



CABINET REPORT

Report Title	MARKET SQUARE WATER FEATURE - PROJECT APPRAISAL
---------------------	--

AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC

Cabinet Meeting Date:	5 August 2009
Key Decision:	YES
Listed on Forward Plan:	YES
Within Policy:	YES
Policy Document:	NO
Directorate:	Finance and Support
Accountable Cabinet Member:	David Perkins
Ward(s)	Castle Ward

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of the report is to:

- Request approval for a capital scheme for a water feature at the gateway to the market square to be included in the Council's capital programme for 2009-10 funded from a variation to the main Market Square project.
- Request approval of additional ongoing revenue budget for running the water feature as a result of the capital appraisal brought with this report.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Cabinet approve the following scheme to be included in the capital programme for 2009-10.

Scheme Reference, Description & Directorate	Narrative	2009-10 £	Future Years £	Funding Source
2009-10 GF062 Market Square Fountain Planning & Regeneration	The purchase and installation of a 7 jet dry plaza fountain in the gateway area of the Market Square.	98,027	-	NEL

Further details of this appraisal can be seen at Annex A to this report

- 2.2 That Cabinet approve the following to be included in the proposed revenue budget from 2010-11 as an unavoidable growth item that will be required as a result of the above capital appraisal.

Description	Narrative	2010-11 £	Future Years
Maintenance	The manufacturer will undertake monthly and quarterly maintenance checks.	6,000	The revenue budget will be required on an ongoing basis, with an increase to all elements for inflation each year. Installation is not planned until March 2010 therefore there will be no revenue implications in 2009-10.
Consumables	Products required to ensure that the water used meets health and safety requirements.	1,500	
Contingency	To cover the cost of any unforeseen operational issues.	5,000	
Electricity	Based on 4380 hours (at £1.10 per hour) per annum.	4,818	
Total		17,318	

- 2.3 That Cabinet approve that the £5,000 contingency item element of the revenue budget be set aside in an earmarked reserve.
- 2.4 That Cabinet approve the following variation to a scheme in the capital programme for 2009-10 that will be required as a result of the above capital appraisal.

Scheme Reference, Description & Directorate	Narrative	2009-10 £	Future Years £	Funding Source
2008-09 GF068 V02 Market Square as a Flexible Space Planning & Regeneration	NEL funding has been approved for the wider market square project. This funding will cover the capital expenditure for the water feature. However, the water feature is being submitted as a separate project due to the additional revenue budget implications.	(98,027)	-	NEL

Further details of this variation can be found at Annex B of this report.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

- 3.1.1 Cabinet approved the latest approved capital programme for 2009-10 on 20th May 2009.
- 3.1.2 The latest proposed capital programme for 2009-10 is a separate item on the agenda for the 5th August Cabinet.

3.2 Issues

- 3.2.1 The public consultation on the Market Square identified a water feature as a key item that people would want to see in the refurbished market square.
- 3.2.2 The market square project board have given all the consultation responses consideration and have determined that this strongly supported item can be delivered. The Market Square Project Board endorsed the water feature proposal at its meeting on 8 May 2009.
- 3.2.3 A water feature will provide excellent definition to the entrance to the market square gateway, and will also serve as an attraction to people to come into the Market Square itself. A subtle contemporary style is preferred, which will complement the current style of the Market Square while still showing that it is a modern and vibrant place to be.
- 3.2.4 Efficient motors and controls will be a requirement for the manufacturer designing the water feature. Solar panels and wind power can be considered at detailed design stage. However, as NBC does not own the buildings surrounding the site there may be constraints that make this a non viable option. There may also be additional capital cost, depending on the option chosen, as it would require, for example, a number of solar panels to provide the power requirements of the pump and other plant.
- 3.2.5 The capital element of the market square fountain project is to be funded by the grant from Northamptonshire Enterprise Limited (NEL). This funding has already been approved as part of the wider market square project. The capital

budget for the market square as a flexible space project will be amended accordingly and diverted to the Market Square fountain project.

