

Haverhill Area Working Party



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Title of Report:	Strasbourg Square	
Report No:	CAB/SE/14/001 [to be completed by Democratic Services]	
Report to and date/s:	Haverhill Area Working Party	11 December 2014
	Cabinet	10 February 2015
Portfolio holder:	Councillor Anne Gower Portfolio Holder for Housing 01440 706402 anne.gower@stedsbc.gov.uk	
Lead officer:	Damien Parker Operations Manager (Leisure & Cultural Services) 01284 757090 damien.parker@westsuffolk.gov.uk	
Purpose of report:	To seek Members' feedback on the proposed improvement works to Strasbourg Square which are scheduled to commence in the first quarter of next calendar year.	
Recommendation:	<p>It is <u>RECOMMENDED</u> that:</p> <p>(1) the Haverhill Area Working Party considers the proposal detailed in Section 1 of Report No: HAV/SE/14/001, and provides feedback prior to commencing formal consultation; and</p> <p>(2) subject to the majority of respondents to the consultation being satisfied with what is proposed, the project to transform Strasbourg Square be progressed early in 2015, at a cost of up to £35,000 provided from the buildings repair and maintenance revenue budget.</p>	
Key Decision:	<p><i>Is this a Key Decision and, if so, under which definition?</i></p> <p>Yes, it is a Key Decision - <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No, it is not a Key Decision - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p><i>(Check the appropriate box and delete all those that do not apply.)</i></p>		

<p><i>The key decision made as a result of this report will be published within 48 hours and cannot be actioned until seven working days have elapsed. This item is included on the Decisions Plan.</i></p>			
<p>Consultation:</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ward Members • Residents immediately surrounding Strasbourg Square • Local Business' located immediately around Strasbourg Square 	
<p>Alternative option(s):</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do Nothing 	
<p>Implications:</p>			
<p>Are there any financial implications? If yes, please give details</p>		<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project is estimated to cost £35,000 and this sum can be found from existing budget estimates. 	
<p>Are there any staffing implications? If yes, please give details</p>		<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p>Are there any ICT implications? If yes, please give details</p>		<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p>Are there any legal and/or policy implications? If yes, please give details</p>		<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The West Suffolk Tree Management Policy: This policy advocates that tree-related problems and concerns are dealt with appropriately, efficiently and in an accountable manner. 	
<p>Are there any equality implications? If yes, please give details</p>		<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project takes into considerations the requirements of Disability Discrimination Act. 	
<p>Risk/opportunity assessment:</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A prolonged period of wet/extreme cold could delay the progress of works on site. • The work to remove the trees will take place outside of the bird nesting season. • Re-landscaping the area will both improve the appearance of the site and remove the ongoing issue of the existing tree roots lifting the hard surfacing on site. • There will be improved access between the square the neighbouring play area. 	
<p>Risk area</p>	<p>Inherent level of risk (before controls)</p>	<p>Controls</p>	<p>Residual risk (after controls)</p>
<p>Inclement weather delaying works and increasing costs.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>The works will be contracted out on a fixed price basis. A cost benefit analysis of buy-in additional ground protection will be considered.</p>	<p>Medium</p>
<p>Ward(s) affected:</p>		<p>Haverhill East</p>	

Background papers: <i>(all background papers are to be published on the website and a link included)</i>	None
Documents attached:	Appendix A – Proposed Plan Appendix B – Feedback received concerning earlier draft plan Appendix C – Earlier draft plan

1. Key issues and reasons for recommendation(s)

- 1.1 Strasbourg Square is a 1960's designed shopping precinct on the Chalkstone Estate. The Borough Council is responsible for the management and maintenance of the square, which contains five mature Acacia trees and a Sycamore tree. The roots of the Acacia trees have caused a great deal of damage to the surrounding surface and the Sycamore tree has extensive decay in its main trunk.
- 1.2 The Borough Council has undertaken regular inspections of the area and a number of ad-hoc repairs have been undertaken over the years to ensure that the surface remains safe. These have left a mosaic of surface repairs which detract from the appearance of the square.
- 1.3 Root pruning and simply relaying the surface in Strasbourg Square is not deemed viable because of the trees species, maturity and the fear of destabilisation.
- 1.4 The Borough Council has funding of £35,000 within its buildings repair and maintenance revenue budget to replace the surface of the square.
- 1.5 **Appendix B** contains feedback which the Council has already received via Ward Councillors on an earlier draft scheme (**Appendix C** - Earlier draft plan). The feedback has been used to help inform the current proposed plan which is attached as **Appendix A**.
- 1.6 Local residents and businesses will be consulted on the latest design proposal and subject to the majority of residents and businesses being content it is proposed to commence the work in early 2015.