

STOCKPORT COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE REPORT – SUMMARY SHEET

Subject: North Reddish Local Improvements

Report to: (a) Heatons & Reddish Area Committee
Cabinet Member (Economy and Regeneration)

Date: 30 September 2020

Report of: (b) Corporate Director for Place Management & Regeneration

Key Decision: (c) **NO / YES** *(Please circle)*

Forward Plan General Exception Special Urgency *(Tick box)*

Summary:

To seek comments and approval from members regarding the proposals to improve local and district centres within the Borough, providing enhanced public realm. Specifically these improvements relate to five areas of North Reddish local centre, located along the Gorton Road corridor which have been identified as requiring an accessibility improvement scheme.

Recommendation(s):

The Corporate Director for Place Management and Regeneration requests members comment on this report and recommend the Cabinet Member for Economy and Regeneration approves the works to enhance the public realm within the areas of North Reddish as indicated in the report and recommends which areas (out of options A to D listed in the report) they wish to see improved with funding currently available in 2020/21.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee (if decision called in): **(d)**
Communities & Housing Scrutiny Committee

Background Papers (if report for publication): **(e)**

There are none.

Contact person for accessing
background papers and discussing the report

Officer: Eraina Smith
Tel: 0161 474 4911

'Urgent Business': (f) **YES / NO** *(please circle)*

Certification (if applicable)

This report should be considered as 'urgent business' and the decision exempted from 'call-in' for the following reason(s):

The written consent of Councillor _____ and the Chief Executive/Monitoring Officer/Borough Treasurer for the decision to be treated as 'urgent business' was obtained on _____ /will be obtained before the decision is implemented.

North Reddish Local Improvements

Report of the Corporate Director for Place Management & Regeneration

1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek comments and approval from members regarding the proposals to improve local and district centres within the Borough, providing enhanced public realm.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. Stockport Council has a commitment to improve local and district centres within the Borough, providing enhanced public realm. As a result, five areas of North Reddish local centre, located along the Gorton Road corridor have been identified as requiring an accessibility improvement scheme.
- 2.2. Gorton Road forms part of the B6167 between Holdsworth Square and the Borough Boundary. It is of mixed use frontage with some residential, some retail and some commercial frontage. The shops take the form of several parades of local shops which serve local communities and passing trade. The Council has been seeking to improve the environment around local shops.
- 2.3. This has mostly been in District Centres and has included works at Holdsworth Square. There has not, however, been similar investment in local shopping parades and some areas of public realm in front of them are now looking somewhat tired. This includes laybys and footway areas. This project aims to improve the Local Centres in North Reddish along Gorton Road.

3. PROPOSALS

- 3.1. This project aims to improve the footways, lay-bys, pedestrian routes and cycle parking facilities at some of the local shopping parades on Gorton Road. The proposals for Gorton Road are split into five areas

- Area 1 – Cranbrook Road to Belfield Road;
- Area 2 – Oswald Street to Boscombe Street;
- Area 3 – Station Road to Ashbrook Lane;
- Area 4 – Somers Road to Longford Road; and
- Area 5 – Ainsdale Grove to Sykes Street.

- 3.2. The Area 1 proposals include (refer to drawing F_1227_100_01 in Appendix A):

- Public realm improvement with footway widening and repaving outside the shops along Gorton Road (including existing bus stops) between Cranbrook Road and Belfield Road, including an upgrade of tactile paving at each junction;
- Potential upgrades to existing stepped accesses fronting Gorton Road (subject to land ownership and more detailed feasibility assessment); and

- Review of existing street furniture with removal and/or upgrades to bollards, litter bins, street lighting and cycle parking facilities.

3.3. The Area 2 proposals include (refer to drawing F_1227_100_02 in Appendix A):

- Public realm improvement with repaving outside the shops along Gorton Road (including existing bus stops) between Oswald Street and Boscombe Street, including an upgrade of tactile paving at each junction; and
- Review of existing street furniture with removal and/or upgrades to bollards, litter bins and street lighting.

3.4. The Area 3 proposals include (refer to drawing F_1227_100_03 in Appendix A):

- Repaving along Gorton Road between the Ashbrook Lane car park and Station Road, including an upgrade of tactile paving at priority junctions and an upgrade to the bus stop paving; and
- Review of existing street furniture with removal and/or upgrades to bollards, litter bins and street lighting.

3.5. The Area 4 proposals include (refer to drawing F_1227_100_04 in Appendix A):

- Footway widening and repaving between Somers Road and Longford Road including an upgrade of tactile paving at priority junctions and an upgrade to the bus stop paving;
- Potential upgrades to existing accesses to 290 and 296 Gorton Road (subject to land ownership and more detailed feasibility assessment); and
- Review of existing street furniture with removal of existing guardrail and upgrades to litter bins and street lighting.

3.6. The Area 5 proposals include (refer to drawing F_1227_100_05 in Appendix A):

- Public realm improvements with repaving outside the shops along Gorton Road between Ainsdale Grove and Sykes Street to also include kerb upgrades;
- New bollards could be provided between Sykes Street and the signalised pedestrian crossing;
- Tactile paving to be upgraded at the priority junctions with Ainsdale Grove, Westbourne Grove and Sykes Street and at the signalised pedestrian crossing between Westbourne Grove and Priory Lane;
- Additional cycle stands could be provided between the signalised pedestrian crossing and Sykes Street;
- Potential upgrades to existing stepped access to 92 and 94 Gorton Road; and
- Upgrades to the street lighting and litter bins between Ainsdale Grove and Sykes Street.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1. As members will be aware, a public consultation has been undertaken between the 25th August and the 18th September 2020. The consultation comprised a letter drop, temporary signage erected along Gorton Road within each of the 'Areas' identified and the information was posted on Stockport Council's 'have your say' webpage.

