

## **Portland Road Public Realm**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **1. Why is the scheme required?**

There is a significant growth opportunity in Worthing focused on maximising the town's potential which can deliver new homes, jobs, employment space and an increased Gross Value Added and tax base through business growth and expansion.

The Adur & Worthing Growth Deal, signed by the Leaders and Chief Executive Officers of Adur and Worthing Councils (AWC) and West Sussex County Council (WSCC), identifies key regeneration projects that will contribute to the growth of the town. The deal commits the two authorities to work in partnership to deliver these projects with a focus on jobs, business space and home building in the town.

The Worthing Public Realm Improvements project proposes ambitious improvements between the railway station and seafront linking key redevelopment sites across the town centre.

The shape and use of town centres is changing and this project looks to respond to this positively and ensure that Worthing continues to thrive.

#### **2. What is meant by 'public realm'?**

The term 'public realm' is generally defined as the space around, between and within buildings that are free and open to everyone to use. These spaces include streets, squares, forecourts, parks and open spaces and tend to support and/or facilitate public life and social interaction. They are places where the daily life of a town, city or village is generally played out; where we meet, sit, relax, eat, play, wander, reflect, debate, dissent, do business and enjoy a whole host of other freedoms. The public realm provides a 'collective backdrop' to how a town, city or village is understood and experienced – the 'vibe' it gives off to users and visitors. For more details about the concept of a public realm, please [see 'Public London: Creating the best public realm'](#).

#### **3. Why Portland Road?**

The Portland Road scheme is the first of eight public realm improvement areas that have been identified across Worthing town to come forward. South Street will be the next section of the improvement scheme to be delivered. The overall package stretches from the railway station to the seafront and will better connect the town from north to south.

#### **4. What will the scheme cost to implement and how is it funded?**

To deliver the full package of public realm improvements from the railway station to the seafront will cost an estimated £12 million. WSCC has allocated £5 million through its capital programme to fund the first two phases of the package – Portland Road and South Street. The estimated cost of the Portland Road scheme at the option stage was £1 million. Once the public consultation has been completed and the design has been finalised we will be undertaking a new costing exercise, but as it stands it is likely to be more than the initial estimate due to the quality of the design proposed.

The rest of the package will be funded through developer contributions, s106 funding, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and other government funds that will be applied for.

#### **5. Who is delivering the project?**

WSCC is the lead authority for the project, working in close partnership with AWC.

#### **6. When will the scheme be built?**

The preliminary design should be complete by spring 2019 and construction is planned to commence in early 2020.

#### **7. Will the local community be affected during construction?**

We are in the early stages of development therefore a contractor has yet to be appointed to deliver the detailed design and construction. As such it is not possible to assess the impacts of the works on the local community at this time.

WSCC will be working closely with the successful contractor to ensure that any disruption is kept to a reasonable minimum taking into account the type and scale of the works.

We will communicate relevant information in a timely manner using appropriate media channels to ensure that everyone is kept informed as the scheme progresses.

#### **8. Will there be any environmental impact?**

Surveys are being conducted to assess the impacts of the scheme on the local habitat. In general the scheme is not expected to have a significant negative impact on species or habitats along the route. Should the surveys identify species requiring protection; an appropriate mitigation plan will be developed to reduce the impact of the proposed improvements.

**9. Will emergency services be affected by this works?**

We will be working closely with emergency services to ensure that the works have minimal impact on their operations.

**10. What happens next with the feedback from the exhibition?**

The feedback from the exhibition will be reviewed and be considered in the next stage of scheme development.