

Area North Committee – 25<sup>th</sup> June 2008

## 9. Martock Precinct Improvements – Phase 2 Capital Bid (Executive Decision)

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### Purpose of the Report

To seek approval for the allocation of financial support to improve Moorlands Precinct Car Park; for lighting and other improvements to the car park, to enhance access and safety of Car Park users, as a key project from within the Martock Community Plan.

### Recommendation

It is recommended that Members approve the allocation of £23,000 from the Area North Capital Programme allocation for Martock, to undertake Phase 2 improvements to Moorlands Precinct Car Park.

### Background

The Martock Area Community Plan was updated and re-published in 2007, fully supported by the Market and Coastal Towns Association and SSDC. Its aim is to deliver the Martock Vision: “to work together to build a safe, vibrant, fully inclusive and thriving community in which we are all proud to live and work”.

The Area North Capital Programme includes an in principle allocation to key capital projects from the Martock Community Plan, which fit with the SSDC corporate plan objectives. In February 2008, members approved a grant to the sum of £25,000 for the conversion of the Market House.

The Project Brief details Phase 2 of a 3-phased project of Precinct Improvements, as outlined in the Plan under the theme of Leisure and Culture:

*“Establish a Town Centre Improvement Group, extending its retail business membership, to deliver on plans for better lighting, traffic calming, shop-front and environmental improvements in the Precinct”.*

### Martock Precinct Improvement Group

Martock Precinct Improvement Group has developed this project in conjunction with SSDC. The group has met monthly and consists of resident and business representatives, parish, district and county councillors, supported by SSDC officers. (Natalie House – Area Development; Andy Shaw – Engineering)

## About the project

For a full description of the project, see the Project Brief included in Appendix A.

The objectives of the Phase 2 Improvements to Moorlands Car Park are:

- To improve the safety of visitors to the Precinct area by reducing trips and falls hazards, attributed to poor visibility, through the provision of a sensitive lighting scheme.
- To ensure safer access to the Precinct and car park for pedestrians by providing 2 clearly visible raised pedestrian crossings.
- To reduce the fear of crime among visitors, by providing lighting from the shopping area throughout the car park.
- To increase the number of parking spaces available.
- To develop artist's impressions of options for Phase 3 improvements to the central pedestrian shopping area.

## Summary

This project to enhance Moorlands Car Park represents an important investment into the retail heart of Martock, and is key to improving safety and access for residents, businesses, shoppers and other visitors to Martock. As a key project in the Martock Community Plan, it is recommended for support.

## Corporate Priorities

- 2 - Increase economic vitality and prosperity
- 4 – Ensure safe, sustainable and cohesive communities
- 5 – Promote a balanced natural and built environment

## Area Priorities

- 9. Promote and influence increased **local environmental quality** through better co-ordination of services or enhancements
- 10. Promote and increase levels of **community safety and cohesion**, reducing crime and the fear of crime through targeted action on local priorities
- 17. **Market Towns Vision:**– develop and deliver a programme which secures the long term success of our market towns [and rural centres], through the Market Towns Investment Group and others
- 26. **Martock – town centre scheme** (Moorlands Precinct)

## Financial Implications

The Area North Capital Programme included an in principle allocation of £50,000 towards the Martock Community Plan, of which £25,000 remains; approving this application for £23,000 will leave a balance of £2,000 to be ring-fenced for the Community-led Phase 3 scheme.

**Background Papers:** *Area North Community Grants File*