

CABINET

17 January 2017

OAKHAM TOWN CENTRE ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

Report of the Director for Places (Environment, Planning and Transport)

Strategic Aim:	Sustainable Growth	
Key Decision: No	Forward Plan Reference: FP/161216/01	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Mr T Mathias, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Places (Highways, Environment, Transport and Community Safety) and Market Towns	
Contact Officer(s):	Dave Brown, Director for Places (Environment, Planning & Transport)	01572 758461 dbrown@rutland.gov.uk
	Neil Tomlinson, Senior Highways Manager	01572 758342 ntomlinson@rutland.gov.uk
Ward Councillors	Oakham North East - Mr J Dale and Mr A Walters Oakham North West - Mr R Gale and Mr A Mann Oakham South East - Mr B Callaghan and Mr T Mathias Oakham South West - Mr O Bird and Mr R Clifton	

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet:

1. Approves the stakeholder engagement strategy for the Oakham Town Centre Improvement Scheme attached as Appendix 1.
2. Notes that design work will be funded from Section 106 contributions for town centre improvements.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To approve a stakeholder engagement strategy for the Oakham Town Centre Improvement scheme.

2 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 A project to improve the town centre of the County Town has been discussed since the Oakham bypass opened in 2007 and was included in the 2nd and 3rd Local Transport Plans. One of the Council's strategic objectives is '*to ensure our market towns are vibrant and attractive to both residents and businesses*'. The corporate plan includes a target to implement an Oakham Town Centre improvement scheme by 30/09/2018.

- 2.2 Prior to the opening of the bypass the primary function of Oakham High Street was the movement of high volumes of traffic, including HGVs. The primary function of the road today is for retail and social interaction. However, the street scene remains that of an 'A' class road.

3 PHASING

- 3.1 It is envisaged that the project will be done in 3 phases. The target completion date of phase 1 is the end of September 2018.
- 3.2 Phase 1 will include the High Street from the Mill Street junction to the New Street junction, including the Market Place. At this stage it is envisaged that phase 2 will include the west end of the town centre and phase 3 will include Mill Street and Church Street.
- 3.3 Anglian Water and Western Power both plan to carry out major works in the Town Centre this year in advance of any improvement works.

4 CONSULTATION

- 4.1 For the scheme to be successful it is essential to carry out comprehensive consultation and engage with all relevant stakeholders at the appropriate stage of the project. A proposed stakeholder engagement strategy is attached as Appendix 1.
- 4.2 Oakham is the County Town and the impact of the scheme will be wider than local residents and businesses. The Strategy includes consultation with the wider Rutland population and visitors to the town.

5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 5.1 The following 3 options will be considered:
- Option 1 - Resurfacing with high quality material, retaining the current layout and traffic flow (Appendix 2).
 - Option 2 - One way system with widened pavements (Appendix 3).
 - Option 3 - Shared surface (Appendix 4)

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Developing the outline design from the concepts listed above will require work by our framework consultant. This is likely to cost around £25k for phase 1. It is proposed to fund this from section 106 contributions towards the town centre.

7 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 Reports will be brought back to Cabinet following consultation to approve the outline design, detailed design and how any future design and construction work will be funded.

8 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 Equality impact screening has been carried out which has identified that the scheme will potential affect accessibility for the disabled. Rutland Access Group (RAG) has been identified as a stakeholder and an equality impact assessment will be incorporated into the design and assessment process.

9 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The project will improve pedestrian safety in the town centre.

10 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 See section 9 above.

11 CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 Stakeholder engagement is essential to the success of the Oakham Town Centre project and Cabinet are recommended to approve the engagement strategy attached as Appendix 1.

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 12.1 There are no background papers.

13 APPENDICES

- 13.1 Appendix 1 – Draft Stakeholder Engagement Strategy
13.2 Appendix 2 – Outline Design Option 1
13.3 Appendix 3 – Outline Design Option 2
13.4 Appendix 4 – Outline Design Option 3

A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.

Oakham Town Centre Improvement Scheme – Phase 1

Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

Introduction

A project to improve the town centre has been discussed since the Oakham bypass opened in 2007 and was included in the 2nd and 3rd Local Transport Plans. However, there has been no significant investment in the town centre since Tesco was built around 15 years ago.

Prior to the opening of the bypass the primary function of the high street was the movement of high volumes of traffic, including HGVs. The primary function of the road today is for retail and social interaction. However, the street scene remains that of an 'A' class road.

The vision for the project is:

To ensure our market towns are vibrant and attractive to both residents and businesses.

We recognise that the advent of online retail and out of town shopping destinations means that people no longer need to come into town centres and that Oakham must adapt to these changes. The corporate plan includes a target of implementing an Oakham Town Centre improvement scheme by 30/09/2018.

Oakham is the County Town and the impact of the scheme will be wider than local residents and businesses. The stakeholder list below includes the wider Rutland population and visitors to the town.

Project Stages

The stages and key milestones for the project are shown below.

