



# Notice of a public meeting of

# Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee (Calling In)

**To:** Councillors Galvin (Chair), Burton, Fraser, Horton,

Jeffries, King, Potter, Runciman (Vice-Chair) and

Steward

Date: Monday, 14 July 2014

**Time:** 5.00 pm

**Venue:** The Thornton Room - Ground Floor, West Offices (G039)

# AGENDA

#### 1. Declarations of Interest

At this point, Members are asked to declare:

- any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests
- any prejudicial interests or
- any disclosable pecuniary interests

which they may have in respect of business on this agenda.

# 2. Public Participation

It is at this point in the meeting that members of the public who have registered to speak can do so. The deadline for registering is **5.00pm** on **Friday 11 July 2014.** Members of the public can speak on agenda items or matters within the remit of the committee.

To register to speak please contact the Democracy Officer for the meeting, on the details at the foot of the agenda.

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- 3. Minutes (Pages 1 8)
  To approve and sign the minutes of the Committee's meetings held on 12 and 19 May 2014.
- 4. Called-in Item: Improving York's City Centre Reinvigorate York Public Realm Improvement Projects: Exhibition Square/Theatre Interchange project. (Pages 9 28)

  To consider the decisions made by Cabinet at their meeting held on 1 July 2014 in relation to the above item, which has been called in by Councillors Watson, Warters and Wiseman in accordance with the Council's Constitution. A cover report is attached setting out the reasons for the call-in and the remit and powers of the Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee (Calling-In) in relation to the call-in, together with the original report and the decisions of the Cabinet.

# 5. Urgent Business

Any other business which the Chair considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

# **Democracy Officer:**

Name: Jill Pickering Contact Details:

Telephone : 01904 552061

• E-mail: jill.pickering@york.gov.uk

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democratic Services Officer responsible for servicing this meeting:

- · Registering to speak
- · Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- · Copies of reports and
- For receiving reports in other formats

Contact details are set out above.

This information can be provided in your own language.

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় দেয়া যেতে পারে। (Bengali)

Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim własnym języku. (Polish)

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

(Urdu) یه معلومات آب کی اپنی زبان (بولی) میں بھی مہیا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔

**7** (01904) 551550

City of York Council	Committee Minutes
Meeting	Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee (Calling In)
Date	12 May 2014
Present	Councillors Galvin (Chair), Fraser, Jeffries, King, McIlveen, Potter, Runciman (Vice- Chair), Steward and Burton (Sub for Councillor Horton)
In Attendance	Councillors Ayre, Merrett, Reid and Richardson
Apologies	Councillor Horton

#### 22. Declarations of Interest

At this point in the meeting, Members were asked to declare any personal interests not included on the register of interests, any prejudicial interests or any disclosable pecuniary interest which they might have in respect of the business on the agenda. No additional interests were declared.

# 23. Public Participation

It was reported that there had been one registration to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme; however the speaker did not attend the meeting.

#### 24. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the last meeting of the

Committee held on 21 October 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and be signed

by the Chair.

# 25. Called In Item: City Of York Local Plan Further Sites Consultation

Members received a report which asked them to consider the decisions made by the Cabinet on 23 April 2014, in relation to ongoing work with potential Local Plan allocations and the

decision to undertake public consultation on potential new sites and boundary changes on some of the sites originally identified.

Details of the Cabinet's decision were attached at Annex A to the report, with the original report to the Cabinet attached at Annex B. The decision had been called in by Councillors Ayre, Reid and Runciman on the following grounds:

- The proposed public consultation documents exclude projected housing numbers for the new residential sites or revised housing numbers for either the amended allocated sites or the amended strategic sites.
- This exclusion is contrary to the Local Plan Preferred Options paper (June 2013) which included housing numbers; however, no proper explanation is offered as to why this approach has been abandoned.
- Housing numbers are not provided for potentially large sites such as Stockton Lane, Boroughbridge Road, North of Escrick or in New Earswick.
- It is not fully explained how the changes to strategic sites such as Metcalfe Lane, North of Haxby or Whinthorpe will affect proposed housing numbers on these sites.
- The papers fail to provide sufficient information on the infrastructure plans for the new sites or how the new sites will impact upon existing residents and on other proposed sites identified last year.
- Failure to include housing numbers and other key information is symptomatic of an approach where there is no opportunity for group leaders to agree the contents and structure of public consultations.
- The Further Sites consultation papers should include projected housing numbers and other key details so residents have all the information they need to respond.

