

DECISION-MAKER:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
SUBJECT:	BEDFORD PLACE - COMMUNITY CO-DESIGN UPDATE
DATE OF DECISION:	3 FEBRUARY 2022
REPORT OF:	COUNCILLOR MOULTON CABINET MEMBER FOR GROWTH

<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY	
Not Applicable	
BRIEF SUMMARY	
<p>The Bedford Place Co-Design Working Group has been established with representatives from residents, day-time economy, night-time economy and Councillors. The Working Group has met three times to discuss the options for the Bedford Place scheme and has established preferred elements for a permanent scheme for the area. The Working Group will meet twice more to finalise plans after consultation with other relevant stakeholders and a public consultation on the preferred scheme.</p>	
RECOMMENDATIONS:	
	(i) That the report is noted
REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS	
1.	No decision / recommendation other than to note the report is required from the Committee at this time.
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED	
2.	An option of retaining the existing arrangement for Bedford Place with no changes (do nothing) has been considered, but has been rejected on the grounds that the temporary measures will have an ongoing cost to the Council for maintenance and the cost of hire of temporary infrastructure. A do minimum option with a reduced budget for the scheme has been rejected as it will not achieve the recommendations from the Co-Design Working Group.
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)	
3.	A temporary public realm scheme for the Bedford Place area was installed in August 2020 as part of Covid 19 mitigation measures to help stop the spread

	<p>of Covid-19. The scheme created more space for pedestrians and supported the hospitality trade with outside dining areas during a time when inside dining was restricted. The temporary scheme created pedestrianised / motor vehicle restriction areas on Bedford Place, Carlton Place, Lower Banister Street and Winchester Street.</p>
4.	<p>As Covid-19 restrictions eased, the scheme has since been modified in July 2021 to only include Carlton Place, Lower Banister Street, Winchester Street, and a 20mph restriction installed for Bedford Place alongside the road being reopened. The scheme has been left in an experimental / temporary state with the use of planters and concrete barriers to define the pedestrianised space.</p>
5.	<p>The Bedford Place Co-design Working Group was established to consider ideas and solutions regarding a permanent environment for the Bedford Place area. A call out for members for the Working Group was carried out, with representatives selected for the Working Group including residents from Canton Street, representatives from day-time economy traders in the area, representatives from the night-time / hospitality economy traders in the area, Go! Southampton, and two ward Councillors (Bevois and Bargate Ward). A representative from Hampshire Police has also attended meetings to provide advice on the scheme and address any questions from the Working Group. The Working Group is run by an independent facilitator who has the role of ensuring that all members of the Working Group have their opinion on scheme elements listened to and recorded.</p>
6.	<p>The Working Group has met on the following occasions:</p> <p><u>Meeting 1 – Setting the scene</u></p> <p>The Working Group were presented with information about the area including traffic counts, parking statistics, pavement licenses and user survey results. The Working Group then provided their views / opinions on the current Bedford Place area and what they would like addressed, including resolving the conflict between day-time / night-time economy, safety, the appearance / materials used for the temporary scheme to be upgraded and a general request to improve the area and attract more pedestrians to the area.</p>
7.	<p><u>Meeting 2 – Evaluating the options</u></p> <p>The Working Group were presented on design elements of how changes to public realm and infrastructure can be used to attract people to a space and help them enjoy it safely. The Working Group then identified which elements of examples from other cities / schemes would be suitable for introducing into Bedford Place area. The Working Group favoured schemes that has greening (trees), seating, lighting, public art and colour. The Working Group resolved that they were in favour of maintaining the current extent of the pedestrianisation / motor vehicle restriction, being Carlton Place, Lower Banister Road, Winchester Street and extend the 20mph zone.</p>
8.	<p><u>Meeting 3 – What could work here</u></p> <p>The Working Group were presented recommendations from the Hampshire Police Crime Prevention Initiative on security measures for the Bedford Place area to prevent crime against vulnerable women. The recommendations included improving lighting in dark area, management of taxis, night-time closure if Winchester Street and improve CCTV coverage. The Working Group were presented with concepts for the Bedford Place area which</p>

	included traffic calming for Bedford Place (road) via the use of buildouts with street furniture, permanent installation of pedestrian protection on Carlton Place, the use of lighting in the area and gateway features to attract more visitors to the area from the City Centre.
9.	The next steps for the project are to consult with other relevant stakeholders such as Spectrum, and internal Council departments such as Parking Services, City Services and Licensing. The results of this consultation will be reported back to the Working Group at its next meeting in February 2022. At this meeting the Working Group will identify their preferred scheme for the Bedford Place project.
10.	Subject to consultation with the Cabinet Member for Growth on the preferred scheme, it is anticipated that public consultation on the preferred scheme will begin in March 2022. The results of the public consultation will be discussed with the Working Group which will make a final recommendation on the preferred scheme to the Cabinet Member in April 2022. Implementation of the final scheme will be subject to relevant Traffic Regulation Orders but some work will be able to commence in Summer 2022. The final scheme is scheduled for January 2023 – June 2023.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
11.	The Council has received funding under the Active Travel Fund grant for 2021 for £150,000 worth of capital spend on an Active Travel Zone in the Polygon Area. This will contribute towards improvements to the Bedford Place area and will be used to make the existing Experimental Traffic Regulation Order for pedestrianisation permanent. A working budget of £1.2m for the scheme has been submitted for consideration for capital allocations and will be considered as part of the February 2022 budget papers.
<u>Property/Other</u>	
12.	The scheme is located on Highway land and will be subject to existing maintenance agreements under the Highway Services Partnership agreement.
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
13.	N/A
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
14.	None
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
15.	N/A
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
16.	N/A

KEY DECISION?	No	
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	Bargate & Bevois	
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>		
Appendices		
1.	None	
Documents In Members' Rooms		
1.	None	
Equality Impact Assessment		
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out?		No
Data Protection Impact Assessment		
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out?		No
Other Background Documents		
Other Background documents available for inspection at:		
Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)	
1.	None	