

Title of Report	KEGWORTH PUBLIC REALM PROEJCT	
Presented by	Councillor Tony Gillard Business and Regeneration Portfolio Holder PH Briefed <input type="checkbox"/>	
Background Papers	Council February 2019	Public Report: Yes
		Key Decision: Yes
Financial Implications	The Council has been using monies set aside in an earmarked reserve to fund expenditure on this project to date. The Council has been successful in being allocated a £500,000 grant from the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP) Business Rates Pool Fund. The report incorporates this additional grant funding into the project and includes a budget for the scheme into the Capital Programme.	
	Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: Yes	
Legal Implications	Authority will be liable for delivery of outputs as per LLEP grant agreement.	
	Signed off by the Deputy Monitoring Officer: Yes	
Staffing and Corporate Implications	Delivered within existing resources.	
	Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes	
Purpose of Report	To update Cabinet with progress on the Kegworth Project and to seek approval to accept £500,000 grant from LLEP.	
Reason for Decision	Acceptance of LLEP grant funding requires Cabinet approval.	
Recommendations	<p>THAT CABINET APPROVES ACCEPTANCE OF £500,000 GRANT FROM LLEP BUSINESS RATES POOL FUNDING</p> <p>THAT CABINET APPROVES FOR THE AVAILABLE BUDGET OF £786,587 TO BE ADDED TO THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT POOL AND AGREED AT COUNCIL IN FEBRUARY 2023 AS PART OF THE BUDGET</p> <p>THAT CABINET DELGATES AUTHORITY TO HEAD OF PROPERTY AND REGENERATION TO SPEND THE LLEP £500,000 GRANT ON KEGWORTH PROJECT WORKS AND TO ENTER INTO ANY NECESSARY AGREEMENTS TO PROCEED WITH THE PROJECT</p>	

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 As early as 2016, a project to improve Kegworth Market Place was mooted and in 2018 the opening of the Kegworth bypass presented opportunities to undertake a village improvement scheme.
- 1.2 At Council on 26 February 2019, £450,000 was committed as match funding for village improvements in the north of the District. This commitment was used as the basis for a bid to the LLEPs Business Rates Pool fund for £500,000 for a public realm project in Kegworth which was submitted in September 2019 and announced as successful in July 2020. The Council has publicly committed to the project as part of the current Council delivery plan under the 'Support for businesses and helping people into local jobs' priority.
- 1.3 The project as approved by the LLEP proposes to deliver four elements of work:
 - Remodelling of the village Market Place as public realm to create a place for events and cultural activities.
 - Creation of new cycle routes to link the village centre to major employment areas.
 - Commencement of village traffic calming through the creation of entrance gateways.
 - Provision of a new public transport infrastructure (bus stop) within the Market Place.
- 1.4 Preparatory works to deliver the village improvement scheme have been ongoing since the grant was confirmed in 2020. There have been a number of legal and technical challenges that have slowed progress, however, the majority of these have now been resolved and a reviewed timescale has been negotiated for delivery and expenditure with the LLEP. The deadline for spend is now March 2024.
- 1.5 The project has successfully delivered two elements of the original proposal – the village gateways and revised bus waiting area (See Appendix 1). The amount expended to date is £43,067.82 to deliver the village gateways and £49,027.23 to deliver the bus waiting area works.
- 1.6 Working with Kegworth Parish Council, it has been proposed that Leicestershire County Council (LCC) is appointed as the project delivery organisation. This makes practical sense as both the cycle route and the Market Place projects are being delivered on public Highways land.
- 1.7 LCC has confirmed that both the timescales dictated by the LLEP funding agreement and available budgets are achievable.
- 1.8 Cabinet approval is now being sought to accept the LLEP grant to enable LCC to be appointed as the delivery agent for the two remaining elements of the scheme (Market Place improvements and cycle route). A back-to-back agreement with LCC to confer the LLEP grant agreement obligations will be arranged.