 Until all key information is published and included in the papers it is inappropriate for consultation to begin.

Members were asked whether to confirm the decision (Option a) or to refer it back to Cabinet for re-consideration (Option b) as set out in the report.

Councillor Reid addressed the meeting on behalf of the Calling-In members referring to the comprehensive reasons provided for the call-in, with the key reason being the exclusion of housing numbers in the consultation documents for both new and allocated residential sites. She pointed out that without housing numbers and infrastructure information residents would find it difficult to provide meaningful feedback to the consultation.

Councillor Ayre also addressed the meeting, on behalf of the Calling-In members, reiterating that any consultation would be uninformed without the additional information requested.

The Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, Planning & Sustainability responded, confirming that the consultation proposed related to the principle of development at this stage and the safeguarding of sites, including the addition of new sites and potential boundary changes to some existing sites. He confirmed that it would be possible to include an estimate of housing numbers on each site however this would be with the caveat that these could change prior to the final consultation. He pointed out that the scale of the infrastructure would not be known until the next submission draft stage of the consultation.

Officers stated that there had been no intent to mislead or complicate the consultation process however any detail included would only be indicative at this stage. They confirmed that it would take around three days to add the additional information to the consultation documents.

Some Members, whilst understanding the issues raised by the call-in Members, reiterated concern that any figures provided should only be viewed as indicative.

In answer to questions, the Cabinet Member confirmed that legal advice had been sought which confirmed that the

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additional density information requested for inclusion, prior to consultation, could be carried out as part of the delegated powers previously given to the Director in conjunction with the Cabinet Member.

Following further discussion it was.

Resolved: That Option A be approved and that the decision of

Cabinet be confirmed subject to inclusion of housing

site numbers in the consultation documents, as delegated to the Director of City and Environmental Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member.

Reason: In accordance with the requirements of the Council's

Constitution.

Cllr J Galvin, Chair [The meeting started at 5.00 pm and finished at 5.35 pm].

City of York Council	Committee Minutes
Meeting	Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee (Calling In)
Date	19 May 2014
Present	Councillors Galvin (Chair), Cuthbertson (Sub for Councillor Runciman), Fraser, Horton, Jeffries, McIlveen, Potter and Steward
In Attendance	Councillors Alexander and D'Agorne
Apologies	Councillors King and Runciman

#### 26. Declarations of Interest

At this point in the meeting, Members were asked to declare any personal interests not included on the register of interests, any prejudicial interests or any disclosable pecuniary interest which they might have in respect of the business on the agenda.

Councillor Potter declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in relation to agenda item 3 – Minute 28 refers (Improving City Centre Competitiveness) as Dial a Ride, her employer, were in negotiations to provide a service from the city to the Vangarde Centre.

# 27. Public Participation

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme

# 28. Called In Item: Improving City Centre Competitiveness

Members received a report which asked them to consider the decisions made by the Cabinet at their meeting held on 23 April 2014, in relation to changes to parking charges for the 2014/15 financial year, on a temporary basis, to provide an incentive to residents and visitors to encourage day time use of the car parks.