- 3.2.6 Funding for the revenue element of the Market Square fountain project will be identified as part of the 2010-11 budget process.
- 3.2.7 All proposals put forward for approval with this report have been submitted on capital project appraisal or variation forms, with agreement by, amongst others, the relevant Director, the Section 151 Officer and the appropriate Cabinet Portfolio Holder. Copies of the capital project appraisals and variation forms, which are listed as background papers, are available on request.
- 3.2.8 All schemes in the capital programme, whether included in the original programme, arising from slippage, or added to the programme during the year, are fully funded, either from borrowing, internal resources or from external funding arrangements.
- 3.2.9 There will be no change to the total proposed capital programme and associated financing for 2009-10 as a result of the project appraisals brought with this report. The latest proposed programme is set out in the table below:

	Programme	Financing
	£000	£000
Latest proposed programme (Separate item on the agenda, 5 th August Cabinet)	24,695	24,695
Appraisal within this report	98	98
Variation within this report	(98)	(98)
Latest proposed programme	24,695	24,695

Future Reports to Cabinet

- 3.2.10 In line with best practice and with CAA requirements, capital programme monitoring information for 2009-10 will be brought to Cabinet on a monthly basis, with the next report being brought to the 23rd September Cabinet 2009.

3.3 Choices (Options)

- 3.3.1 Cabinet are asked to approve the inclusion of the Market Square capital scheme at paragraph 2.1 into the Council's capital programme and to approve the variation to the agreed capital programme set out at paragraph 2.3.
- 3.3.2 Cabinet are asked to approve the additional ongoing revenue budget set out at paragraph 2.2.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

- 4.1.1 All schemes within the capital programme are within existing policy

4.2 Resources and Risk

- 4.2.1 All schemes included in the capital programme, or put forward for approval, are fully funded, either through borrowing, internal resources or external funding arrangements.
- 4.2.2 Any revenue budget implications related to the capital projects are set out in the capital project appraisals, and fed into revenue budget planning as appropriate (i.e. through revenue budget monitoring, budget build or medium term financial planning).
- 4.2.3 Financial and non-financial risks related to the capital projects are addressed in the capital project appraisals.
- 4.2.4 The fountain will be on a timer so will automatically switch on and off so saving energy by not being left on for extended periods. The controls will also switch the fountain off in high winds or too low temperatures.

4.3 Legal

- 4.3.1 Legal implications related to the capital projects are addressed in the capital project appraisals.
- 4.3.2 There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

4.4 Equality

- 4.4.1 Equalities implications related to the capital projects are addressed in the capital project appraisals. Many of the schemes in the programme are specifically targeted at addressing equalities issues. Project managers are responsible for ensuring that Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) are completed for their schemes, and that any equalities issues associated with the project are correctly addressed.

4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)

- 4.5.1 Each capital project appraisal and project variation for schemes in the programme has been put together by the Project Manager, in consultation with other officers and the Cabinet Portfolio Holder.
- 4.5.2 In respect of consultation with stakeholders on individual schemes, details are contained within the capital project appraisals

4.6 How the Proposals deliver Priority Outcomes

- 4.6.1 The extent to which each project meets the Council's objectives and priorities is described within the individual capital project appraisals.
- 4.6.2 The use of capital project appraisals to determine and agree capital schemes in accordance with the objectives and priorities of the authority, and the effective monitoring and reporting of capital programme activity both contribute to improving the CAA Use of Resources score. This supports the Council's priority to be a well-managed organisation that puts our customers at the heart of what we do.

4.7 Other Implications

4.7.1 There are no other specific implications arising from this report.

5. Background Papers

5.1 Cabinet & Council Reports – 2009-10 Capital Programme (Cabinet unless stated)

- 19 February 2009 - Capital Programme 2009-10 to 2011
- 26 February 2009 (Council) - Capital Programme 2009-10 to 2011
- 5 August 2009 – Capital Programme 2009-10 Position as at end of May 2009

5.2 Capital Project Appraisals

- 2009-10 GF062 Market Square Fountain

5.3 Capital Project Variations

- 2008-09 GF068 V02 Market Square as a Flexible Space

Bev Dixon, Finance Manager – Capital & Treasury, ext 7401
Rebecca Smith, Assistant Head of Finance, ext 8046