

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Finance, Policy and Resources
DATE	9 th March 2017
DIRECTOR	Pete Leonard
TITLE OF REPORT	Strategic Infrastructure Plan Progress Update
REPORT NUMBER	CG/17/002
CHECKLIST RECEIVED	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to provide members with a progress update on the delivery of the Strategic Infrastructure Plan (SIP), and to seek approval for specific actions for funding release from the City Centre Regeneration budget to progress projects within the City Centre Masterplan (CCMP).

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the committee:

- a) note the content of the report and the progress made;
- b) approve expenditure of up to £75,000 to award a contract to consultants to prepare a City Centre Lighting Strategy and Implementation Plan (Aberdeen In Colour) and report progress to FP&R Committee following completion;
- c) approve expenditure of up to a further £130,000 to allow the implementation of suicide prevention measures and associated works at Union Bridge;
- d) approve a contribution of £10,000 to Aberdeen Inspired to support the establishment or continuation of city centre street markets;
- e) Approve a contribution of £40,000 to Aberdeen Art Centre for technical and production support;
- f) delegate authority to the City Centre Director in consultation with the Deputy Leader of the Council, the Convenor of Finance, Policy and Resources and the Head of Commercial and Procurement Services to implement the above proposals and award of contracts, following fully compliant procurement exercises;
- g) agree that the combined expenditure of up to £255,000 above be taken from the City Centre Masterplan budget, as agreed at the Council meeting in February 2017.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications in relation to the progress updates provided. All financial implications are managed as part of the Council's capital planning process.

The financial requests in relation to the City Centre Masterplan projects are to be taken from the already approved capital budget for the City Centre Masterplan.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no other direct implications arising as a result of this report regarding legal, resource, personnel, property, equipment, sustainability and environmental, health and safety and/or policy implications.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

SIP

At its meeting on the 6th March 2013, Council agreed to the preparation of a Strategic Infrastructure Plan (SIP) and this plan was presented and approved at its meeting on the 31st October 2013.

The importance of the SIP can not be underestimated and is one of the key priorities for the Council. It focuses on the delivery of our Strategic and Local Development Plans and is integral to the development of the enabling infrastructure needed to realise the aspirations of all the City Council's plans as well as meeting the objectives in the Single Outcome Agreement.

To achieve this the SIP is centred around five key goals:

1. A step change in the supply of housing
2. Better digital connectivity at home and at work
3. Better local transport
4. The skills and labour that Aberdeen needs to thrive
5. A better image for the city

The SIP contains bold, large scale projects that will help deliver these goals and the appendix to this report provides members with a progress update on the delivery of these projects as well as an update to the supporting infrastructure projects.

City Centre Masterplan

A major programme of work within the SIP has been the development of a City Centre Masterplan (CCMP), and this was approved by Council in June 2015.

The City Centre Masterplan (CCMP) promotes transformational change to energise the city centre to deliver prosperity and better quality of life for all. Key first phase projects include Broad Street public realm, Provost Skene's House, Aberdeen 365 events programme and the remodelling of Union Terrace Gardens. These investments support a range of other city centre projects including Marischal Square, Aberdeen Art Gallery and the Music Hall.

This report requests approval of CCMP budget to continue to progress the delivery of CCMP projects, as below. All projects help meet elements of the stated SIP Goals (above).

Union Bridge – Suicide Prevention Measures

An additional £130,000 for suicide prevention measures and associated works at Union Bridge. At its meeting on 29 August 2013 the Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Committee resolved to proceed with the development of suicide prevention measures at Union Bridge and that this be funded from the City Centre Transport Infrastructure Budget (CCTIB). A budget of £120,000 was allocated. The CCTIB was absorbed into the City Centre Masterplan (CCMP) budget. The measures and associated works received planning consent on 28 October, 2016. In addition to the suicide prevention measures the proposals have been developed to include lighting and public realm enhancements on the north side of Union Bridge. It is important to ensure that these works blend with proposal for Union Terrace Gardens. This requires additional funding of £130,000.