Details of the Cabinet decision were attached as Annex A to the report and the original report to the Cabinet attached as Annex

- B. The decision had been called in by Cllrs D'Agorne, Runciman and Taylor on the grounds that:
  - Impact on revenues and city centre congestion on Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings is uncertain and provisos to curtail the measure before Mar 31<sup>st</sup> 2015 in the event of difficulties adds to customer uncertainty about the scheme.
  - The funding for the pilot would be taken from S106 money specified for transport, highways and access mitigation measures directly related to traffic generated by the Vangarde Development.
  - At the time of planning approval Highways officers stated that the allocation 'fell significantly short of the required level' indicating that it is already inadequate for the work which is required to ameliorate the traffic impact of the development.
  - The decision fails to identify which measures will not now be provided.

Councillor D'Agorne spoke on behalf of the calling in members questioning the urgency of the item on the Cabinet agenda, when the proposal had been developed over a six month period. He also noted that the report was not supported by market research information. He questioned the 8am start time and which mitigation measures would not be undertaken at the Monks Cross South site, following the contribution towards parking discount. If the pilot was continued he questioned whether this was economically the most cost effective method of encouraging visitors into the city. As he considered the proposals were contrary to Council policy he requested Council scrutiny of these measures together with alternative proposals.

In answer to one of the reasons for call in, it was confirmed that the impact on revenues and city centre congestion would become apparent following initial implementation, which if significant would result in a review of the decision mid-year. Some Members also suggested the possible use of a city centre shuttle bus scheme as an alternative sustainable measure.

In answer to a number of questions Councillor Alexander, as Cabinet Leader confirmed that:

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- The 8am commencement time and Thursdays to Saturday's pilot had been agreed following discussion with city centre traders as a means of attracting residents in to the city centre earlier in the day. It was noted that Marks and Spencer would shortly be opening their Pavement store at 8am.
- As no commitment had been given to continue the trial any changes could be made following the pilot.
- It was acknowledged that the pilot start date would be delayed, following the call-in, commencing on 19 June.
- The development of a Business Improvement District was being explored by City Team York.
- Although alternative proposals had been considered this suggestion had come from city centre traders in conjunction with Officers, as a means of increasing trade.

In answer to questions, Officers reiterated that the proposals had been put forward in response to requests from local businesses and the City Team, and that alternative schemes had been considered. It was also confirmed that marketing of the scheme would be undertaken and that it would be possible to reprogramme payment machines to reflect the new parking charges.

Members were then asked to decide whether to confirm the decision made by the Cabinet Member (Option a) or to refer it back to the Cabinet Member for re-consideration (Option b).

After a full debate, Cllr Horton moved and Cllr Potter seconded that Option a) be confirmed and the Cabinet decision be confirmed.

On being put to the vote six Members voted for Option a) to confirm the decision and two voted against for Option b) and it was

Resolved: That Option a) be approved and that the

decision of Cabinet be confirmed.

Reason: In accordance with the requirements of the

Council's Constitution.

Cllr J Galvin, Chair [The meeting started at 5.00 pm and finished at 5.50 pm].



# Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee (Calling – In)

14 July 2014

Report of the Assistant Director, Governance and ICT

Called-in Item: Improving York's City Centre – Reinvigorate York Public Realm Improvement Projects: Exhibition Square/Theatre Interchange project.

# **Summary**

1. This report sets out the reasons for the call-in of the decisions made by Cabinet at their meeting on 1 July 2014 relating to the implementation of the Theatre Interchange project, as the first phase of a rolling programme of linked public realm improvement works at Exhibition Square. This cover report sets out the powers and role of the Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee in relation to dealing with the call-in.

# **Background**

- 2. An extract from the Decision Sheet issued after the Cabinet meeting is attached as Annex A to this report. This sets out the decisions taken by Cabinet on the called-in item. The original report to the Cabinet meeting on the called-in item is attached as Annex B to this report.
- 3. The Cabinet decisions have been called in by Councillors Watson, Warters and Wiseman for review by the Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee (CSMC) (Calling-In), in accordance with the constitutional requirements for call-in. The following are the reasons given for the call-in:
  - "The proposed funding is a waste of money on a scheme that is not compliant with the aims of Reinvigorating York.
  - Concerns regarding the bus facilities included in the scheme."