2.0 KEGWORTH MARKET PLACE

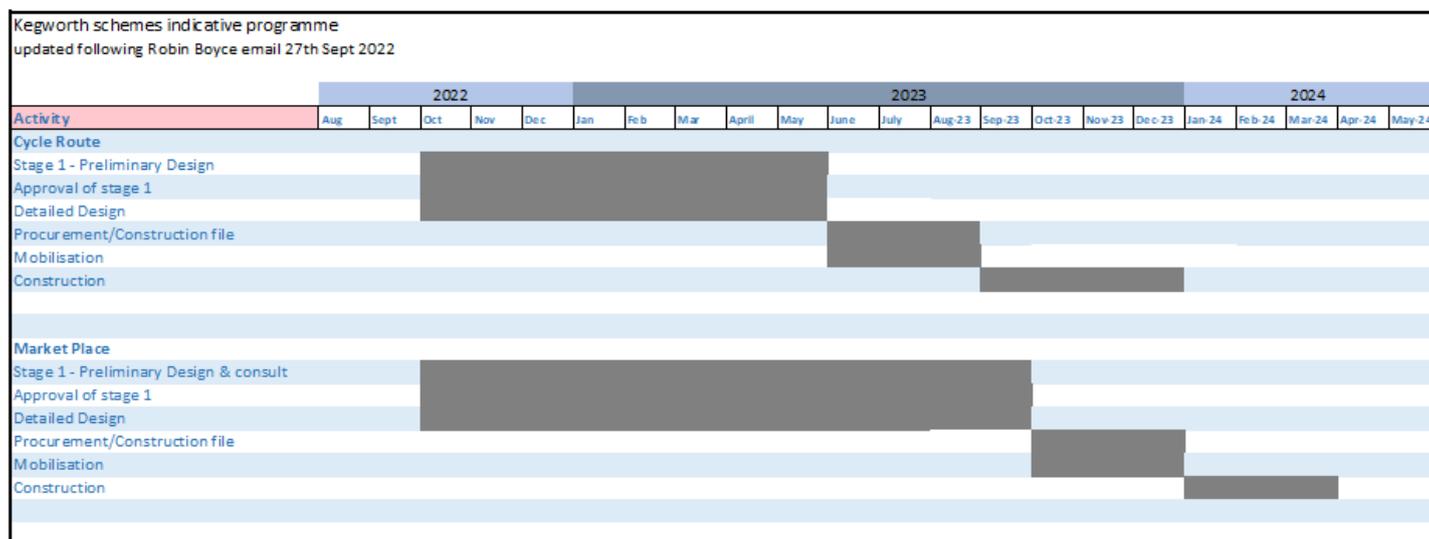
- 2.1 The proposal to improve Kegworth Market Place will not only help to alleviate the parking issues that the village has experienced but will also provide a more attractive, flexible space that can be used for events and markets. See Appendix 2 for the current concept design which was agreed by Kegworth Parish Council at its meeting on 7 February 2022. A safety audit has been commissioned which will inform further refinements to the proposal and a landscape architect will be appointed to input attractive planting and street furniture to the scheme.

3.0 CYCLE ROUTE

- 3.1 A cycling and walking study was undertaken by Sustrans and indicated that the highest priority new cycle route in Kegworth would be to link the Market Place to the Kegworth Bypass via London Road. This route connects Kegworth residents to employment opportunities in Loughborough as well as for leisure journeys.
- 3.2 Despite a number of significant technical constraints including the discovery of a large aqueduct running along the projected route, design engineers have developed a workable solution (see Appendix 3).

4.0 DELIVERY PROGRAMME

4.1 LCC has provided the following estimated delivery timeframe:



5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 As part of the LCC commission, detailed cost estimates will be provided for both remaining elements of work and these will be reviewed and discussed with Kegworth Parish Council prior to committing to construction.
- 5.2 The overall scheme budget is £1m which comprises £500K grant offered by the LLEP, £50K from Kegworth Parish Council and £450K match-funding from NWLDC. Just over £213K of the works has already been delivered meaning the available budget for 2023/24 is £786,587K.
- 5.3

Detail	Amounts
Original funding available	£1,000,000 (£450,000 NWLDC, £500,000 LLEP, £50,000 KPC)
Expenditure defrayed	£71,870
Balance available at date of publication of paper	£928,130
Invoices falling due between date of publication and Cabinet meeting	£141,542
Balance available to be added to Capital Development Project Pool	£786,587

5.4 Based on the timeframe indicated in above 4.1 it is anticipated that the majority of the remaining spend will fall in 2023. Grant will be claimed from the LLEP quarterly in arrears based on expenditure incurred.

6.0 APPENDICES

- Appendix 1 – Photos of bus shelter and village gateways
- Appendix 2 – Market Place concept design Plan TM45588
- Appendix 3 – Proposed Cycle route

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support for businesses and helping people into local jobs - Developing a clean and green district - Our communities are safe, healthy and connected
Policy Considerations:	None
Safeguarding:	None
Equalities/Diversity:	Market Place improvement works will give appropriate concession to people with disabilities.
Customer Impact:	An improved Kegworth Market place Availability of a cycle route connecting Kegworth village centre to the A6 bypass and existing cycle routes to Loughborough and employment opportunities in the locality.
Economic and Social Impact:	Greater accessibility to employment Improved retailing environment for businesses located in Kegworth
Environment and Climate Change:	Improved public realm Greater opportunities for sustainable transport and active travel
Consultation/Community/Tenant Engagement:	As part of project preparatory works a number of engagement exercises have been undertaken. Kegworth Parish Council are an active partner in the project and have kept their residents informed via regular newsletters.
Risks:	There is a risk register for the project with risks being actively managed by the Project Board.
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