

# ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

## REPORT TO ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE WORKING GROUP ON 3 SEPTEMBER 2020

### PART A : REPORT

**SUBJECT: Place St Maur, Bognor Regis**

**REPORT AUTHOR:** Rachel Alderson – Principal Landscape & Project Officer

**DATE:** August 2020

**EXTN:** 37946

**PORTFOLIO AREA:** Neighbourhood Services

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

This report provides an update on the public realm project at Place St Maur, Bognor Regis.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

This is an information paper.

#### **1. BACKGROUND:**

##### 1.1 Place St Maur

Place St Maur is an important public space adjacent to the Regis Centre and was previously included in the Bognor Regis public realm masterplan as a flexible and functional active space and to form a stronger connection between the beach and town centre. Place St Maur is currently not fulfilling its potential as an attractive and welcoming space for visitors and there is an appetite to see the area enhanced.

A report presented to Cabinet (C/043/090320) set out recommendations for approving the design brief for public realm improvements at Place St Maur, procuring consultants to enable the delivery of the project and the virement of up to £235K for this purpose and other associated project costs. It was also recommended that enhancement proposals for Place St Maur are prepared for public consultation. These recommendations were ratified by Full Council at their meeting on 22 July 2020 (minute 114) which will now trigger the commencement of the procurement process for the consultant.

##### 1.2 Project Scope

The focus in the design brief for Place St Maur is to create an enhanced and activated open space which creates a draw for visitors and encourages families to stay longer in the town. It is expected that the main components of the scheme will consist of enhanced hard surfacing, an area of soft landscape, water jets, lighting and seating. The area also needs to retain a large enough space to accommodate different events e.g. ice rink within

a marquee and include the service infrastructure to support these. The design brief is included in Appendix 1 of the Cabinet report.

### 1.3 The Esplanade

The Esplanade sits between Place St Maur and the seafront and provides an opportunity for extending the town's potential for offering space for events; a concept reported within the Position Statement (Transport and Car Parking) at the Bognor Regis Regeneration Sub-Committee meetings. It is proposed to incorporate this area within the design brief for the consultant for further consideration.

### 1.4 External Funding Bid

Following the submission of a Government funding application for a sum of £1.2m plus £300K of ADC funds, the Council has been asked to provide a business case for the Place St Maur scheme and design work for the Esplanade by the end of August. The delivery of the project will be challenging, particularly with the current uncertainties in the construction industry. Costs are unpredictable and it is likely any risks will be passed to the client.

### 1.5 Next steps

A Cabinet report will follow in November 2020 and will set out recommendations for the approval of internal funding and external funding, should the Government bid be successful.

Regular updates on the scheme will be provided to the Environment and Leisure Working Group and reports for key decisions presented at Cabinet.

## 2. PROPOSAL(S):

N/A

## 3. OPTIONS:

N/A

## 4. CONSULTATION:

Stakeholder Engagement and public consultation will take place as part of the design development process for the project.

Has consultation been undertaken with:	YES	NO
Relevant Town/Parish Council		✓
Relevant District Ward Councillors		✓
Other groups/persons (please specify)		✓
5. ARE THERE ANY IMPLICATIONS IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL POLICIES: (Explain in more detail at 6 below)	YES	NO
Financial	✓	
Legal	✓	

Human Rights/Equality Impact Assessment		✓
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act		✓
Sustainability	✓	
Asset Management/Property/Land	✓	
Technology		✓
Other (please explain)		✓

**6. IMPLICATIONS:**

- Financial – A Council commitment will be required to finance part of the scheme.
- Legal – Should the Government bid be successful a legal agreement will be required.
- Sustainability – Sustainability is a factor when sourcing materials for the scheme.
- Asset Management/Property/Land – ADC will retain responsibility for the land on completion and therefore its maintenance.

**7. REASON FOR THE DECISION:**

N/A

**8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

[Full Council 15 July 2015 – Minute 96 refers](#)

[Full Council 11 November 2015 – Minute 315 refers](#)

[Full Council 20 July 2016 – Minute 145 refers](#)

[Full Council 8 March 2017 – Minute 494 refers](#)

[Full Council 10 January 2018 – Minute 366 refers](#)

[Full Council 18 July 2018 – Minute 108 refers](#)

[Cabinet 8 July 2019 – Minute 76 refers](#)

[Cabinet 9 March 2020 – Minute 499 refers](#)

[Full Council 22 July 2020 – Minute 114 refers](#)