



<b>Subject:</b>	Update on Department for Social Development: Bank Square Scheme and Permission to Engage on Further Schemes
<b>Date:</b>	22nd April 2015
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Trevor Martin, Head of Building Control, ext. 2450
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<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	At the Health & Environmental Services Committee of 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2014, Members gave permission for the Building Control Service to enter into a partnership with the Department for Social Development (DSD) to carry out work to buildings in the Bank Square area of the city. This offer of a partnership project was a result of similar DSD funded projects the Service carried linked to the improvement of buildings in connection with the Giro d'Italia.
1.2	The project involved works to buildings in the area alongside the current Public Realm Environmental Improvement Works being carried out by DSD in Bank Square. The purpose of the projects was to raise the overall look of the area and prepare the area for regeneration initiatives such as the new 'Folktown' market.
1.3	The DSD has now received our audited final report and are delighted, both with the scheme and the partnership with the Building Control Service. As a result they have now written to the Council wishing to engage with us on a much larger scheme in the Rosemary Street and Lombard Street area. We have initially looked at this scheme and carried out an initial scoping survey, assessing the scale, costs and nature of the work. We are satisfied that 'subject to your approval', to engage with DSD in a similar partnership. Once DSD have secured the funding the scheme we will be in a position to bring a further report to Committee seeking your approval.

<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	That the Committee notes the hard work of the Building Control Service on the successful completion of the Bank Square Scheme and grants permission for Building Control to engage with DSD in partnering on a similar scheme for the Lombard/Rosemary Street Area.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<p data-bbox="260 551 408 577"><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p data-bbox="153 645 1449 1227">3.1 The Bank Square scheme was carried out for, and on behalf of, and fully funded by the DSD. They selected both the area and the buildings to be improved and the scheme forms part of their regeneration of the city centre. The input of the Council, through the Service, was to be the delivery mechanism for the scheme through project managing the contract. The costs of the work to the buildings and the Service's costs in delivering the project were met by DSD. This was not an application scheme driven through building owners and therefore there were no grants involved, but the Council did request a 10% financial input by the owner/occupiers in the Bank Square area. This was to ensure the project conformed to similar schemes such as the Renewing the Routes Project operated through the Council's Development Department. The project was carried out through a Service Level Agreement for the project which will outline the roles of DSD, and the Council.</p> <p data-bbox="153 1301 1449 1536">3.2 The project involved the preparation of schedules of work for eight buildings in the area and the total cost of the work was in the region of £84K. The works were mainly of a cosmetic nature and included rendering external walls, removal of vegetation and graffiti, cleaning and painting facades and some new signage to the selected buildings. A report on the work including before and after photographs is in Appendix 1.</p> <p data-bbox="153 1603 1449 1682">3.3 The Building Control Service has completed the Improvement Scheme to Bank Square and the Department for Social Development are delighted with the results.</p> <p data-bbox="153 1756 1449 1883">3.4 The Department for Social Development are applying for funding to carry out a larger project in the Rosemary Street/ Lombard Street area and will be formally approaching the Council once funding has been secured for a similar partnership arrangement.</p> <p data-bbox="153 1957 1449 1991">3.5 The Service has looked at the scheme and is confident that it can be facilitated using</p>

<p>3.6</p> <p>3.7</p> <p>3.8</p>	<p>current arrangements should the Committee decide to take up the offer.</p> <p>The scheme permitted the Council to take an active and direct role in partnering with the DSD in regeneration schemes for the City Centre.</p> <p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>All costs were covered by the Department for Social Development. There are no Human Resources implications.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>There are no equality or good relations issues in relation to our input.</p>
<p><b>4.0</b></p>	<p><b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p>Appendix one - Report on the DSD Bank Square Scheme.</p>