



Planning and Highways Committee

Walmley War Memorial Square Public Realm Scheme

3rd September 2019

Agenda Item 31

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To update Committee on the proposed public realm improvement works for Walmley War Memorial Square.

2. Strategic Plan Context

- 2.1. This project aligns with Strategic Plan policies 2.1 (*additional / replacement landscaping to improve appearance and safety*) and 2.10 (*promote and celebrate sites of local / international historic interest*)

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That Committee notes the report.

4. Background

- 4.1. The Planning and Highways Committee Meeting on 4 December 2018 discussed Walmley Village Public Realm Improvements and specifically a scheme for Walmley War Memorial Square. The concept design was supported and a formal public consultation with key stakeholders was held in early 2019.
- 4.2. At the 5 March 2019 Planning and Highways Committee Meeting , a revised concept for public realm improvements for Walmley War Memorial Square was presented. Officers were delegated to progress public realm improvements with Birmingham City Council (BCC).
- 4.3. At Full Council on 26 March 2019, the War Memorial was proposed in a list of assets the Town Council would like to see in a Heads of Terms for a Local Devolution Deal with BCC. The transfer of the r Memorial and surrounding land was included in the list of assets requested.

- 4.4. At the 25 June 2019 Full Council an update was provided on the progress of the asset transfer and proposed due diligence work to be undertaken by the Town Council.

5. Update

- 5.1. Discussions with BCC are progressing regarding the proposed asset . Positive discussions have been held between officers of BCC Highways, Leisure and Property Services. Further work with BCC officers to confirm boundaries and any liabilities within this remain active.
- 5.2. To compliment the concept design for Walmley War Memorial Square (see 4.1), below-ground surveys were conducted to identify potential services that could impede development. No major obstacles were identified. The concept design also estimated future maintenance costs and these have been factored into the due diligence to date.
- 5.3. No work can be undertaken on Walmley War Memorial Square until the asset transfer has been completed. In lieu of this officers are preparing plans so, following the asset transfer, a timetable and design specification is ready to complete the public realm improvement project ahead of Remembrance Sunday 2020.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 That Committee notes the report.

Chris Hurst
Assistant CEO