
Report To: Safe, Sustainable Communities Committee **Date: 31 August 2010**

Report By: Corporate Director Regeneration and Environment **Report No: ECP/ENV/AB**

Contact Officer: Robert Graham **Contact No: 01475 714827**

Subject: Use of Delegated Powers to Grant Approval to Carry Out Urgent Repairs and Environmental Enhancements in Cathcart Square, Greenock

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report advises the Committee of the use of the powers delegated to the Chief Executive to incur expenditure in excess of £250,000. The expenditure was required in respect of urgent repairs and environmental enhancements in Cathcart Square, Greenock

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The road surface to Cathcart Square suffered significant damage as a result of a burst water main on Friday 21 May 2010.
- 2.2 Scottish Water has accepted responsibility for this damage and is obliged to carry out the necessary repairs.
- 2.3 It is estimated that the cost to carry out the repairs and environmental enhancements to the surface of Cathcart Square will be in the order of £300k.
- 2.3 Capital funding was approved in the 2009/10 Environmental Services budget to carry out improvements to the surface of Cathcart Square, Greenock. This project was planned to be programmed when joint funding was available from Riverside Inverclyde as a result of their environmental enhancements programme for the area.
- 2.4 In view of the hardship being caused to businesses and organisations in the area and the need for urgent repairs, funding from Inverclyde Council's capital budget 2009/10 (£125k), funding from Riverside Inverclyde (£100k) and an offer of £75k from Scottish Water are available to repair and enhance Cathcart Square as a single project.
- 2.5 The level of expenditure proposed is such that committee approval is required in terms of Financial Regulations (Para 26.5) before the issue of tender documents.
- 2.6 The use of emergency powers was requested given the imperative to progress matters as quickly as possible to alleviate the hardship outlined in Para 2.4 hereof.

3.0 USE OF EMERGENCY POWERS

- 3.1 Authority was granted by Councillors Moran, Wilson, Macleod and the Chief Executive to facilitate urgent repairs to Cathcart Square, and alleviate hardship to local businesses

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 It is recommended that the use of emergency powers delegated to the Chief Executive is noted.

**Aubrey Fawcett,
Corporate Director Regeneration and Environment**

5.0 BACKGROUND

- 5.1 The road surface to Cathcart Square suffered significant damage as a result of a burst water main on Friday 21 May 2010.
- 5.2 Scottish Water has accepted responsibility for this damage and is obliged to carry out the necessary repairs. Discussions have taken place with Scottish Water, the result of which is that an agreement has been reached for them to transfer £75k in compensation for the damage done to Cathcart Square as a result of the burst water main.
- 5.3 As a result of the above Cathcart Square has had to be closed for a period of time thus depriving local businesses and organisations vehicular access to their premises. Although temporary repairs have recently been carried out the ongoing disruption is causing considerable hardship to a number of these businesses and organisations including the loss of the amenity of the Square.
- 5.4 A capital project was approved by the Safe, Sustainable Communities Committee on 10 March 2009 to carry out improvements to the surface of Cathcart Square. It was envisaged that the overall environmental enhancement project would require a significant financial contribution from Riverside Inverclyde. In the circumstances it is regarded as prudent to accelerate the programming of this project in an effort to alleviate the problems that now exist with the surface and the impact it is having on the local businesses and organisations.

6.0 PROPOSED PROJECT

- 6.1 It is proposed to remove the existing surface made up of various granite/whin setts and blocks etc including preparing it to formation level and replacing the finished surface with approved granite blocks providing a smooth and consistent surface area designed for multi functional use.
- 6.2 Cathcart Square is in a conservation area and therefore the type, colour and quality of the material used must be sympathetic with this environment. Samples of the proposed materials will be submitted to the Regeneration and Planning Service for their approval.
- 6.3 It is proposed to prepare a design and construct contract which will be exposed to competitive tendering using the Council's standing restricted list approved for contracts.
- 6.4 Due to the disruption which has been caused by the burst water main it is essential that this project is treated with some urgency to minimise the impact on the businesses and organisations affected by it.
- 6.5 This project will be supervised and managed by Environmental and Commercial Services (Roads) personnel.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Financial Implications – One off Costs:

Cost Centres	Budget Heading	Budget Year	Proposed Spend this report	Virement From (if applicable)	Other Comments
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Carriageway Reconstruction / Resurfacing	Roads Capital	2010/11	£300,000		£125,000 existing budget provision increased by, £175,000 contribution from external partners.
Contribution, Scottish Water	Income	2010/11	£(75,000)		
Contribution, Riverside Inverclyde	Income	2010/11	£(100,000)		

Financial Implications – Annually Recurring Costs (Savings)

Cost Centres	Budget Heading	Budget Year	Proposed Spend this report	Virement From (if applicable)	Other Comments
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	There are no anticipated additional ongoing maintenance costs.

7.2 Legal: None

Personnel: None

Equality: None

8.0 CONSULTATION

8.1 The Head of Legal and Democratic Services have been consulted on this report.

8.2 The Chief Financial Officer has been consulted on this report.