

Report of	Meeting	Date
Chief Executive	Overview and Scrutiny Performance Panel	26 Sept 2013

PERFORMANCE FOCUS: TRIAL RE-OPENING OF MARKET ST

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To provide contextual information and initial questions for focus to the performance panel in relation to the trial re-opening of Market Street project.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. That the context and questions be discussed at the Overview and Scrutiny performance panel, with a view to understanding performance.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all		A strong local economy	
Clean, safe and healthy communities		An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area	x

BACKGROUND

4. In its terms of reference, the overview and scrutiny performance panel agreed that at each meeting, as well as considering performance reports, the panel have the opportunity to focus in on any specific area of service delivery. The panel have identified the trial re-opening of Market St as a key project for further scrutiny at the September meeting.
5. This report provides contextual information relating to the trial re-opening of Market St. This will enable the panel and relevant officers and Members to prepare in advance of the meeting.

PERFORMANCE CONTEXT

TRIAL RE-OPENING OF MARKET STREET

Background

6. The trial re-opening of Market Street is a key project in this year's corporate strategy, identified in order to re-vitalise the top end of Market St with the aim of attracting more shoppers and boosting trade in the area. The scope of the project is to design and deliver a workable scheme for a trial period of 12 months that will address the highways requirements of Lancashire County Council as Highway Authority and complement the associated future public realm improvements.
7. Chorley Council is leading the project as a key stakeholder and coordinator of the Town Centre Team. Lancashire County council are the highways authority and need to approval all works to be carried out. Pendle Engineering Services are a third party contractor for Chorley Council to provide engineering and highways expertise and will draw up the design for the scheme.

Budget

8. This project has a budget estimate of £47,000 which comprises as follows:
 - £5,000 Scheme Design, funded from Economic Development mainstream budget
 - £42,000 Scheme Delivery, Monitoring and Evaluation, funded from £300,000 Town Centre Reserve

Timescales

9. The table below sets out the timescales as defined at project initiation:

Task	Timescale
Draft scheme design	Nov 2012
Public consultation	Nov 2012
Executive Cabinet Session	Nov 2012
Safety Audit	Dec 2012
LCC Authorise Experimental Order	May 2013
Procurement to deliver work	June 2013
LCC places Experimental Order advert	June 2013
Deliver Works	August 2013
Monitor and Evaluate	September 2013

Project progress

10. The table below provides a summary of the project status and brief description of project performance for each reporting period since project initiation.

Reporting period	RAG status	Description
Quarter 3	Green	Initial design and consultation complete

2012/13		with minor amends. LCC to approve experimental order
Quarter 4 2012/13	Amber	Lancashire County Council recommend changes to the scheme. Redesign of amended scheme and submit for safety audit.
Quarter 1 2013/14	Amber	Lancashire County Council take responsibility for finalising the design and delivering the scheme. Jacobs Consulting instructed to carry out a further safety audit.

11. Following a successful start to the project, the rating was changed to Amber at Quarter 4 2012/13 as an early warning of potential issues or problems that may impact on the project being delivered to time and budget.
12. As the Highways Authority, Lancashire County Council recommended changes to the scheme to ensure its safety and success. This required a new scheme to be drawn up along with a further safety audit and resulted in a delay in commencing the physical works needed to re-configure Market Street.

Current position

13. Good progress has been made in Quarter 2 with the safety audit completed in August and final scheme approved. Lancashire County Council has now taken responsibility for specification, tender and delivery of the works to Market Street to support the scheme.
14. It is anticipated that work will be complete by the end of November with the opening expected before Christmas as per the original project plan and budget. Intended benefits of the re-opening include increasing footfall, lower vacancy rates, improved trading conditions and more convenient parking.

QUESTIONS:

- What were the main factors resulting in project delay and how could these issues have been addressed?
- Is there opportunity to improve processes to reduce the potential for the same situation to occur in future?
- What is the current budget position given the additional design work required and delay in starting work?
- New timescales for delivery have been identified. Are the project team confident that these timescales are achievable?

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

15. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance		Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal		Integrated Impact Assessment required?	
No significant implications in this area	✓	Policy and Communications	

COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

16. No comments

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

17. No comments

GARY HALL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Vicky Willett	5348	05 Sept 2013	Trial re-opening of Market St performance focus