This proposal will contribute to the CCMP objective of:

- Changing Perceptions – promoting the view of Aberdeen city centre as an energetic, inclusive and fascinating place where people will want to live, work and visit.

Aberdeen in Colour – A Lighting Strategy and Implementation Plan

Up to £75,000 for consultants to prepare a study to bring forward the CCMP identified Project EN11 – Aberdeen in Colour. This would be a comprehensive lighting masterplan with the aim of identifying lighting proposals that enhance night time safety and energy conservation, reduce light pollution and improve the vibrancy and attractiveness of the night time environment. The lighting masterplan would also consider city landmarks, key spaces, gateways to the city centre, wayfinding and provide an implementation plan.

This proposal will contribute to the CCMP objectives of:

- Changing Perceptions – promoting the view of Aberdeen city centre as an energetic, inclusive and fascinating place where people will want to live, work and visit.

- A Metropolitan Outlook – ensuring the city centre meets the needs of the wider population of Aberdeen City and Shire and beyond and is specifically planned and governed to reflect this wider metropolitan role.
- A Living City for Everyone – Creating a more liveable place.
- Made in Aberdeen – Building on local distinctiveness and maximising local business opportunities.
- Technologically Advanced and Environmentally Responsible – Providing the capacity, quality and reliability of infrastructure required by businesses and residents and utilising resources responsibly.
- Culturally distinctive – Ensuring Aberdeen city centre reflects its distinctive local culture so it is like no other place.

Supporting City Centre Street Markets

Up to £10,000 contributed to Aberdeen Inspired to support the establishment or continuation of city centre street markets. CCMP project CM08 – Independent Aberdeen seeks to promote the distinctiveness of the city centre by offering incentives and assistance to new and existing independent retailers. Regular street markets are important in this regard as they provide a means for this to be achieved. Aberdeen Inspired is well placed to work with street markets to ensure that support is well targeted.

This proposal will contribute to the CCMP objectives of:

- Changing Perceptions – promoting the view of Aberdeen city centre as an energetic, inclusive and fascinating place where people will want to live, work and visit.
- A Metropolitan Outlook – ensuring the city centre meets the needs of the wider population of Aberdeen City and Shire and beyond and is specifically planned and governed to reflect this wider metropolitan role.
- A Living City for Everyone – Creating a more liveable place.
- Made in Aberdeen – Building on local distinctiveness and maximising local business opportunities.
- Culturally distinctive – Ensuring Aberdeen city centre reflects its distinctive local culture so it is like no other place.

Skills, Training and Employment

Under the auspices of Project EC11 - Aberdeen Works within the skills, training and employment component of the CCMP make a contribution to the Aberdeen Arts Centre for technical and production support that can be offered to people who wish to further a career in this aspect of theatre.

This proposal will contribute to the CCMP objectives of:

- Growing the City Centre Employment Base – creating a stronger and more diverse city centre economy.
- Made in Aberdeen – Building on local distinctiveness and maximising local business opportunities.
Culturally distinctive – Ensuring Aberdeen city centre reflects its distinctive local culture so it is like no other place.

6. IMPACT

The Strategic Infrastructure Plan relates to the following Single Outcome Agreement objectives:

- We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe;
- We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people;
- We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need;
- We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations;
- We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity; and
- Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs.

It also meets the vision of the Community Plan in promoting a strong image of the city and a sense of civic pride and promotes the redevelopment of the City Centre, which is one of the main priorities for the Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement and supports the Council's 5 year Business Plan in terms of protecting and enhancing the built environment, attracting visitors, workers and investment to protect the economic future of the city, and, to facilitate new development projects to improve Aberdeen's living and working environment.

Given the nature of the Strategic Infrastructure Plan this may be of interest to the public.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

N/A

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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