



## Officer Decision Record

### 1. Subject and details of the matter (to include reasons for the decision)

The redevelopment of St James Square is one of three projects to come forward as part of the 'Unlocking the Potential' programme to accelerate the development of three key sites in Grimsby Town Centre. The programme will make a significant contribution to the Council's strategic objective of a 'Stronger Economy' by delivering key infrastructure and public realm works to unlock and accelerate private sector investment in the town centre. The programme is funded through Humber LEP Local Growth Fund, the Council's capital programme and the Cultural Development Fund (CDF).

The St James Square Project includes the introduction of public art, funded through the CDF. In December 2019, Our Big Picture Ltd (OBP) was awarded the contract to deliver the St James Square Public Art project. Following this, OBP working with ENGIE and NELC invited artists/creatives to participate in an open, competitive procurement process to deliver collaborative public engagement and high-quality public art for St James Square.

The selection and commissioning process was overseen by the St James Square Public Art Steering Group (which includes Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Skills and Housing). Following which, two artists - Annabel McCourt and Adrian Riley were appointed to develop their concept designs. Both artists are managed by OBP.

This ODR is to approve the detailed design, scope of work and ordering of materials for the benches, proposed by Adrian Riley for St James Square.

In addition to this, this ODR also requests approval for design changes to the bollards and to record a design change to the steps which has already been implemented.

### 2. Is it a Key Decision as defined in the Constitution?

No, this is not a key decision.

The decision is in accordance with the delegations established in relation to the CDF programme through the Cabinet approval of 5 June 2019 (Cabinet Decision Notice DN7) and the delegations established in relation to the St James Square Public

Realm Project through the Cabinet approval of 11 March 2019 (Cabinet Decision Notice DN.72).

The ODR of 17 02 2020 approves the appointment of the Public Art Consultant for St James Square.

The ODR of 16 08 2020 approves the concept designs and commencement of stakeholder engagement.

The ODR of 26 10 2020 approved the detailed designs of the path.

### **3. Details of Decision**

#### **Stone Benches**

The configuration of the stone benches to the North entrance of the Minster needs to be altered from four 2m long stone benches to a single 2m long bench on the east side, and a single 4m long bench on the west side. This alteration needs to be made to allow the inclusion of a floodlight housing, to comply with accessibility requirements and to reduce the volume of excavation in an area where there are buried human remains. The Church of England are happy to approve these changes to the configuration of the stone benches, as they were consulted at the same time as they approved the artwork for the paving.

The stone benches also include artwork proposed by Adrian Riley. This artwork follows the same principles as the artwork for the paving and follows a period of public engagement which has taken longer than it might have had COVID not imposed restrictions on face-to-face gatherings. A further application to the Church of England is now required to obtain formal approval, which can take up to 10 weeks.

This ODR requests approval of the new configuration/design/artwork proposed for the stone benches and requests approval to order the materials for the benches at risk, to enable the project to be completed within the funding timescales. The materials are likely to be in the region of but not exceeding £10,000. The risk is very low as the artwork follows the same principles as the paving artwork which has already been approved by Faculty. The Parochial Council and the Public Art steering group have both seen the proposal and are supportive of our application.

Details of the artwork for the benches can be seen on the attached documents.

#### **Steps**

This report would also like to record a change to the configuration of the steps adjacent to Wilkinson's Wall. A short return has been included at either end of each step and tactile paving has been included. This change was made to comply with accessibility requirements.

#### **Bollards**

The original proposal showed powder coated PAS68 rated bollards. This report requests approval to change the specification to stainless steel for reasons of longevity.

**4. Is it an Urgent Decision? If yes, specify the reasons for urgency Urgent decisions will require sign off by the relevant scrutiny chair(s) as not subject to call in.**

No.

**5. Anticipated outcome(s)**

The regeneration of St James Square to be completed by end of March 2021 in budget and to the quality desired in the vision.

**6. Details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the officer when making the decision**

**Steps**

There is an option not to include the alterations to the steps, but this would not be compliant with accessibility requirements.

**Stone Benches**

A range of options for the design of the benches were considered by Adrian Riley, OBP and steering group/delivery team. The current proposals deliver the ambition of the programme within the budgets set.

There was an option to retain the original stone bench configuration, but this would have resulted in cost overruns due to additional archaeology and would not have been compliant with accessibility requirements.

**Bollards**

There was an option to include powder coated bollards, but this would have been more susceptible to wear and would impact on the aesthetics of the scheme over time.

Please see attached plan for details.

**7. Background documents considered**

Cabinet, 11 March 2019 FP/03/19/06, DN114 – St James Square Public Realm Project

Cabinet, 5 June 2019, DN7 – Cultural Development Fund

**8. Does the taking of the decision include consideration of Exempt information? If yes, specify the relevant paragraph of Schedule 12A and the reasons**

No.

**9. Details of any conflict of interest declared by any Cabinet Member who was consulted by the officer which relates to the decision (in respect of any**

**declared conflict of interest, please provide a note of dispensation granted by the Council's Chief Executive)**

N/A

**10. Monitoring Officer Comments (Monitoring Officer or Deputy Monitoring Officer)**

The decision is consistent with a previous Cabinet decision and subsequent delegations and ODR's. It allows for completion of the scheme on time, within budget and in line with legal accessibility requirements.

**11. Section 151 Officer Comments (Deputy S151 Officer or nominee)**

The cost of the scheme is funded through an approved budget within the Council's Capital Investment Programme.

**12. Human Resource Comments (Strategic Workforce Lead or nominee)**

There are no direct HR implications

**13. Risk Assessment (in accordance with the Report Writing Guide)**

The public art interventions form part of the wider improvements taking place in St James Square and are an output of the Cultural Development Fund (CDF), therefore this element of the project needs to be delivered to secure the CDF funding.

Approval of the detailed designs and amendments to specification is required to ensure the project can be delivered within programme parameters linked to the wider public realm improvements.

There is a potential financial risk of proceeding to order the etched stone benches prior to having Faculty approval, however, this is necessary in order to deliver this element within the approved timescales and to secure LEP funding.

**14. Decision Maker(s):**

Name: Sharon Wroot

Title: Executive Director Environment  
Economy and Resources

Signed: REDACTED

Dated: 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**15. Consultation carried out with  
Portfolio Holder(s):**

Name: Councillor Callum Procter

Title: Portfolio Holder for Economic  
Growth, Housing and Tourism

Signed: REDACTED

Dated: 29<sup>th</sup> January 2001

**16. If the decision is urgent then  
consultation should be carried out  
with the relevant Scrutiny  
Chair/Mayor/Deputy Mayor**

Name: N/A

Title: N/A

Signed: N/A

Dated: N/A