Stage	Activity	Completion Date
1	Stakeholder engagement meetings to determine which concept options to develop	31/03/2017
	Outline design (early contractor involvement (ECI))	30/04/2017
2	Consultation on outline designs	31/07/2017
	Stage Gate 1 – Cabinet approval of outline design	30/09/2017
3	Target costing and detailed design	30/11/2017
	Consultation on detailed design	31/01/2018
	Stage Gate 2 - Cabinet approval of detailed design	31/03/2018
4	Completion of construction	30/09/2018

Engagement Objectives

The objectives are to:

- Determine which concepts should be developed by understanding what stakeholders value about the current town centre and which aspects need to be improved.
- Understand how the proposed changes will make the town more attractive to residents, businesses and visitors.

Stakeholders

Stakeholder	Their interest in the project	Engagement Stage		
		1	2	3
Ward Members	Elected representatives of residents	✓	✓	✓
Oakham Town Council	Elected representatives of residents	✓	✓	✓
Oakham Town Partnership	Shared objectives	✓	✓	✓
RCC Economic Development	Economic viability is a key objective	✓	✓	
Oakham Neighbourhood Plan working group	Developing a planning document for Oakham	✓		
RCC Parking	Parking is a key consideration	✓		
Property Owners	Properties affected by scheme		✓	✓
Market traders	Businesses affected by scheme		✓	✓
Retailer and other town centre businesses	Businesses affected by scheme		✓	✓
Residents	Homes affected by scheme		✓	✓
Rutland Access Group	Representatives of disabled groups		✓	✓
RCC Culture and Leisure	The setting of the castle will be affected		✓	✓
Blue light services	Response times may be affected		✓	
Wider Rutland population and town centre visitors	Attracting visitors is the objective of the scheme		✓	
Discover Rutland	Representatives of tourism businesses		✓	
The Lord of the Manor of Oakham	Owner of market rights		✓	
RCC Transport	Transport services may be affected		✓	

Resources

The project team consists of the following roles:

Project role	Name	Position
Project Champion	Tony Mathias	Deputy Leader & Portfolio Holder
Senior responsible officer	Dave Brown	Director for Places
Project Manager	Neil Tomlinson	Senior Highways Manager
Communications lead	Mat Waik	Strategic Coms Advisor
Technical Support	AECOM	Framework Consultant

Engagement methods

Stage	Method	Details
1	Working group meetings	These will be used during stage 1 to determine which concept will be recommended to Cabinet.
2	Questionnaires	Both online and sent to properties directly affected by the proposals
	Surveys	Used to capture the views of visitors
	Public exhibition	Potential venues include the library, Victoria Hall and Council Offices. Questionnaires will be available to take away.
	Social media	A Facebook page is likely to be the most appropriate approach.
	Press releases	Used to raise the profile of the project and maximise responses to consultation.
3	Working group meetings	These will be used to discuss detailed design considerations.
	Questionnaires	Some elements of the detailed design may need wider input.

Evaluation process and reporting

The information gathered will be used by the project team to develop and evaluate alternative options. These options will be presented to the council's Cabinet along with a summary of the consultation for decision.

Oakham Town Centre

Public Realm Improvements

Option 1 - Uplift to Existing Public Realm



- KEY**
-  Existing Highway
 -  Existing Trees
 -  Existing Blue/Grey Granite Setts
 -  Existing Buildings
 -  Existing Structures / Shelters
 -  Existing Green Space
 -  Existing Sandstone Paving Retained
 -  Proposed Paving Uplift Across Footways
 -  Proposed Raised Porphyry Crossing Points
 -  Proposed Uplift to Existing Parking Bays - Porphyry Setts
 -  Proposed 20mph Speed Limit

Oakham Town Centre

Public Realm Improvements

Option 2 - One-Way System / Echelon parking



KEY

-  Existing Highway Converted to a One-Way System (High st, Church St & Mill St)
-  Existing Trees
-  Existing Blue/Grey Granite Setts
-  Existing Buildings
-  Existing Structures / Shelters
-  Existing Green Space
-  Existing Sandstone Paving Retained
-  Proposed Paving Uplift Across Footways
-  Proposed Raised Porphyry Crossing Points
-  Proposed Uplift to Existing Parking Bays - Porphyry Setts
-  Proposed 20mph Speed Limit
-  Proposed Street Tree Planting
-  Proposed Echelon Parking Bays
-  Proposed Cycle Lane
-  Proposed Loading Bays

Oakham Town Centre

Public Realm Improvements

Option 3 - Shared Surface



KEY

-  Existing Highway
-  Existing Trees
-  Existing Blue/Grey Granite Setts
-  Existing Buildings
-  Existing Structures / Shelters
-  Existing Green Space
-  Existing Sandstone Paving Retained
-  Sett Paving on Existing Highway to create Shared Surface
-  Proposed Paving Uplift Across Footways
-  Proposed Raised Porphyry Crossing Points
-  Proposed Uplift to Existing Parking Bays - Porphyry Setts
-  Flush Stone Banding Demarcating Parking Bays
-  Proposed 20mph speed limit
-  Proposed Street Tree Planting