

Yeovil Car Parking Review (Executive Decision)

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Purpose of the Report

To request that the Area South Committee allocate funds from the Transport Schemes budget as a contribution towards the Yeovil Car Parking Review. This review will assist with the delivery of Yeovil Refresh.

Public Interest

A key aspect of the improvements required to Yeovil town centre is to ascertain the optimum location and arrangements to provide good quality and convenient car parking. The Yeovil Car Parking Review is a key strand of work within the Yeovil Refresh that can proceed in early 2018.

Recommendation

That members support the request to ring fence £10,000 from the Area South Transport Schemes budget towards the Yeovil Car Parking Review.

Background

The Yeovil Refresh recommends that South Somerset District Council (SSDC) undertake a rationalised Car Parking Strategy and concludes that such a rationalisation “is essential to establish an optimal car park solution for Yeovil and in turn underpins a number of other projects. It should be progressed immediately.”

SSDC officers agree that a review that sets out a planned approach to rationalise and improve the efficiency and accessibility of Yeovil’s existing dispersed town centre car parks would be appropriate. The review should also identify where existing car parks can be released for development, where car parks can be enhanced to improve their attractiveness for the user, and where directional signage and legibility can encourage and deliver an improved experience for visitors to the town.

Car Park Review

In light of the recommendations within the Refresh document, SSDC’s Transport Officer has commenced work to draft a comprehensive brief for the Car Parking Review and the Area Development Lead has identified £10,000 of unallocated funding within the Area South Transport Schemes budget that is eligible to be used as a contribution towards the cost of the review. However, due to the necessary tender process timescales and likely time required to carry out the work, the review will not be completed within the current financial year. If the Transport Schemes funding remains unallocated it will not be available in 2018/19. Therefore, the Area Development Lead recommends to the Committee that the £10,000 of available funding is allocated to the Car Parking Review and that the Area Development Lead submits a carry forward request to that effect at the end of the current financial year.

Financial Implications

There is currently £11,450 of unallocated funds within the Area South Transport Schemes budget, if the allocation of £10,000 is agreed; it will leave £1,450 unallocated for the 2017/18 financial year.

Council Plan Implications

The development of Yeovil town centre assists the council in meeting several of its corporate objectives including:

- Lobbying for and support infrastructure improvements to enable growth.
- Capitalise on our high quality culture, leisure and tourism opportunities to bring people to South Somerset.
- Progress key infrastructure projects that unlock development
- Progress options to improve access/regeneration of Yeovil Town Centre.

Carbon Emissions & Climate Change Implications

None directly from this report.

Equality and Diversity Implications

None directly from this report.

Background Papers

None