



## CABINET REPORT

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Market Square LED Lighting Project</b>
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**AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC**

<b>Cabinet Meeting Date:</b>	4 November 2009
<b>Key Decision:</b>	No
<b>Listed on Forward Plan:</b>	No
<b>Within Policy:</b>	Yes
<b>Policy Document:</b>	NO
<b>Directorate:</b>	Regeneration and Development
<b>Accountable Cabinet Member:</b>	Cllr Church, Cllr Crake, Cllr Varnserry
<b>Ward(s)</b>	Castle Ward

### 1. Purpose

- 1.1 To complete a lighting scheme in the Market Square to showcase its architecture and to create a safer and more attractive heritage area for people to visit in the evening.
- 1.2 To incorporate both technical highway lighting and impressive artistic lighting to ensure that the Market Square is well lit and an impressive place to visit.
- 1.3 To boost and diversify the evening economy in Northampton by encouraging people into a space that is perceived by some to be uninviting and unsafe at night. Ensuring the Market Square is a place where people will want to visit and spend more time.
- 1.4 To create a flexible LED lighting scheme that will allow for changes throughout the year and encourage people to return to see new interesting and existing lighting display effects within the Square.

## **2. Recommendations**

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- 2.1 Agree to support proposals, in principle, for a LED lighting scheme in the Market Square.
- 2.2 Agree to submit a full application to WNDC for the £250,000 funding necessary for this project at its Board meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2009, and to receive a further report should funding be approved.
- 2.3 To note that the Director of Planning and Regeneration and Director of Finance and Support in consultation with the relevant portfolio holders have authorised £30,000 of expenditure from LABGI funds to progress project design thus ensuring WNDC funding, if approved, can be spent this financial year.
- 2.4 Agree that the final design of the LED lighting scheme should be delegated to the Director of Planning and Regeneration in consultation with the Portfolio Holders in Planning and Regeneration and Environment and Culture.

## **3. Issues and Choices**

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### **3.1 Report Background**

- 3.1.1 The Market Square has been significantly improved in the last year with the new stall layout, new canopies, seating areas and the creation of an events space. This regeneration project is proving to be successful and has attracted many more people into the square on event days and is encouraging people to use the rest of the town, with the potential to boost the economy.
- 3.1.2 The Market Square is currently dark and uninviting in the evening. The recent creation of the events space in the Market Square has helped to increase activity during the day, however, the Market Square is still lacking enough lighting to ensure people feel safe and welcomed within the square at night.
- 3.1.3 The concept of lighting the heritage façades around the Market Square is a natural extension of the wider Market Square project. The wider project aims to establish a sense of place and increased footfall into the town creating flexible events space and gateway with a 7-jet fountain, new paving and seating. The lighting will extend the time that the whole square can be used and enjoyed.
- 3.1.4 The lighting scheme also brings an opportunity to make the square into a stunning advert for promoting the character and history of this part of Northampton and boost the diversity of the evening economy by adding a sympathetic lighting scheme.

### **3.2 Issues**

- 3.2.1 Officers from Regeneration and Development team are proposing to submit a full funding application for £250,000 to WNDC to deliver the lighting scheme. In discussion with WNDC we understand that they need to spend the money this financial year and that this will be a condition of grant should the project be approved.
- 3.2.2 To achieve this objective in the limited time available the design work and lengthy process of applying to the owners of buildings for easements, planning approvals etc has to start now.
- 3.2.3 Agreement has therefore been sought from the relevant Portfolio Holders to spend £30,000 of LABGI funding to progress the project design in advance of any forward funding approval. It is recognised that this expenditure in design work is at some risk, but the risk has been minimised by close preliminary working with our partners WNDC and the design work would still be viable to support a future bid for funding. Spend from LABGI will not commence until cabinet agree the principle.
- 3.2.4 Agree that the final design of the LED lighting scheme should be delegated to the Director of Planning and Regeneration in consultation with the portfolio holders in Planning and Regeneration and Environment and Culture.
- 3.2.5 A capital project appraisal will be brought to a future Cabinet should funding be confirmed by WNDC to request approval to include the project in the Council's capital programme

## **4. Implications (including financial implications)**

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### **4.1 Policy**

- 4.1.1 A LED Lighting Scheme for the Market Square will help to deliver the Corporate Plan's priority for economic development and partnership working to deliver better outcomes. It will achieve this by working with partners to tackle crime by making the Square a safer place in the evening, which is a high corporate priority. Ref number 1.3 – Reduce crime in the town. It will help create an exciting contribution to the programme of Regeneration projects.
- 4.1.2 The scheme will contribute to the Councils priority for town centre regeneration and heritage recognition.

### **4.2 Resources, Risk and Finance**

- 4.2.1 The initial contribution of £30,000 LABGI funding will allow the Regeneration and Development team to begin work on the project design to ensure the tight deadlines can be met if funding is approved.

- 4.2.2 The risk with this initial financial contribution is that we may not secure the full funding from WNDC. A final decision will be made at the WNDC's 1<sup>st</sup> December Board meeting.
- 4.2.3 The new LED technology ensures each light will have a greatly reduced energy need however, the existing lighting is very poor and the number of lights need to be increased to make the square inviting and attractive. Designs have not yet been fully explored or indeed finalised however an objective will be that the new lighting scheme uses less energy than the current lights so as to reduce the overall carbon footprint.

#### **4.3 Legal**

- 4.3.1 Legal Services will advise on the project as and when needed but approvals will be required from the owners of adjacent buildings.

#### **4.4 Equality**

- 4.4.1 At present some people find the Market Square at night unwelcoming and unsafe. This project will encourage people of all ages and backgrounds into the square and the town in the evening providing a safer and more interesting town centre and promoting its use by all.

#### **4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)**

- 4.5.1 The Regeneration and Development team are working closely with the Planning and Conservation Team to ensure that the designs are sympathetic to the Conservation Area and heritage buildings.
- 4.5.2 English Heritage and other council service areas will be involved in the project to ensure its quality and success. The Market Square Project board will monitor its progress and delivery.
- 4.5.3 The project will be developed and delivered in partnership with the County Council and WNDC.

#### **4.6 How the Proposals deliver Priority Outcomes**

- 4.6.1 The project will help to encourage Economic Development in the town and help to boost the evening economy in Northampton. This will help to encourage inward investment and more productivity in the area.
- 4.6.2 This project will also ensure that the Market Square is a safer more welcoming place to be in the evening, reducing opportunities crime and encouraging more people to visit and enjoy the town.

#### **4.7 Other Implications**

None identified

## **5. Background Papers**

### **5.1** None (Photos from the Philips lighting demonstration on 16 September 2009 will be displayed at the meeting.)

Mick Lorkins – Regeneration and Development  
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