

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
FINANCE, INNOVATION and PROPERTY ADVISORY BOARD

21 September 2016

Report of the Director of Street Scene, Leisure & Technical Services

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 RIVER WALK IMPROVEMENTS

This report updates Members on planned improvements to River Walk in Tonbridge and confirms action being taken to grant a licence for works to be progressed on Council owned land.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 At the June 2016 meeting of the Joint Transportation Board KCC Officers reported to Members on planned improvement works to the River Walk area, which are due to commence prior to Christmas.

1.1.2 The project, which is funded in full by the Local Growth Fund, is being progressed by KCC in close liaison with Officers from this authority. The land being improved by the works is in the ownership of this Council and the project will significantly enhance the riverside location to encourage visitors to come to the area and stimulate local growth.

1.2 Scheme Design

1.2.1 The scheme has been designed by consultant landscape designers in liaison with County and Borough Officers and will improve the surfacing materials and street furniture along the whole River Walk. A copy of the design is shown at **Annex 1**.

1.2.2 The improvements will link to the newly refurbished High Street at one end and the Memorial Garden at the other, and will continue a programme of externally funded investment into the town centre.

1.2.3 The new design will encourage more people to use the riverside walk and will promote the use of shops and amenities in and around the town centre.

1.2.4 Local Members have been consulted on the design which will also see the removal of the 6 car parking spaces adjacent to the HSBC Bank. The loss of these bays can be accommodated within the overall provision of parking in the town centre. Whilst one of these bays is marked for disabled, its loss will be

addressed by the previously agreed approach to convert existing unused taxi bays for the use of disabled drivers.

1.3 Licence

1.3.1 In order to enable the project to progress a licence to enter land and carry out works will be issued by the Director of Central Services under delegated powers. It is the intention within the licence to utilise the vacant car park serving the River Walk offices as a site compound.

1.4 Legal Implications

1.4.1 None arising from this report.

1.5 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.5.1 The project is funded in full by the Local Growth Fund and there are no costs to this Council. Once the works are complete the area will be returned to the Borough Council to be maintained from within existing revenue budgets.

1.6 Risk Assessment

1.6.1 None arising from this report.

Background papers:

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Nil

Robert Styles.