#### Consultation

 In accordance with the requirements of the Constitution, the calling-in Members have been invited to attend and/or speak at the Call-In meeting, as appropriate.

# **Options**

- 5. The following options are available to CSMC (Calling-In) Members in relation to dealing with this call-in, in accordance with the constitutional and legal requirements under the Local Government Act 2000:
  - a. To decide that there are no grounds to make specific recommendations to Cabinet in respect of the report. If this option is chosen, the original decision taken on the item by Cabinet at their meeting on 1 July 2014 will be confirmed and will take effect from the date of the CSMC (Calling-In) meeting; or
  - b. To make specific recommendations to Cabinet on the report, in light of the reasons given for the call-in. If this option is chosen, the matter will be reconsidered by Cabinet at a meeting of Cabinet (Calling-In) to be held on 22 July 2014.

# **Analysis**

6. Members need to consider the reasons for call-in and the report to Cabinet and form a view on whether there is a basis to make specific recommendations to Cabinet in respect of the report.

#### **Council Plan**

7. There are no direct implications for this call-in in relation to the delivery of the Council Plan and its priorities for 2011-15.

# **Implications**

8. There are no known Financial, HR, Legal, Property, Equalities, or Crime and Disorder implications in relation to the following in terms of dealing with the specific matter before Members; namely, to determine and handle the call-in.

# Risk Management

9. There are no risk management implications associated with the call in of this matter.

#### **Recommendations:**

10. Members are asked to consider all the reasons for calling in this decision and decide whether they wish to confirm the decisions made by Cabinet or refer the matter back for reconsideration and make specific recommendations on the report to Cabinet.

**Reason:** To enable the called-in matter to be dealt with efficiently and in accordance with the requirements of the Council's Constitution.

#### **Contact details:**

Author:	Chief Officer Responsible for the report:			
Dawn Steel	Andrew Docherty			
Head of Civic &	Assistant Director, Governance and ICT			
Democratic Services				
01904 551030	Report √ Date Approved	4 July 2014		
Specialist Implications Officer(s) None				
Wards Affected: Guildhall		All		

# For further information please contact the author of the report

#### Annexes

Annex A – Extract from the Decision Sheet produced following the Cabinet meeting on the called-in item.

Annex B – Improving York's City Centre – Reinvigorate York Public Realm Improvement Projects: Exhibition Square/Theatre Interchange project, Report of Cabinet Member for Transport, 1 July 2014.

# **Background Papers**

None



#### CABINET

# **TUESDAY, 1 JULY 2014**

#### Extract from DECISIONS

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the Cabinet meeting held on Tuesday, 1 July 2014. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

Members are reminded that, should they wish to call in a decision, notice must be given to Democracy Support Group no later than 4.00pm on Thursday 3 July 2014.

If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact Jill Pickering (01904) 552061, jill.pickering@york.gov.uk.

15. Improving York's City Centre - Reinvigorate York Public Realm Improvement Projects: Exhibition Square/Theatre Interchange Project

Resolved: That Cabinet agree to:

- (i) Approve the overall design for the Theatre Interchange aspect of the Exhibition Square/Theatre Interchange project subject to further minor amendments being delegated to the Director of City and Environmental Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport.
- (ii) Approve the location of replacement bus shelters that offer significant improvements to the existing footways and bus shelters located within the Square.
- (iii) Note that a further report is planned for consideration by Cabinet in September, which will seek approval for the remaining

**ANNEX A** 

aspects of the Exhibition Square project.

Reasons:

- (i) To enable progress of the Reinvigorate York Public Realm programme through agreement to the overall design for the interchange and noting progress on Exhibition Square.
- (ii) To improve arrangements for bus passengers within the area.



Cabinet 1 July 2014

Report of the Cabinet Member for Transport

Improving York's City Centre - Reinvigorate York Public Realm Improvement Projects: Exhibition Square/Theatre Interchange project.