4.2. The properties included within the letter drop are identified within the consultation boundary shown on the drawings within Appendix B.

4.3. In total the letter drop included 143 dwellings and business as summarised below:

- Area 1 – 42 properties
- Area 2 – 5 properties
- Area 3 – 41 properties
- Area 4 – 23 properties
- Area 5 – 32 properties
- Total – 143 properties

4.4. There was a slight difference in wording between the online and written response forms. Within the letter drop there were three options with respondents able to select Agree, Have No Feeling / Do Not Know or Disagree. Within the online form there were six response options with respondents able to select Strongly Agree, Tend to Agree, Neither Agree nor Disagree, Tend to Disagree, Strongly Disagree or Do Not Know. For the purpose of this committee report the results have been combined and summarised into the three categories Agree, Have No Feeling / Do Not Know or Disagree.

4.5. Whilst there were further sub-questions to seek a response on a specific element of the proposals for each area (e.g. how far do you agree or disagree with narrowing two existing lay-bys to facilitate footway widening), there was an overall 'How far do you agree or disagree with the public realm improvement proposals' question for each area and the results of this question are presented within this report.

4.6. In total there were 9 written responses. A further 24 respondents provided feedback via the 'have your say' webpage providing a total of 93 responses across the five areas. The overview results of the consultation is provided by area below followed by a summary of the responses for all areas.

Area 1 – Cranbrook Road to Belfield Road

4.7. Of the 4 written responses received for Area 1, 3 (75%) agreed with the proposals and only 1 disagreed (25%).

4.8. Of the 20 online responses received 14 (70%) agreed, 3 (15%) disagreed and 3 (15%) had no feeling / did not know.

4.9. When the online and written responses are combined 71% agreed, 17% disagreed and 13% had no feeling / did not know.

4.10. Within the comments provided by respondents there were a number (including two business owners) who disagreed specifically with the proposed narrowing of the parking lay-bys to facilitate wider footways. Giving due consideration to the comments received it is no longer proposed to include this element within the proposals for Area 1; the existing parking lay-bys would remain unchanged.

Area 2 – Oswald Street to Boscombe Street

4.11. There were no written responses received for Area 2.

4.12. Of the 18 online responses received 10 (56%) agreed, 3 (17%) disagreed and 5 (28%) had no feeling / did not know.

1	17	3	4	24	71%	13%	17%	100%
2	10	5	3	18	56%	28%	17%	100%
3	13	2	3	18	72%	11%	17%	100%
4	12	1	6	19	63%	5%	32%	100%
5	11	4	8	23	48%	17%	35%	100%
Total				102	Total			100%

4.26. Overall it can be seen that Area 1 improvements received the largest number of respondents who agreed with the proposals (17) but that the Area 3 improvements received the largest percentage of respondents who agreed with the proposals (72%).

4.27. For all areas the majority of the respondents agreed with the proposals.

5. SCHEME DEVELOPMENT OPTIONS

5.1. Taking account of the funding level currently available for this financial year and the initial cost estimate for the improvement works a number of options have been identified to take forwards as set out below. Any other combination of works would exceed the budget available for 2020/21. It is intended to seek additional funds to complete the works to all areas in subsequent financial years.

- **Option A:** The initial cost estimate for Area 1 exceeds the current funding limit. The proposals for Area 1 could be split out such that a percentage of the proposals are built out with the remaining progressed once further funding is secured;
- **Option B:** Progress the improvements proposed for Areas 2 and 3;
- **Option C:** Progress the improvements proposed for Areas 2 and 4;
- **Option D:** Progress the improvements proposed for Area 2 and 5;

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1. The costs associated with the full scheme could be approximately £750K. The available funding this financial year funded from the Local Transport Plan budget is approximately £200K.

6.2. The other areas will be progressed once additional funding has been secured.

7. TIMESCALES

7.1. It is intended that work on this scheme should start by March 2021 and will be phased works subject to available budgets going forward.

8. EQUALITIES/COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

8.1. Equal Opportunities

- To provide a suitable and safer environment for pedestrians and other road users. The scheme contributes to the Council's vision statement "Promote equal life outcomes for all by tackling known inequalities across the borough of Stockport".

8.2. Sustainable Environment

- To develop and sustain a healthy, safe and attractive local environment which contributes to Stockport. Stockport Council understands the responsibility it has to lead by example and help the broader community make a positive contribution to the local environment.

9. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Corporate Director for Place Management and Regeneration requests members comment on this report and recommend the Cabinet Member for Economy and Regeneration approves the works to enhance the public realm within the areas of North Reddish as indicated in the report and recommends which areas (out of options A to D listed in the report) they wish to see improved with funding currently available in 2020/21.

Background Papers

There are no background papers to this report.

Anyone wishing further information please contact Eraina Smith on telephone number Tel: 0161 474 4911 or by email on eraina.smith@stockport.gov.uk