

REPORT TO	DATE OF MEETING
Cabinet	14 January 2015

Report template revised June 2008



SUBJECT	PORTFOLIO	AUTHOR	ITEM
Bamber Bridge Improvement Plan	Regeneration, Leisure and Healthy Communities	Howerd Booth	4

SUMMARY AND LINK TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES

The report seeks Cabinet approval for a draft Bamber Bridge Improvement Plan, to take initial design ideas to public consultation and permit spending for surveys and preliminary works.

Link to Corporate priorities – Strong South Ribble in the heart of a prosperous Central Lancashire.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To grant authority under Section 3.4 of the Financial Regulations to incur capital expenditure of up to £20,000 to carry out surveys and preliminary works.
2. Approval to commence public consultation with residents and businesses.
3. A further Cabinet report on the Improvement Plan will follow informed by the findings of the consultation exercise.

DETAILS AND REASONING

Overview of the scheme

The South Ribble Borough Council Corporate Plan identifies the improvement of town and village centres as a priority. This is coupled with the Eastern My Neighbourhood plan placing improvements to Bamber Bridge as a local priority. In 2013 Bamber Bridge centre was identified as the local shopping area requiring attention. In 2014 City Deal allocated funding towards the improvement of public realm and public transport corridors. This scheme aims to develop an improved local centre with better amenities and shopping to reinforce Bamber Bridge as the centre of the local community and to help fulfil City Deal outputs related to employment and GVA growth. This will improve the footfall and image of Bamber Bridge by stimulating local trade.

The Bamber Bridge Improvement Scheme would be a public/private partnership between land owners, South Ribble Borough Council and Lancashire County Council to improve the stretch of Bamber Bridge primarily along Station Road from the entrance of Fourfields to the entrance of Mounsey Road. The proposed scheme would provide an improved public open space and community infrastructure to be used by the community. All this will enhance Bamber Bridge and at the same time providing economic benefits for South Ribble and Lancashire as a whole by safeguarding jobs, developing the local economy, reinforcing local community amenities, improving streetscene and re-establishing key elements of our local natural heritage.

Background

Bamber Bridge is a historic industrial town on the border of Walton Moss in South Ribble. It has a proactive and engaging local community who wishes to see its town centre reinforced to protect its local character and local economy. Recently there have been concerns over vacant shops and offices in the area. Local consultation through My Neighbourhood forums and a local councillor group has identified a range of improvements people wish to see. The local working group drew up

a draft concept for a Bamber Bridge Improvement Scheme, which has been refined ever since. At various My Neighbourhood events (Nov '11, Dec'11, March '12, Sept'13, March '14) local people's ideas to improve their communities have been collected. The following stakeholders have directly contributed to the ideas going forward:

- Local Borough councillors
- County councillors
- Local Businesses
- Residents
- Community organisations
- Property owners

A draft improvement plan, which collects many of the ideas put forward for Bamber Bridge has now been drawn up with extensive support from Lancashire County Council under the remit of City Deal. The draft improvement plan is a collection of ideas that are believed, by the local councillor group and previous consultation feedback, to be suitable for Bamber Bridge. Approval to take this improvement plan to public consultations is now sought. To assist future decision making an economic assessment of the plan will also be carried out.

Details

The Bamber Bridge Improvement Plan consists of balanced schemes comprising public realm improvements and community amenities. The scheme is part of City Deal and the Council has been working closely with Lancashire County Council who have provided excellent support. Design work has been progressed in partnership and staff have worked together to make the best use of resources.

The plan ideas we wish to take to public consultation are:

- Create a high quality street environment comprising of a tree lined avenue with higher standard forecourt and public areas that has on and off street car parking facilities.
- Gateway/entrance features welcoming people to Bamber Bridge.
- A new public transport facilities and links serving both the north-south corridor (running from Preston to Leyland/Chorley) and east-west corridor (East Lancashire to West Coast along the railway network) will be created. The new transport facility will tie together the railway at Bamber Bridge, local bus services through the town, taxi facilities and provide cycle parking. The facility will serve Bamber Bridge and it is expected to be the nearest interchange point supporting the proposed Cuerden employment zone, which gives it strategic importance.
- A new people-friendly public space will define the centre of Bamber Bridge. Currently it does not have a clearly defined centre. Central features add character to an area and help define the town centre. It is proposed to define the centre of Bamber Bridge at the corner of Station Road and Withy Grove Road because more pavement space is available. It will contain planting and a seating area with a new centrepiece denoting Bamber Bridge's historic past.
 - New seating area made of high quality hard wood
 - Public notice boards, local signs and map showing local amenities for a mile radius.
 - Additional lighting – consultation has shown that lighting in the area could be improved and this will be investigated as part of the scheme.
- Traffic management & pedestrian improvements – Station Road currently discourages convenient & safe people movement. Therefore a series of linked measures to improve the central area have been devised. These measures are mainly on the Highway and so are subject to LCC assistance and approvals, as well as works approvals by private landowners and utilities/services :
 - Pedestrian crossings to be raised to create a speed calming measure helping to reduce vehicle speeds through the busiest part of Bamber Bridge. The Station

