

Agenda Item No. 5

Project information and monitoring form – High Street enhancement scheme

Project		Status	
HIGH ST ENHANCEMENT/BUS STOP RELOCATION		Research	
Project description			Linkages/
<p>The purpose of this project is to improve the appearance, and accessibility of the High Street whilst increasing its usability for hosting town and specialist markets as well as seasonal entertainment and events. Achieving these aims will depend on creating a much improved environment on the High Street whilst also addressing congestion of bus services and potentially relocating the bus layover function and bus stops to more appropriate locations. This project has the potential to be transformative for the High Street. It is also a high cost scheme that may need to be delivered in phases as and when funding opportunities are identified. The first stage in this project is to commission the preparation of a scheme design, costings and phasing plan for delivery. Important factors to be considered in this are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public transport: existing route plans and scheduling issues • Existing bus stop/layover locations and options for relocation or rationalisation • Options for pedestrian only spaces or use of shared space principles • Traffic flow arrangements through the High Street <p>Physical delivery of the proposed improvements will be subject to availability of capital funding. Part of the design will look at whether interim changes can be made in the short term, e.g. relocation of bus services. Whilst the proposed taxi relocation does not form part of this project it is an important consideration and any activities on this project must be coordinated with this related scheme.</p>			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Relocation of bus stops 2. Operation of town and specialist markets
March 2015 update	<p>Amey (Bedfordshire Highways) has been commissioned to undertake delivery of this project. To this end a range of options for relocation of bus stops has been prepared and is currently being evaluated against impact on bus services schedule/movements and overall cost for implementation. A scheme for improvement of the High Street to take advantage of the new space created by the relocation of bus services has also been prepared and is again currently being costed. The scheme for the High Street provides spaces for up to 60 market stalls and the creation of a pedestrian only space. The plans and costings will be presented to the Partnership committee upon completion.</p>		
Estimated completion date		June 2015	
Project lead		CBC Transportation (Steve Lakin)	

Project information and monitoring form – Alleyways and Mews

Project	Status	
ALLEYWAYS & MEWS PILOT	Research	
Project description	Linkages/	
The purpose of this project is to revitalise and make improvements to the numerous alleyways which are a feature of Leighton Buzzard town centre. Many of the alleyways are used as main thoroughfares and important linkages between the High Street / Market Square and some of the town's car parks, but are in poor condition and would benefit from improvements such as deep cleans, improved lighting, re-painting etc. The project will seek to work with landowners, occupiers and others to make improvements and enhance these important linkages for the benefit of the town as a whole. This project will initially be run on a pilot basis.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Land south of High Street enhancement scheme 2. High Street enhancement scheme 	
March 2015 update	<p>This project proposed to deliver improvements to priority alleyways and mews (inc Ryland Mews, Peacock Alley/Mews and Bell Alley) as part of a pilot scheme. Initial options for improvements included lighting, surface repairs and signage.</p> <p>It was agreed in consultation with LLTC staff during December 2014 to commission specialists to advise on improvements to lighting in the three alleyways above. A final report setting out options for improvements and costings has been produced. Work will now proceed on obtaining approval for lighting works where relevant and proceeding with the works as soon as possible. It is expected that works will be completed by June.</p>	
Estimated completion date	May/June 2015	
Project lead	CBC Regeneration and Business/LLTC	

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Project	Status	
TOWN CENTRE PARKING STUDY	Research	
Project description	Linkages/	
<p>Central Bedfordshire Council and Leighton Linlade Town Council jointly commissioned a parking study and review of car parking in Leighton Buzzard town centre covering both on and off street car parking. The objectives of the study were to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify current usage patterns • Consider and review any impact on residential areas of parking by town centre employees, visitor and shoppers. • Quantify what the current supply and demand is amongst different user types • Estimate proportion of available capacity currently being used across town centre as a whole • Forecast likely changes (5 & 10 years +) based on population and economic growth • Include quality audit review of the car parking locations in the study area • Evaluate existing car parking management practices and enforcement in Leighton Buzzard • Prepare an overall plan and recommendations for managing parking across the town centre. 	Land south of High Street	
March 2015 update	The final report and recommendations have now been presented to CBC and these are with the relevant officers and Head of Service. The report highlights the issues in the high street area and the possible need to introduce measures to increase the flow of parking spaces and those using the high street area. The need for further enforcement is also a big area of concern and the level of resources put into staffing including dedicated officers focussing on LB may need to be considered. A detailed business case releasing funds will be required to support this. It is intended that the full parking study document will be presented to the Partnership committee at the second meeting in the 2015/16 financial year.	
Estimated completion date	April 2015	
Project lead	CBC Highways (Paul Salmon)	

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Project	Status	
TAXI RELOCATION	Capital works	
Project description		Linkages/
Purpose of project is to relocate taxi's from their current location adjacent to the Old Fire House/Pizza Express into a more suitable location,		High Street enhancement scheme/bus relocation
March 2015 update	The Council has identified several sites that could provide a new location for a new taxi's rank. This includes for example areas such as adjacent to the Multi Storey Car Park. This and other sites are currently being reviewed and this work is being considered in parallel to options for relocating busses from the High Street area. An earlier option considered was for taxis to be temporarily relocated to the Duncombe Drive car park extension site, however due to the site purchased being smaller than first thought this is no longer possible. In the interim period, the parking enforcement team are offering as much support as they possibly can to control taxis in and around the high street area and Lake Street.	
Estimated completion date	tbc	
Project lead	CBC Highways (Paul Salmon)	

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Project	Status	
DUNCOMBE DRIVE EXTENSION (FORMER CATTLE MARKET)	Capital works	
Project description		Linkages/
Site forms part of the Land South of High Street. Purpose of project is to ensure productive use of this site ahead of full redevelopment.		
March 2015 update	The former Cattle Market site was purchased by the Council to form part of the proposed Land South of High Street redevelopment scheme. Following its purchase, demolition and clearance of the site was carried out in advance of further work to create a temporary car park. Plans for lighting and improvements to drainage have been made however these are currently on standby in order to allow for test investigation of the works by an archaeologist due to the historic significance of that area. In the event that significant archaeological material is found the more comprehensive lighting and drainage works will not proceed and instead the site will be levelled with recycled highway chippings. A more secure gate will be installed and market traders will be allowed to park their vehicle's at the site on market days taking away some of the pressure on the high street. If the site is clear of archaeological material works to convert the site into an operational temporary car park will take 2-3 weeks to complete	
Estimated completion date	May 2015	
Project lead	CBC Highways (Paul Salmon)	