



Democratic Services

Location: Phase II
Ext: 0185
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CMD No: 761

**To: COUNCILLOR MARTIN GODDARD
CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE**

**COUNCILLOR EDDIE LAVERY
CABINET MEMBER FOR RESIDENTS' SERVICES**

c.c. All Members of the Residents' Services Select Committee
c.c. Catherine Flew - Place Directorate
c.c. Perry Scott – Corporate Director of Place
c.c. Ward Councillors for Hillingdon East

Date: 30 March 2023

Non-Key Decision request

Form D

CAPITAL RELEASE REPORT (March 2023)

DEPARTMENT: PLACE DIRECTORATE

SERVICE AREA / PROGRAMME: Town Centre & Shopping Parades Initiative 2023-24

RELEASE NO: 1

Dear Cabinet Member

Attached is a report requesting that a decision be made by you as an individual Cabinet Member. Democratic Services confirm that this is not a key decision, as such, the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 notice period does not apply.

You should take a decision **on or after Tuesday 11 April 2023** in order to meet Constitutional requirements about publication of decisions that are to be made. You may wish to discuss the report with the Corporate Director before it is made. Please indicate your decision on the duplicate memo supplied, and return it to me when you have made your decision. I will then arrange for the formal notice of decision to be published.

Liz Penny
Democratic Services Officer

Title of Report: Town Centre & Shopping Parades Initiative 2023-24 - Release No: 1

Decision made:

Reasons for your decision: (e.g. as stated in report)

Alternatives considered and rejected: (e.g. as stated in report)

Signed Date.....

Cabinet Member for Finance / Cabinet Member for Residents' Services

CAPITAL RELEASE REPORT (March 2023)

DEPARTMENT: PLACE DIRECTORATE

SERVICE AREA / PROGRAMME: Town Centre & Shopping Parades Initiative 2023-24

RELEASE NO: 1

Cabinet Members	Councillor Martin Goddard Councillor Eddie Lavery
Cabinet Portfolios	Cabinet Member for Finance Cabinet Member for Residents' Services
Officer Contact	Catherine Flew, Place Directorate
Papers with report	Appendix A with capital release requests for approval

HEADLINES

Summary	To seek Cabinet Member approval for the release of capital funds.
Putting our Residents First Delivering on the Council Strategy 2022-2026	This report supports our ambition for residents / the Council of: Live in a sustainable borough that is carbon neutral. This report supports our commitments to residents of: A Thriving Economy.
Financial Cost	This report seeks the release of £460k from the 2023/24 Town Centre & Shopping Parades Initiative programme budget for the public realm improvements at Sutton Court Road Parade. The works will commence upon release of the funds and are due for completion by the end of November 2023.
Relevant Select Committee	Residents' Services Select Committee
Relevant Ward(s)	Hillingdon East

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Cabinet Member for Residents' Services agree to the following capital release request of £460k from the Town Centre & Shopping Parades Initiative programme budget for the funding of the public realm improvements at Sutton Court Road Parade (Appendix A).

Reasons for recommendation

The recommendation aims to improve the quality of life for local residents by increasing confidence in the area and boosting the local economy.

The proposed landscaping enhancements and new trees will not just only be aesthetically pleasing but will also contribute towards air quality and improved health benefits for people who live, work and shop along this section of Sutton Court Road.

The project will be furthering the Council's vision to become the greenest London Borough, to protect and enhance the environment, and to provide a brighter prospect for future generations.

Alternative options considered

The Cabinet Members could decide not to accept the recommendation. This would mean that the proposed works could not go ahead as planned and the regeneration of Sutton Court Road would not be achieved.

Select Committee comments

None at this stage.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Investment in town centres and local shopping parades across the Borough supports the Council's commitment to residents to achieve a thriving economy.

Neighbourhood parades such as Sutton Court Road meet the day-to-day needs of the local population, mainly focussed on convenience retail (top-up small basket shopping), hospitality and everyday services within walking distance for many residents. During the Covid-19 pandemic, neighbourhood parades have shown their value in terms of their unique offering and convenience.