## **Purpose of Report**

- 1. To approve the next phase of the Re-invigorate work programme The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval to implement the Theatre Interchange project (which is part of the Better Bus Area Fund, or 'BBAF', programme) as the first phase of a rolling programme of linked public realm improvement works at Exhibition Square (which is part of the Reinvigorate York Initiative).
- The current programme is designed to deliver the refurbished Exhibition Square by May 2015 when the Art Gallery, which is currently undergoing major refurbishment, re-opens to the public. In order to meet this deadline the Theatre Interchange aspect of the scheme will need to start this summer.

# **Background**

- 3. This report follows on from the previous Reinvigorate York report to Cabinet on 1 April 2014. It also provides a summary of feedback received from detailed consultation with the current bus operators using the square and a wider consultation process involving the public.
- 4. This scheme will be funded out of the £3m Capital budget already agreed for the Reinvigorate York programme (£730K) and £270K funding from the Better Bus Area Fund (BBAF) Economic Infrastructure Fund (EIF) Capital Budget.
- 5. A report to Cabinet on 1 April 2014 set out the context for six priority Reinvigorate York public realm improvements projects and provided

an overview of consultation held on three projects at Exhibition Square and linked Theatre Interchange scheme; Duncombe Place/Blake Street junction; and Fossgate. An overall Reinvigorate York Community Impact Assessment (CIA) including project specific elements for the Fossgate scheme was also provided.

- 6. A summary of community engagement was also outlined in the 1 April Cabinet report. Consultation events which were of particular relevance to the Exhibition Square/Theatre Interchange project included: a stakeholder workshop event (30 January 2014); three staffed exhibitions (25 January, 5 February and 11 February 2014); presentations to the Conservation Area Appraisal Panel (4 February 2014), Quality Bus Partnership (13 February 2014) and the Equalities Advisory Group (5 March 2014). Bespoke meetings were also held with key stakeholders including the York Museums Trust, Rushbond (proposed St Leonards Place Hotel) and York University (Kings Manor).
- 7. Further consultation has occurred with the bus operators regularly using the Square and this report also outlines the main findings from this consultation activity.

#### Context

# Exhibition Square and the linked Theatre Interchange Project

- 8. Exhibition Square is a major city centre space with unique views of the Minster. The Square lies at the heart of some of the city's most important cultural assets. It is surrounded by high quality listed buildings and former precinct walls of St Mary's Abbey, which are themselves, a scheduled ancient monument. Exhibition Square is also a crucial location for bus services for residents and people living in rural areas to the north of the city, handling around 750,000 bus passenger journeys a year.
- The proposed improvements at Exhibition Square/Theatre
   Interchange will also complement other civic development initiatives
   and investment being made in the immediate area (for example,
   redevelopment of the Art Gallery, the Theatre Royal and the former
   council offices at St Leonard's Place).
- 10. Exhibition Square proposals are aimed at improving the quality of public space, which is poor and deteriorating, and making the Square a better place for residents and visitors to use and enjoy. The vision

is to create a beautiful public space providing a setting to enjoy the range of architecture around it and which acts as a forecourt to the Art Gallery and is sufficiently flexible to enable a range of public cultural activities to take place.

- 11. The environment at the Theatre interchange is currently poor both for bus passengers (in terms of the quality of the facilities provided and from a bus operations perspective). The poor environment also has a negative impact on other pedestrian users within the area. Theatre Interchange proposals are aimed at improving the amenity of the Theatre Interchange bus stops for passengers and making changes to bus stopping facilities to improve the amenity of the Exhibition Square area as a whole.
- 12. The benefit in terms of opportunities to provide environmental improvements has been carefully considered against any potential detriment to bus operations. The outcomes of these considerations are outlined later in this report.
- 13. Specific interventions for the Theatre Interchange element of the scheme include: increasing circulation space for visitors to the Square, pedestrians and bus passengers by reducing the size of the existing bus lay-by; replacing the two existing bus shelters with two new more attractive shelters; and providing real time information and more/better seats for bus passengers.
- 14. The aim is to complete the Exhibition Square/Theatre Interchange project no later than May 2015 when the Art Gallery, which is currently undergoing major refurbishment, re-opens to the public. The intention is to phase the construction works as part of a rolling programme over a period of nine months. The first stage will be the Theatre Interchange aspect which is the subject of this report and which is due to start in August. The wider Exhibition Square project will commence at a later date and will be the subject of a further report to Cabinet in September.

