schemes will have a positive impact on community equality and access to key services and will help celebrate the Borough's cultural diversity as well as its history.
Legal	None