

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – THURSDAY, 7
DECEMBER 2023



Title of Report	KEGWORTH PROJECT	
Presented by	Paul Wheatley Head of Property and Regeneration	
Background Papers	<p>Council February 2019 (Public Pack)Agenda Document for Council, 26/02/2019 18:30</p> <p>Cabinet January 2023 (Public Pack)Agenda Document for Cabinet, 10/01/2023 17:00</p> <p>Council February 2023 (Public Pack)Agenda Document for Council, 23/02/2023 18:30</p>	Public Report: Yes
Financial Implications	<p>The Council has been successful in being allocated a £500,000 grant from the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP) Business Rates Pool Fund.</p> <p>A budget has been allocated as part of the Council's Capital Programme and agreed at Council in February 2023</p>	
	Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: Yes	
Legal Implications	<p>An agreement will be drafted in order for LCC to undertake the project as Highways Authority. Legal Services will have oversight in the drafting of this Agreement.</p> <p>The Council is currently liable for the delivery of the outputs under the LLEP grant agreement and the agreement with LCC will seek to ensure that the Council can deliver those relevant outputs.</p> <p>It is intended that the maintenance of the works once completed will remain the responsibility Leicestershire County Council</p> <p>Legal advice has been provided to the project team regarding the delivery methodology and commissioning of the County Council.</p>	
	Signed off by the Monitoring Officer: Yes	

Staffing and Corporate Implications	Delivered with existing Council staff resources.
	Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes
Purpose of Report	To update Community Scrutiny Committee on the progress made with the Kegworth Project.
Recommendations	<p>THAT THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NOTES THE PROGRESS ON THE KEGWORTH PROJECT. 2. PROVIDES ANY COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET (AS DETAILED IN SECTION 7).

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Council secured (and formally accepted in 2023) a grant of £500,000 from the LLEP Business Rates Pool to sit alongside £450,000 of capital resource from North West Leicestershire District Council and £50,000 from Kegworth Parish Council (KPC). Collectively these funds are identified in the Council's Capital Programme for the delivery of a number of improvements in Kegworth.
- 1.2 The project proposes four elements of work (the project plan) as follows:
- Remodelling of the village Market Place as public realm to create a place for events and cultural activities, as well as its traditional use as car parking.
 - 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 stand) adjacent to the Market Place.
- 1.3 The aim of the project is to improve the environment of Kegworth Village Centre and make it a more attractive place to live, to shop and to access services. Full details are available in the background papers. In summary, the project seeks to take advantage of the reduction in through traffic following the construction of the Kegworth bypass.
- 1.4 Work has been in progress since late Summer 2020 and the project has already successfully delivered the village gateways and revised bus waiting area elements of the original project plan. (See Appendix 1). Delivery of the gateways and bus stand plus design fees for the Market Place and accessibility improvements has cost £378,297 leaving £621,703 available to cover the costs of implementing the Market Place and accessibility improvements (construction works).
- 1.5 The Market Place public realm improvements and accessibility improvements along London Road both involve significant works on the public highway, therefore it has been necessary to involve LCC to deliver the works under its Highways Authority powers (see section 5 of this report below).
- 1.6 Significant design work and public engagement has been undertaken in partnership with Kegworth Parish Council and the project has reached a point where there is a coherent

scheme supported by all three councils and the general public. The schemes have been progressed sufficiently to a point where LCC has indicated that it is able to commence construction. The Scrutiny Committee's input is now requested prior to seeking Cabinet approval to proceed with implementation.

2.0 KEGWORTH MARKET PLACE

- 2.1 The current proposal to improve Kegworth Market Place is the result of collaborative working with Kegworth Parish Council and engagement with the local businesses and residents of Kegworth. Earlier proposals were rejected on the basis of a desire by KPC and residents to minimise the loss of available car parking. The current design not only retains the same number of parking spaces as are available today but will also provide a more attractive, flexible space that can be used for events and markets. A safety audit has been undertaken to inform the design and a landscape architect has worked on the scheme to ensure street furniture and material treatments are in keeping with the setting of the Market Place. Technical constraints represented by the size, shape and camber of the space together with the access requirements of businesses and residents have been accommodated. See Appendix 2 for the latest detailed design, Appendix 3 for a Computer Generated Image (CGI) artist's impression of what the Market Place will look like on completion and Appendices 4 and 5 for documents outlining how public engagement has fed into the design.
- 2.2 The new Market Place will now incorporate cycle parking, increased seating provision, shrub, flower and tree planting (in planters), an additional pedestrian crossing point on Derby Road outside the church and underground ducting to facilitate the installation of EV charging points at a future date should Kegworth Parish Council wish to pursue this.
- 2.3 In addition to the above proposed improvements to Kegworth Market Place, LCC Highways is considering bringing forward plans to carry out carriageway resurfacing along Derby Road and London Road. If funding can be found, this work will enhance the area further and avoid future disruption.

