

<b>REPORT TO</b>	<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>
Cabinet	7 September 2016



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<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>ITEM</b>
Capital Projects : Walmer Bridge & Hutton car park	Regeneration & Leisure	Howerd Booth	6

## SUMMARY AND LINK TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES

This report provides capital project updates. This report updates progress and requests approval for capital expenditure for Walmer Bridge village improvements and Hutton car park capital projects as previously approved in the Capital Programme for 2015/16. It supports and links to all of the Council's corporate priorities.

### 1. BACKGROUND

These two capital projects are being progressed under the Council's Western Parishes My Neighbourhood Plan.

The Council approved the budget for 2016/17 and both schemes are included in the Council's capital programme.

### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet agrees:

1. to grant authority under Section 3.4 of the Financial Regulations to incur capital expenditure up to £93,500 on the Walmer Bridge improvements scheme.
2. to grant authority to commence the necessary procurement exercise as described in the report
3. to authorise the Regeneration Manager, in consultation with the Portfolio Member for Regeneration and Leisure, to finalise the details of the Walmer Bridge improvements scheme going forward.
4. To grant authority under Section 3.4 of the Financial regulations to incur capital expenditure of £30,000 on the proposed extension to Hutton Car Park

### 3. CURRENT POSITION & PROPOSALS

#### a) Walmer Bridge.

Walmer Bridge improvement scheme is part of our existing plans to improve the centres of our towns and villages. The scheme of works is to be delivered in partnership with local landowners, in consultation with Little Hoole Parish Council. It will create a high quality public realm comprising of a loom garden, improved forecourt and public areas with off-street car parking facilities. The estimated investment is £93,500. Within this budget we will also be enhancing the village centre, shopping area, and bus shelters working with local bus operators. The works will be carried out in a single phase managed by SRBC to create Walmer Bridge's new loom garden. The aim is to welcome people to Walmer Bridge, making the village more attractive for shoppers and

businesses. The planned improvements will help to define the village centre and create community pride

During public consultations the repeated request was for the improvements to link to the village's heritage, in particular its mill. Walmer Bridge has a history of textile manufacture; the mill once produced velvet and fancy goods. The arrangement of the special looms used in the process have inspired the shape of the loom garden. The garden element splits the forecourts of the businesses into an attractive garden shape that can be walked through and around. The garden would be planted with architectural grasses (acknowledging the use of grass in the manufacture of rayon for artificial silk). Additional key features include Black Mulberry, contained in planters to minimise the fruits landing on surrounding areas. Leaves from the Black Mulberry were used to feed silk moths which produced the silk used in velvet production before being superseded by artificial silk. The existing birch trees will be moved and reused locally.

In addition to the garden, the car parking will be resurfaced and seating installed. Further a community noticeboard, new planters and a fingerpost direction sign will also be introduced. If quotes from the procurement are low enough, we will consider installing new bus shelters or refurbish the existing ones – this will involve discussions with Lancashire County Council.

Appropriate licence agreements will be drawn up and entered into with the respective property owners covering the works and future arrangements in relation to the forecourts. Property owners have been consulted collectively and individually and are all supportive of the scheme. The area is designed to be low maintenance. Maintenance of the planted area (up to four times per annum) will be carried out by the Parish Lengthsman.

The proposal is now for the Council to undergo the necessary procurement exercise in respect of the proposed project. This would be in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules (CPR's). The proposed capital expenditure estimated for these works is £93,500 comprising a main groundworks contract estimated at £60,000, which is an intermediate value procurement. Other lower value items around £30,000 in value, will be procured from numerous suppliers directly by the Engineering team, for example ironwork, noticeboards, seating, planting. If permission to spend is approved, a procurement exercise will be carried out with the assistance of the Procurement team. The exercise will follow the Council's financial regulations and CPR's. Permission for the Regeneration Manager, in consultation with the Portfolio Member for Regeneration and Leisure to finalise details of the scheme going forward and award contracts under delegation is requested.

If approved these works could be scheduled to begin in Dec 2016 /Jan 2017 and would be scheduled to last 8-10 weeks.

Engineers will work with the community involvement team to ensure updates are displayed at every meeting of the Western Parishes My Neighbourhood forum.

#### **b) Hutton car park extension**

As identified in the Western Parishes Neighbourhood Plan, it is proposed to improve the village car park at Hutton. The car park serves the local centre, village hall, playground and playing fields as well as being the centre of many community events and sports activities. The existing car park struggles to cope with demand and larger vehicles are forced to park on the playing field.

The plan is to extend the existing car park laterally but using Bodpave 85, the equivalent type of 'grasscrete' system used in Worden Park, to create a grassed overflow area providing an additional 19 spaces. The estimated cost for these works is £30,000 which is an intermediate value procurement. The design has undergone extensive public consultation and we are working with both the Parish Council and Village Hall Committee to ensure the best design possible to meet a variety of needs. An agreement for the Parish Council to maintain the car park has been reached as part of the scheme, but landownership remains with the Borough Council.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Capital works are progressing across many areas.

#### 5. 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.

<b>FINANCIAL</b>	<p>The Council's approved Capital Programme already includes budgets of £84,354 for Walmer Bridge, to be increased to £93,500, and £30,000 for Hutton Car Park wholly funded from s106 receipts.</p> <p>In line with Financial Regulations, approval to spend up to £93,500 on the Walmer Bridge scheme and up to £30,000 for Hutton car Park requires Cabinet approval. This includes the cost of the contract plus a contingency of 10% to allow for any necessary supporting ancillary works.</p>
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<b>LEGAL</b>	<p>All necessary procurement exercises shall be carried out in accordance with the provision of the council's CPR's.</p> <p>The single largest procurement will be for groundworks in relation to the Walmer Bridge improvements scheme which will be an intermediate value procurement estimated at under £60,000.</p> <p>Regarding the works at Walmer Bridge appropriate agreements will be drawn up by the Council's legal team and entered into with the respective property owners covering the works and future arrangements in relation to the forecourts.</p>
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<b>RISK</b>	<p>Capital projects are risk assessed as part of the background papers to this report. Each scheme build will carry with them different risks which form part of the CDM (Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015) regulations followed by Engineers.</p> <p>Strategic risk linked to this paper is essentially the risk to reputation for schemes not being carried out once public are aware they are in progress.</p>
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<b>THE IMPACT ON EQUALITY</b>	<p>Equality - Projects described are designed to be inclusive, accessible and bring communities together. Careful design means that DDA guidance including dementia friendly guidance is</p>
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<b>OTHER (see below)</b>	
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<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**

Neighbourhood Plans

Procurement/Financial Regulations

Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015