#### **Consultation - General Public**

15. This report briefly outlines the consultation feedback for the Theatre Interchange project, including proposals to mitigate changes to bus operations. More detailed information can be found in Supplementary Document 1 which can be viewed online. Consultation feedback and proposals for the Exhibition Square

- aspect of the project will be brought to Members at a meeting of the Cabinet in September.
- 16. Direct questions were asked at consultation relating to the proposed reallocation of space at Exhibition Square from bus services to pedestrians, the proposed provision of a single, larger shelter for bus passengers to replace the two existing shelters and the proposed type of paving to be used.

### Consultation - Bus Operations

# **Summary of Key Findings**

- 17. A presentation was made to a meeting of the Quality Bus Partnership Performance Group on 13 February 2014. Representatives of Bus Operators currently using the Exhibition Square bus service area included First, Reliance and Stephenson's of Easingwold. In addition a number of individual discussions have occurred with the bus operators to gain an in-depth understanding of their views.
- 18. A number of trials have been conducted in order to fully research the impact on bus services of the proposed changes to the overall design and specifically changes to the lay-by on bus services. The objective was to test whether it is possible to operate the tour bus service with no more than one vehicle in Exhibition Square at any one time. Transdev, operators of the service, successfully managed this during the trial, and it was concluded to have been successful.
- 19. In more general terms, the tour bus team were supportive of the proposal for Exhibition Square as they felt that the upgrade to the fabric of the area would make it a more pleasant environment for their passengers and would hence improve the attractiveness of their services.
- 20. However, the tour bus company did raise a concern that the currently proposed lay-by arrangement would make it difficult for them to be able to get into the right hand lane to go into Gillygate and they were keen that the council should consider changes to the junction to mitigate this problem. Officers have taken note of this request, which will be monitored as the scheme progresses.
- 21. Proposed changes to the bus stops and the provision of two new standard Foster shelters glazed carriageway have been well received by the bus operators. Under the current design one of the existing

shelters is only used for infrequent bus services and the new shelter will provide additional waiting capacity for more frequent bus services. In addition bus operators welcome additional benefits, which include:

- Enhancements to public realm offering a much improved waiting environment within the Square
- Shelters which have Real Time Information display
- No actual reduction in sheltered capacity for waiting Passengers
- Integral lighting within the shelters for increased security
- An improved relationship between the location of the shelters and the bus stopping points
- 22. Table 1 below summarises the overall potential impact and mitigation strategy on the bus services currently using Exhibition Square.

Table 1: Impact and Mitigation Strategy

Service(s)	Impact	Mitigation Strategy	Notes
1, 5/5A, 6, 19, M15	Small changes to design of pull-in. Changes to design and location of	None required	Proposal will improve amenity of stops for passengers on
	shelter.		these services.
29, 30, 30X, 31, 31X, 40 (AM only)	Services will no longer wait time at Exhibition Square.	Services can instead wait time at Memorial Gardens	
40 (afternoon journeys)	Services will no longer be able to turn around at Exhibition Square	Service will instead have to turn using Station Gyratory, taking any layover time at Memorial Gardens	To note that this only involves one bus operator with 3 bus services in the afternoon
Tour buses	Change to layover arrangements	Limit tour bus movements to one in Square at any one time	Proposal will improve amenity of stops for passengers on these services.