- Road/Brownedge Road area is particularly busy during school times and measures to reduce speed will assist the safety of these operations and crossings.
- Narrowing the main carriageway and widening the footpath areas on Station Road to aid pedestrian movement and reinforce the need to drive slowly through the heart of the area.
- Parking bays – to improve economic viability of the shops and businesses additional on street car parking will be provided. Existing car parks will remain unchanged but better local signing for car parking and other local amenities will be installed.
- Cycle parking – there are small amounts of cycle parking in Bamber Bridge. Cycle parking will be provided as part of this scheme.
- Better pavements and crossing encourage circulation and longer dwell times as well as reducing traffic speeds.
- Signage – to improve circulation and awareness of local amenities additional signage will be provided. A finger board and Bamber Bridge map will be installed.
- Bus shelter improvements – bus stops in Bamber Bridge centre are often busy points. The current bus stops could be improved. Either total replacement or repairs to the stops is being considered by Lancashire County Council.

Next steps

The next suggested step is to take the ideas in the improvement plan ideas to public consultation. Once feedback has been received, the design team will be able to plan a scheme that will better fit the needs of the local community and stakeholders. The improved design then generates various options for build choices, materials choices etc. Cost estimates can then be drawn up allowing Councillors and City Deal Executive to make the final informed decisions based on options for the scheme.

Timings

Timings are currently subject to final designs, discussions and permissions with LCC and property owners and may change. However the estimated timings are currently for the Improvement Plan to be agreed in Spring 2015, and from then a detailed design to be completed by September 2015, followed by a period of approvals and a commitment to start works in 2016.

Costs

The costs for the full range of works cannot be estimated yet. These are usually estimated once initial designs are completed when a range of options are estimated. Early estimates based on the ideas suggest the transformational project is likely to cost in excess of £1 million for the physical works. To help with this process preliminary works such as surveys are likely to be required. Allowance for South Ribble's contribution to this scheme have already been made in the Council's capital programme; £100,000 is allocated for 2015/16. Permission to spend up to £20,000 from this budget for this work from approved SRBC capital programme is requested.

Cost estimates usually also include a contingency of 10% to account for variations in the physical works. In addition City Deal will contribute towards the scheme using the Public Realm and Public Transport Corridors budgets. Lancashire County Council is also contributing considerable staff resources, towards making a successful local scheme. Contributions for the works will also be sought from other sources and local property/land owners who may benefit from improvements.

Procurement

Procurement of works will follow Standing Orders. The Regeneration team will work with Procurement teams from South Ribble Borough Council and Lancashire County Council to ensure correct and timely procurement as part of the overall project.

WIDER IMPLICATIONS

In the preparation of this report, consideration has been given to the impact of its proposals in all the areas listed below, and the table shows any implications in respect of each of these. The risk assessment, which has been carried out, forms part of the background papers to the report.

LEGAL	<p>There are a number of legal implications to be considered here.</p> <p>Planning permission may be required for aspects of the works. When going through the tender process the Council will comply with its Standing Orders. Contract documentation will be drawn up. Land ownership titles will need to be examined and appropriate Agreements I drawn up and entered into with the respective property owners covering the works and future arrangements in relation to the forecourts. The Traffic Regulation Orders will be confirmed by County Council before the certain aspects of the scheme can go ahead.</p>
FINANCIAL	<p>The Regeneration team has worked hard to manage the expenditure forecasts however they will be based on cost estimates which may differ for many reasons from the final costs. Therefore a contingency of 10% is included in the budget and costs will be continuously reviewed. The final schemes may need to be managed to match budgets to ensure there is no over-spend on estimated costs.</p> <p>Contribution from South Ribble's capital budget is already approved. City Deal contributions are yet to be approved.</p>
RISK	<p>Main risks and mitigation measures are described:</p> <p>Governance – the scheme will require a public consultation for any highway works and traffic regulation orders. In addition, local support has been sought from Eastern My Neighbourhood Forum who will be kept informed of progress. Lancashire County Council has a key role in the scheme as Highway Authority, and along with Preston City Council and the Homes and Communities Agency as funding partners to the City Deal. Agreements with all landowners need to be completed. There is potential for services to be affected and relevant statutory undertakers have the ability to prevent/delay/add cost to the scheme. Timings may be subject to change following revised future forecasts and estimates. Work has been progressing extremely well between SRBC and LCC teams. SRBC has delivered several similar projects already and LCC has extensive resources to help deliver a much bigger scheme.</p>
EQUALITY & DIVERSITY	<p>There are no foreseeable issues. Designs will take into account needs of mobility & physically impaired better than current arrangements.</p>

