

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS TO ST IVES TOWN CENTRE
(Report by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Delivery))****1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 At its meeting held on 7th April 2009, the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Delivery) considered a report by the Head of Environmental Management detailing the outcome of a consultation exercise undertaken by the Council as part of the second phase of environmental improvements to the Market Hill and Bridge Street areas of St Ives. This report summarises the Panel's discussions.

2. THE PANEL'S DISCUSSIONS

- 2.1 The Panel has been reminded that its primary role is to ensure that the Environmental Improvements Protocol, previously adopted by the Cabinet, has been adhered to in advance of any works being carried out. The Panel has expressed their satisfaction that this has been the case.
- 2.2 The Panel has reviewed the outcome of the consultation, which reveals that there is no clear majority amongst respondents for any of the three options. The Advisory Group, which comprises County, District and Town Councillors together with Panel representatives and representatives from local groups such as the Town Partnership, the Access Group and the Civic Society has previously scrutinised the results of the consultation and has suggested that, as no consensus has been gained, the scheme should be deferred from its planned start date of January 2010 to enable a review of the options to take place and to allow time for the formulation of a scheme which more adequately suits the requirements of the Town.. Additionally, the Advisory Group has expressed the view that the deferment would be timely given the current economic climate and the impact that works would have on local retailers within the Town. Finally, the Panel has noted that the works might adversely affect planned celebrations of the Town's 800th anniversary.
- 2.3 The Panel has considered the options that are now available to the Council. Members have concluded that, for the reasons outlined above and in accordance with the Advisory Group's recommendation, deferral of the scheme is the preferred course of action. However, the Panel suggest that the situation should be reviewed in 12 months time rather than make a commitment to start work after that time. The Panel has also suggested that financial contributions towards the cost of the scheme should be sought from the County and Town Councils. In coming to its conclusions, the Panel took into account the views of two of its Members who represent Wards in St Ives and comments Made by Councillor J W Davies who addressed the Panel as a local Ward Member.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Cabinet is requested to take into consideration the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Delivery) as set out above during their deliberations on this item.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Minutes and Report of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Delivery) held on 7th April 2009.

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