

## Agenda item 10

For ratification - Financial contribution to 20 mph zone for town centre

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### Summary

Somerset County Council are committed to commissioning work to install a new 20 mph zone in Frome town centre, the extent of which was discussed and agreed by FTC in July 2017. The aim is to complete the works by the end of November 2018 with the work on the carriageway taking place overnight to minimise disruption. The Town Clerk has already approved a contribution of £4k towards the cost of this scheme. Cllrs are being asked to ratify this decision and to agree publicity on the extent of the zone as well as the timescale and traffic management arrangements as soon as they are confirmed.

### Background

It has been a long-standing ambition of the Council to make the town centre more pedestrian friendly. Part of this is about reducing the maximum speed of traffic within the town centre streets. At the Council meeting on 5 July 2017, a proposal for a 20-mph zone was presented including Bath Street, Market Place, North Parade and surrounding streets.

[Appendix 10.1](#) shows the extent of the zone – this will be shown again at the meeting.

The physical work would involve the introduction of new signage at various ‘gateway’ points and the application of ‘20’ roundels on the road at various points on a ‘buff’ coloured high friction surface to remind drivers that they are in the zone.

Cllrs unanimously supported the proposal and delegated authority to the Deputy Town Clerk in consultation with Cllr Mel Usher as Project Sponsor to work towards securing the necessary Traffic Regulation Order to enable the zone to be introduced.

Late last year, Somerset County Council as highway authority undertook the necessary consultation and, based on a favourable response, are now committed to implementation.

### Role for Frome Town Council

Whilst the bulk of the costs of implementation will be met by the County Council, they have asked FTC to contribute £4k towards the cost of the high friction surface treatments. In our planning for further town centre improvements, it had been estimated that the cost of this element to FTC would be £5k so this represents a £1k saving. To ensure that there was no delay in placing the works order and risk delaying the scheme, the Town Clerk has already

approved this contribution. The expenditure is being financed utilising the agreed EMR for Market Place Phase 2.

FTC also has a role to play in publicising the 20-mph zone and ensuring that town centre businesses and users are aware of the timescale for implementation and traffic management arrangements. At the time of writing this report, these arrangements are still to be confirmed but it is understood that County aim to complete the work by the end of November 2018 with the lining and high friction surface work on the carriageway being installed overnight to minimise disruption to town centre users and businesses.

Other proposed improvements to the Market Place that build on the first phase of work at Boyle Cross are still subject to technical discussions with Somerset County Council and Mendip District Council. A further report will be brought to Council to update Cllrs on these discussions at a later date.

#### Recommendations

1. Ratify the decision to contribute £4k towards the high friction surface elements of the 20-mph zone installation utilising the Market Place Phase 2 EMR
2. Widely publicise well in advance of the start of the work, the timetable and traffic management arrangements