<i>Asset Management</i>	<i>Corporate Plans and Policies</i>	<i>Crime and Disorder</i>	<i>Efficiency Savings/Value for Money</i>
<i>Equality, Diversity and Community Cohesion</i>	<i>Freedom of Information/ Data Protection</i>	<i>Health and Safety</i>	<i>Health Inequalities</i>
<i>Human Rights Act 1998</i>	<i>Implementing Electronic Government</i>	<i>Staffing, Training and Development</i>	<i>Sustainability</i>

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Appendices – Previous consultation information, Draft designs ideas.

Gateway Feature

KEY

- RETAIL UNIT
- PUBLIC HOUSE
- COMMUNITY SPACE
- P₍₁₀₀₎ PARKING STOCK

Junction enhancements

Seating areas

Tree lined avenue

New footways

Mixed use
(20 spaces)
MUNICIPAL

Parking bays – more on street parking

New public transport facility

Gateway Feature

Wider footpaths
More crossing places

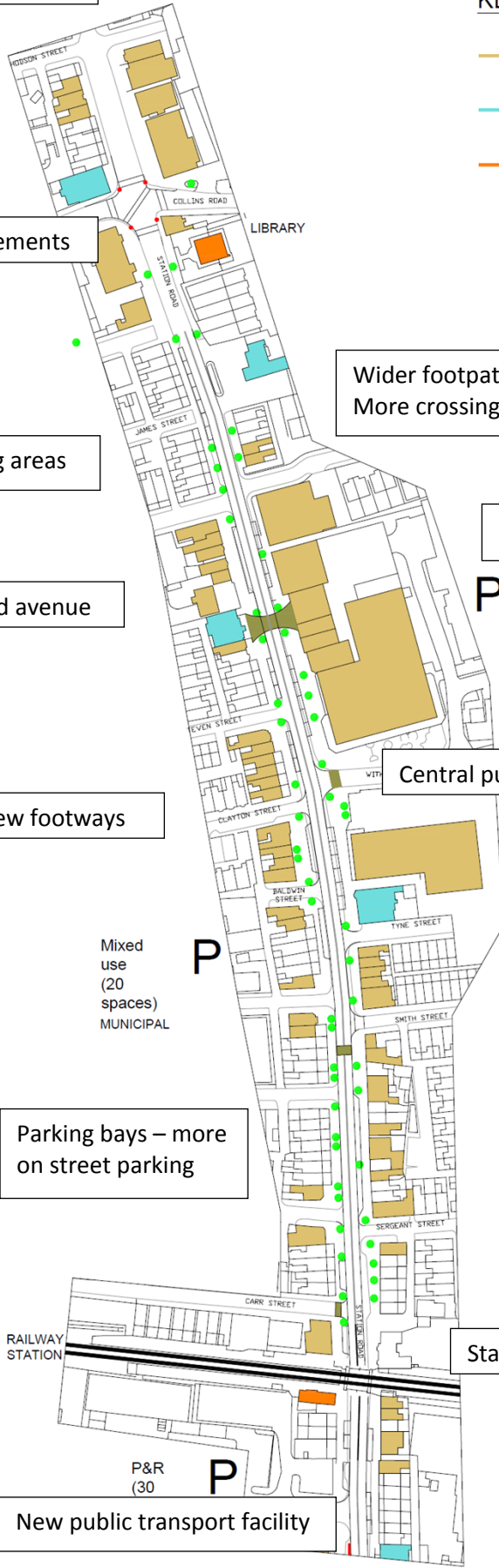
Improved lighting

P Shopper
(150 spaces)
MORRISONS

Central public area

P Pram, wheelchair & mobility friendly levels
fenced off

Station area enhancement
(15 spaces)



Rev	Date	Description
SOUTH RIBBLE CO		
REGENER SOUTH R CIVIC CE LEYLAND, TEL: -		
BAMBER BRIDGE SCHEME		
Title		
Scale	Date	
NTS		
Drawing No.		

Draft Visualisation

