

SUBJECT:	CITY CENTRE PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY
DIRECTORATE:	MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS
REPORT AUTHOR:	GILL WILSON, PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek committee members' views on the final draft of the City Centre Public Realm Strategy before presenting the Strategy for consideration and approval by the Council's Executive in July 2017.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The importance of high quality public realm in both the experience of a place and as an attractor of investment has long been recognised by the Council, its partners and stakeholders.
- 2.2 The City Centre Masterplan set out some key principles for the development of the City including the public realm, and working with partners the Council has further developed this work to produce the draft Centre Public Realm Strategy.
- 2.3 The Strategy will be used to shape and attract future investment into the city centre's public realm to create and sustain a quality environment that reflects the heritage of the area balanced with the practical usage of public realm areas.

3. Background

- 3.1 Building on the work of the City Centre Masterplan the value and role of a quality public realm in sustaining a vibrant and attractive City Centre has been recognised by the Council and its partners for many years. In developing the recent Transport Hub, Sincil Street/Cornhill redevelopment and part- pedestrianisation of lower High Street initiatives the need for a shared vision and strategic approach as a context for these schemes and future schemes, was identified by a stakeholder Partnership Group at a workshop event in January 2016. This group recommended the delivery of the Public Realm Strategy to identify key principles, future opportunities and objectives within the City Centre.
- 3.2 Re-Form Landscape Architects were appointed in March 2016 and the draft final Strategy completed July 2016.
- 3.3 The document has been subject to extensive consultation with the wider stakeholder partnership Group including: through workshops; at the Lincoln Growth Conference in September 2016; discussions with the Community and Street Scene Management Service Team; and through practical application with the Transport Hub and Cornhill redevelopment schemes.

4. City Centre Public Realm Strategy

- 4.1 The Strategy identifies a proposed Vision for the City's Public Realm as;
- A Better Connected City
 - A City with Space to Breathe
 - A City with a Waterfront
 - A City with Identity
- 4.2 Public Realm opportunities and priorities are outlined by area;
- The City Spine High Street – Central and Lower High Street areas as a priority
 - Wigford Way and Waterside –
 - Cornhill and City Square
 - Castle Hill
 - St Martins Square
 - Park Street link
 - St Swithins Square
- 4.3 The purpose of the Strategy will be for the principles outlined therein to guide future Public Realm development particular in respect of the regeneration proposals emerging around the Cornhill, City Square and Wigford Way areas, to achieve a consistent high quality approach. The Strategy will also be a useful evidence and policy document in supporting any future funding and investment bids in relation to the public realm.
- 4.4 The Strategy will be available in hard copy at the meeting and is at Appendix A of the agenda.

5. Strategic Priorities

5.1 Growing the local economy

The delivery of the Public Realm Strategy is a Vision 2020 Economic Growth Priority Project. The value of a quality Public Realm being recognised as important to maintaining a viable City Centre offer and support investor confidence.

5.2 Protecting the poorest people in Lincoln

As a 2020 vision priority the project supports City Centre economy objectives with regards to job retention and creation.

5.3 Increasing the supply of affordable housing

Not applicable.

6. Organisational Impacts

6.1 Finance (including whole life costs where applicable)

The cost of commissioning the project was met through existing Directorate budgets.

6.2 Legal Implications including Procurement Rules

Appointment was undertaken in accordance with the Council's procurement rules and procedures.

6.3 Land, property and accommodation

The need for any Public Realm schemes to consider future maintenance implications has been raised through the Public consultation process and will need to be a consideration as individual schemes come forward.

6.4 Human Resources

Consultancy management and partner engagement has been accommodated through staff resources of the Major development Directorate.

6.5 Equality, Diversity & Human Rights

The need for DDA compliance within all Public realm schemes was raised through the public consultation process and will need to be a consideration as individual schemes come forward.

7. Risk Implications

7.1 (i) Options Explored

No other options were explored.

7.2 (ii) Key risks associated with the preferred approach

None

8. Recommendation

8.1 Members are requested to consider the content of the City Centre Public Realm Strategy to inform the recommendation for Executive endorsement of the Strategy and approval to publish on the City Council's website.

Is this a key decision?

No

Do the exempt information categories apply?

No

Does Rule 15 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules (call-in and urgency) apply?

No

How many appendices does the report contain?

One

List of Background Papers:

None

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