The recommendation will upgrade the overall look and feel of Sutton Court Road Parade, and 'future proof' this valued local retail, hospitality, and community resource

Public realm works are planned to boost footfall and enhance the environment for residents and local families using the parade, including:

- New central boulevard with landscaping and dual lantern lighting
- New paving throughout the shopping parade
- Upgrading all street furniture including bins and cycle stands
- Screening of utility cabinets
- New Sutton Court Road Parade signage
- Subject to consultation, potential introduction of a "Stop & Shop" parking scheme

The central boulevard includes the planting of seven new trees with specialist root barriers. This supports the Council's commitment of a green and sustainable Borough that is carbon neutral

The tree species and tree spacing have been selected in close collaboration with industry experts to ensure that road safety is not compromised, utilising the proven tree root management system deployed within the Northwood Hills central boulevard

Sutton Court Road Public Realm Improvements Programme Cost plan	£'000
Civil works including kerbs, all paving & street furniture	155
Street lighting (dual lanterns central boulevard)	12
Parking meters & traffic orders subject to "Stop & Shop" scheme	12
Central boulevard including 7 trees, tree pits and topsoil	105
Safety Audits	2
Utility cabinet screening (inc. 3yrs maintenance)	13
Sutton Court Road Parade signage	15
Inflation allowance	58
Contingency @ 10%	33
Highways & Town Centre Fees @15%	55
Total	460

Financial Implications

Budget £1,304k, Previously Released £Nil, Capital Release Requested £460k - Appendix A

The 2023/24 Capital Programme approved by Cabinet and Council in February 2023 included a budget for the Town Centre and Shopping Parade Initiatives of £1,304k funded from a combination of Section 106, Transport for London Grant and Council Resources.

This report seeks release of £460k funding from the Shopping Parades Initiatives programme for the public realm improvements at Sutton Court Road Parade outlined above to enhance the environment for residents and local families using the parade and boost footfall. The release request is based upon the Council's Highways term contractor's schedule rates and includes a project contingency of 10% of the total estimated works cost and internal engineer and town centre officers' fees of 15% of the total estimated works costs.

The remaining £844k of the Town Centre and Shopping Parades Initiatives 2023/24 budget is subject to the capital release process.

RESIDENT BENEFIT & CONSULTATION

The benefit or impact upon residents, service users and communities

Well designed and quality public space is vital to the success of town centres and high streets. The benefits to local residents and business owners include:

- Improving the look and feel of this shopping parade
- Making this stretch of Sutton Court Road more attractive for walking
- Increasing confidence in the area to help boost the local economy.
- Improving air quality

Consultation carried out or required

The proposed public realm improvements have the full support of Hillingdon East Ward Councillors.

Statutory consultation/s will be undertaken as required specifically in relation to any amendments to current parking arrangements.

Planning consent will be sought for the proposed Sutton Court Road parade signage and utility cabinet screening.

CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance has reviewed this report and concurs with the financial implications set out above, noting that the recommended action to agree a release of £460k for the public realm improvements at Sutton Court Road Parade outlined above to enhance the environment for residents and local families using the parade and boost footfall, will be funded from the 2023/24 approved Town Centres and Shopping Parade Initiatives Programme capital budget.

Legal

Legal Services confirm that the Council is responsible for carrying out this function pursuant to Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011. Thus, there are no legal impediments to the capital release being authorised, although any contract that is entered into must comply with the Council's Procurement and Contract Standing Orders.

Infrastructure / Asset Management

Not applicable.

Planning

1. The project expenditure in this report is ineligible for financing from planning obligations, i.e. balances received from Section 106 agreements.
2. The reason for ineligibility is because the project does not fit the criteria of any S106 agreements with existing unallocated balances.

Capital Release Protocol

The release of all capital funds, and certain revenue funds, held by the Council is to be made by a formal democratic decision. No expenditure can be placed or committed by officers until this formal approval is given by Democratic Services. Release of funds must be for identified projects only and strictly not for the general release of funds for projects to be identified at a later date. No block releases of capital or funding will be allowed, except if authorised by the Leader of the Council in advance to Corporate Finance. The release of funds will only be made if previous Council, Cabinet or Cabinet Member agreement has been given to the project and only if there is an approved budget.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL.

APPENDIX A

Town Centre & Shopping Parades Initiative 2023-24 Capital Release 1

Location	Project / Expenditure Title	Information	Funds Release Sought £000's	Approve	Hold	More Information Required
Hillingdon East	Sutton Court Road Parade, Hillingdon	Public realm improvements	460			
Total seeking release			460			
Previously released			0			
Budget			1,304			
Remaining budget			844			