

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE		
DATE:	21 NOVEMBER 2018	AGENDA ITEM:	14
TITLE:	NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY INVESTMENT FUND - CATTLE MARKET CAR PARK IMPROVEMENTS		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	TONY PAGE	PORTFOLIO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform The Committee of the intention to invest in Cattle Market car park. This investment will utilise the National Productivity Investment Fund grant already allocated to the Council (by the Department for Transport DfT) in January 2017. The investment will provide for a higher quality facility to meet the demand for parking in the town centre and Reading railway station.
- 1.2 The grant allocated to the Council by the DfT as a part of the National Productivity Investment Fund is £523,000.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That The Committee note the contents of this report.
- 2.2 That scheme and spend approval is granted to improve the Cattle Market car park as detailed in paragraph 4.2.
- 2.3 That the grant secured by the Council from the DfT through the National Productivity Investment Fund in January 2017 is utilised for this project.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 The proposals are in line with Reading Borough Council's Local Transport Plan (LTP3) and current central government and local government policies. The National Productivity Fund is allocated to local highway authorities for the purpose of improvements to promote investment, growth and jobs.

4. BACKGROUND, PROPOSALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 In January 2017, Reading Borough Council was awarded a £523,000 capital grant from the DfT as a part of the National Productivity Investment Fund. The grant must be used to improve infrastructure to promote investment, growth and jobs within the local authority area.

- 4.2 Officers recommend investing the grant into improving the existing car parking facility at the Cattle Market car park due to its close proximity to Reading Station, the future delivery of Crossrail and the potential to attract further business into the Town. The scheme involves improved drainage, lighting, security and carriageway surfaces to replace the very low quality facility currently offered at the car park.

- 4.3 With investment in providing an improved facility, the car park revenue is expected to increase by a further £100,000 per year. As the National Productivity Fund is a government grant, the revenue benefit through car park sales is achieved immediately.

- 4.4 Subject to detailed design it is hoped that a new pedestrian crossing across the IDR can also be incorporated within the existing traffic signals at the junction of the IDR and Tudor Road. This will improve pedestrian access to the railway station area. Pedestrian facilities already exist at the junction of the IDR and Great Knollys Street for access to the town centre area.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

- 5.1 These proposals contribute to the Council's strategic aim to:

- Safeguarding and protecting those that are most vulnerable
- Providing the infrastructure to support the economy.
- Keeping the town clean, safe, green and active.
- Remaining financially sustainable to deliver these service priorities

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

- 6.1 This project is to improve a currently underused facility that people currently avoid. The project itself does not require specific community engagement but the tariff of the car park is advertised through a public notice procedure. Highway adoption is a statutory process also requiring a public notice.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Internal resources will be used as much as possible in delivering this invest to save proposal so there are not expected to be any procurement issues. Specific car park equipment will be procured through our existing car park contracts.
- 7.2 The final car park tariff will be set through the public notice process and any highway adoption will follow the normal statutory procedures.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 In addition to the Human Rights Act 1998 the Council is required to comply with the Equalities Act 2010. Section 149 of the Equalities Act 2010 requires the Council to have due regard to the need to:-

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

- 8.2 The Council does not consider that the proposals will have a direct impact on any groups with protected characteristics. However, this will be reviewed as a part of the project implementation and assessed throughout as appropriate.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 This proposal uses National Productivity Investment Funding allocated to the council by the DfT to be used for the purpose of attracting investment to generate growth and jobs within Reading. The DfT have confirmed there are no time constraints on using the grant and the grant amount will fully cover the costs of delivering the scheme.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 None.