23. Should Members decide to proceed with the recommendations of this report it should be noted that a second stage Safety Audit will be

carried out and it is proposed that any design amendments due to the Audit.

#### **Council Plan**

24. Delivery of the proposals will help to achieve a number of the themes of the Council Plan, including:-

Create jobs and grow the economy – it is considered that the wider aims to improve the quality of York City Centre will contribute to the economic attractiveness of the city in comparison with competitor cities, and boost investor confidence. Substantial pedestrian and public space improvements on key links in the city for tourists and shoppers will improve the amenity of York City Centre and increase the number of visitor trips to the city, and therefore increase visitor spend.

**Get York Moving** – improvements to streets and spaces will improve safety for pedestrian and cyclists, and local businesses, and will help to create a better environment for people to consider using alternative modes of transport. Improvements to bus stopping areas will encourage greater use of bus services and lead to an improved experience for passengers boarding buses at Exhibition Square/ St Leonard's Place, in line with the objectives of the Better Bus Area Fund programme.

**Build Strong Communities** – Providing better public spaces will improve public interaction and the extra footway space will reduce conflict.

Protect vulnerable people – York's streets and spaces need to work for everyone, and there are many significant issues that need to be resolved involving communities of interest as defined by the 2010 Disability Act. More space for pedestrians, higher quality paving, more considered repairs and re-bedding of surface materials, increases in seating and better quality seating, improved lighting, and a new approach to wayfinding will all help to improve physical and intellectual access to services and facilities for all. The additional pedestrian space at junctions will ease problems for vulnerable people using the area.

**Protect the Environment** – proposals will be delivered in accordance with the Council's sustainable objectives, and will enhance the public realm, heritage and townscape of the city centre which will support the sustainable growth of the city and coordinate

with the vision and objectives of the Reinvigorate York initiative. Modal shift as a result of improving bus facilities and services and improved conditions for active modes will reduce carbon emissions by the city and improve the amenity of the city centre.

# **Proposals for Theatre Interchange (BBAF)**

- 25. The Theatre Interchange design (see Plan at Annex 1) which Members are being asked to approve will include the following key elements:
  - i) Reducing the space for bus services to a single lane and removing the right turn manoeuvre by buses.
  - ii) Repositioning the vehicular access in to Kings Manor and paving in new Yorkstone flags. Sensory paving will be installed to help blind and visually impaired people to navigate their way through the area.
  - iii) Providing one space only for the City Tour bus with no reduction in bus stops for existing services.
  - iv) Providing two new single shelters to replace the existing shelters for all bus services. This will allow people to see buses as they approach and will help people who are not as mobile to get to bus stops more easily.
  - v) The new shelter for bus passengers will be more attractively styled and will be provided with seating. Real time information will also be provided so that passengers would be aware of which stop their bus is departing from. Stops will also be fitted with near field communications (NFC) technology, which can aid people with impaired vision and hearing.
  - vi) Providing access for Royal Mail vans to the post box.
  - vii) Keeping provision for late night taxis.
  - viii) Lengthening and widening the central pedestrian crossing island. This will help to ease pedestrian flow at the crossing.
  - ix) Surfacing the bus lay-by in grey coloured Hardicrete and installing new granite bus stop kerbs. Paving the footway at

- St Leonard's Place in new Yorkstone paving flags and paving the extended pedestrian area of Exhibition Square with reclaimed Yorkstone paving.
- x) Realigning the kerbs at the lay-by adjacent to the Theatre Royal.

# **Community Impact Assessment**

26. An overall Community Impact Assessment (CIA) for Reinvigorate York public realm projects has been prepared and includes a project specific assessment for the Theatre Interchange scheme. The CIA is a live document. It will be updated on a regular basis as projects are progressed and can be viewed on-line (see Supplementary Document 2).