3.0 ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS

- 3.1 A Cycling and Walking study was undertaken by Sustrans and indicated that the highest priority intervention 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 There have been a number of significant technical constraints that have beset this project, not least the identification of a large aqueduct running along the projected route. This has necessitated the taking of a pragmatic approach to the delivery of the connection. LCC designers have focussed on widening and improving the existing footway to benefit pedestrians (See Appendix 6). It should be noted that Severn Trent's final consent to work in the vicinity of the aqueduct is awaited. Additional accessibility improvements include a proposed give and take priority build-out on London Road to allow pedestrians to cross London Road more easily near the Whatton Road junction (see Appendix 7). This will also act as a traffic calming measure by slowing traffic entering the village and therefore traffic on the approach to Market Place.

4.0 DELIVERY PROGRAMME

- 4.1 The works to the Market Place and footway improvements on London Road will be undertaken concurrently in February 2024. Works are expected to take 14 weeks subject to the usual caveats (inclement weather events, unforeseen circumstances etc).

5.0 DELIVERY METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 Leicestershire County Council has advised that it is able to assist NWLDC and Kegworth Parish Council with project delivery using its status as Highways Authority. This removes significant complexity and cost that would arise if NWLDC was to seek the necessary powers to deliver the highways works itself. It has, therefore, been agreed (subject to Cabinet approval of the scheme) that the District Council will commission the County Council Highways Department to undertake the Market Place and accessibility improvements in Kegworth. A Project Agreement shall be entered into between the District and County Councils confirming this arrangement.
- 5.2 LCC has indicated that it will be using its own Direct Labour Organisation (DLO) to carry out the works. LCC as a public body is required to demonstrate best value when carrying out works on the Public Highway.
- 5.3 Legal services have advised that if the County Council as Highways Authority deliver the works under an agreement that transfers the relevant portion of the grant to them, the agreement would not need to be competitively procured under the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 LCC is currently preparing detailed delivery cost information with its DLO. LCC is due to provide this information to NWLDC at the end of November. This information will be provided to Kegworth Parish Council for discussion at their meeting on 4 December. The views of the Parish Council will be reported to Community Scrutiny Committee on 7 December by way of a supplementary paper.
- 6.2 The available budget for delivery of Market Place and the Accessibility works is £621,703.
- 6.3 The current estimated costs as provided by LCC are detailed in Table 1 below:

Table 1

Activity	Spend to date	Market Place	Footpath	
Detailed design and supervision of works		32,600	46,000	
Construction		300,000	329,000	
Totals (£s)		332,600	375,000	£707,600

- 6.4 Whilst the current estimated costs are greater than available budget by £85,897 it should be noted that accessibility improvements can be scaled to ensure delivery within budget. It is not proposed that the available budget be increased.
- 6.5 An agreement between LCC and NWLDC is to be drafted and will include a schedule for staged payments to LCC linked to the progress of construction.

7.0 DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET

- 7.1 That progress on the Kegworth Project be noted along with the proposed implementation method and anticipated costs.
- 7.2 To delegate authority to the Head of Property and Regeneration to spend the allocated budget on the Kegworth Project and to enter into any necessary agreements with LCC (as delivery body) to complete the works.

8.0 APPENDICES

- Appendix 1 – Village gateway and bus waiting area
- Appendix 2 – Market Place design – latest version
- Appendix 3 – Market Place – CGI artist’s impression
- Appendix 4 – Public engagement feedback summary
- Appendix 5 – You said We did document
- Appendix 6 – Footpath design
- Appendix 7 – Build out – CGI artist’s impression

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	Planning and regeneration.
Policy Considerations:	None.
Safeguarding:	None.
Equalities/Diversity:	Market Place improvement works will have regard to people with disabilities and will ensure appropriate adaptations e.g. tactile crossings, level surfaces, no unnecessary street furniture etc are in place.
Customer Impact:	An improved Kegworth Market Place; Traffic calming measures to improve safety and liveability for Kegworth residents; Availability of an improved footway connecting Kegworth village centre to the A6 bypass and existing cycle routes.
Economic and Social Impact:	Improved retailing environment for businesses located in Kegworth. An improved Kegworth Market Place providing public space for residents and visitors to shop, rest, make travel connections, park a bike, walk safely.
Environment, Climate Change and zero carbon:	Improved public realm; Greater opportunities for active travel (cycle parking, improved footway); Increased planting.
Consultation/Community Engagement:	A number of engagement exercises have been undertaken including with businesses located on or near Market Place. Kegworth Parish Council is 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.
Officer Contact	Paul Wheatley Head of Property and Regeneration paul.wheatley@nwleicestershire.gov.uk