# **Next Steps**

27. Key project milestones for the Exhibition Square/Theatre Interchange project are outlined in Table 2 below. Winter working has been identified as a key construction constraint and critical driver for the project. The BBAF works need to start on site in August so that construction can be completed before the winter moratorium at the end of November. The intention is to phase the construction works as part of a rolling programme over a period of nine months.

Table 2: Key Project Milestones

ID	Milestone	Timescale
1	Cabinet approve Theatre Interchange	1 July 2014
2	Prepare concept design Exhibition Square	May/July 2014
3	Exhibition Square concept design to Reinvigorate York Board	July 2014
4	Start site works start Theatre Interchange	Aug 2014
5	Cabinet approve Exhibition Square	2 September 2014
6	Start site works Exhibition Square	Sept 2014
7	Complete site works Theatre Interchange	End November 2014
8	Complete site works Exhibition Square	End April 2015

# **Implications**

28. The following implications have been considered:

#### **Financial**

Members approved £3m capital for the Reinvigorate York programme in 4<sup>th</sup> September 2012. A sum of £600k has been set aside for Access to Footstreets, Wayfinding project and general projects leaving £2.4m to fund the named projects. A release of £490k was approved on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2013 for King's Square and a release of £306k was approved on 1 April 2014 for Fossgate. This leaves unallocated funds of £1.6m.

The total cost of the Interchange project is £490k and also represents the match funding that the City of York provided to attract the BBAF to the city.

# **Human Resources (HR)** No implications

**Equalities** A full community impact assessment is being carried out as part of an ongoing process for all Reinvigorate York schemes. A specific updated version can be viewed on-line (Supplementary Document 2).

**Legal** Listed building consent will be needed for any proposal to relocate the statue at Exhibition Square. Scheduled Monument Consent will be needed for works affecting the city walls adjacent to Exhibition Square.

**Crime and Disorder** Anticipated to be improved due to increased lighting and improved public realm.

Information Technology (IT) No implications.

**Property** No implications.

**Risk Management** An individual risk assessment will be undertaken for individual projects.

#### Recommendations

- 29. Members are asked to approve the overall design for the Theatre Interchange aspect of the Exhibition Square/Theatre Interchange project subject to further minor amendments been delegated to the Director of City and Environmental Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport.
- 30. Members are asked to approve the location of replacement bus shelters that offer significant improvements to the existing footways and bus shelters located within the Square.
- 31. Members are asked to note that a further report is planned for consideration by Cabinet in September, which will seek approval for the remaining aspects of the Exhibition Square project.

#### Reasons for recommendations:

- i. To enable progress of the Reinvigorate York Public Realm programme through agreement to the overall design for the interchange and noting progress on Exhibition Square
- ii. To improve arrangements for bus passengers within the area

#### **Contact Details**

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,	Report	Date:	
	Approved	23.06.14	
Specialist Implications Officer(s) List information for all			
Wards Affected: Guildhall			
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### **Background Papers:**

Cabinet Report (1 April 2014): Improving York's City Centre - Reinvigorate York public realm Improvement Projects: outcome of consultation and proposals for Fossgate

<a href="http://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cld=733&Mld=764">http://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cld=733&Mld=764</a>
7&Ver=4

Better Bus Area Fund Bid (York 2012) http://www.york.gov.uk/info/200206/buses/382/buses/4

York City Centre Movement and Accessibility Framework (JMP 2011) http://www.york.gov.uk/site/scripts/google\_results.aspx?q=York+City+Centre+Movement+and+Accessibility+Framework+&btnG=Go

York New City Beautiful (Prof Alan J Simpson 2010) http://www.york.gov.uk/info/200406/ldf\_evidence\_base\_documents/4 65/ldf\_evidence\_base\_documents/36

#### **Annexes**

Annex 1: Plan of proposed Theatre Interchange

# **Supplementary Documents**

**SD1**: Analysis of Consultation Responses, Comments and Feedback for Exhibition Square/Theatre Interchange (attached online only)

**SD2**: Reinvigorate York Community Impact Assessment (June 2014) (attached online only)





