

## STRONGER COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

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**Date:** Monday, 17 July 2023

**Title:** Bus Shelters

**Contact Officer:** Deputy Town Clerk

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### Background

At the previous meeting of the Committee, Members were made aware of a project being undertaken by Oxfordshire County Council, in conjunction with its partner Externiture, to provide more accessible bus shelters in Witney.

A site visit was conducted which identified the shelters most in need of replacing and pictures can be seen in **Appendix A**. The area listed in Ducklington Lane was identified as a site for a bus shelter, but remedial work has to be carried out first and therefore is not included in this scheme.

### Current Situation

At the Full Council meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> June an update was provided and agreement was given to allocate funds towards the project to replace the shelters. Following further discussion and information, the scope of this project includes the following:

Replacement of three current bus shelters and provision of one new one at:

- Staple Hall/Newland - 3 bay half end panel shelter as Picture 1
- Thorny Leys (Northbound) - double front entry as Picture 2
- Thorney Leys (Southbound) - 2-bay full end panel as Picture 3
- High St (outside Densham's) – 4 bay two entrances at the rear and at the front – Pictures 4 & 5 give an idea of size.

*\*Please note the pictures are not the exact shelters having but show the configurations.*

Externiture are the County Council's supplier of bus shelters and there is no option of installing shelters with advertising boards as part of this project. The Council could choose to install 'double royal poster cases' (635mm x 1016mm) in each at a further cost. They are secured with an Allen key and could be used to list nearest defibrillators, toilets and other Council communications. The case can be seen on the final page of Appendix A.

New or additional toast/loop cycle racks and bins could also be installed at the same time as the shelters, but this would be a further cost. However, the installation costs would be reduced as it would be completed as the larger project.

If agreeable, a final point is the shelter's colour. Generally, shelters are corporate black/grey, but the contractor advises "many authorities are going to shelters with a contrasting mid rail, seat and poster case as it is very helpful for those with visual impairment, those with issues like early onset dementia and are seen to be more obvious making passenger transport more noticeable. You can have any

standard RAL colour, usually it is a darker colour for the shelter and a contrasting lighter colour for the seat, mid rail and poster case.”

### **Environmental impact**

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

The provision of new and additional public transport infrastructure would help towards the Council’s green and active travel aspirations.

The contractor has confirmed that all four shelters will have sedum roofs.

### **Risk**

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

This is a large financial outlay but does deliver four replacement bus shelters for the town which the town council does not have the full funds to cover. The opportunity to take advantage of this project may not be possible again in the near future.

The shelter proposed for Newland is the same anti-vandal style as the one at Burwell precinct.

### **Financial implications**

Described here or as stated in the report above.

- The cost of installing four bus shelters in the locations is £49,010.52 and Witney Town Council is being asked to contribute £7,010.52 towards this with Oxfordshire County Council funding the remaining amount.
- Once installed the Town Council will be responsible for continuing maintenance within its maintenance budgets.
- The cost of a double royal poster case, fitted, is approximately £400. To install in each shelter would be approximately £1,600.
- The cost of individual cycle racks range between £50-100 and toast racks £150-300.
- As previously advised, there is no budget for these works so to cover the approximate cost of all the above will be £10,000. This would be afforded from the substantial Community Infrastructure earmarked reserve (EMR).

### **Recommendations**

Members are invited to note the report and consider the following:

1. Whether to accept the project as presented and,
2. Confirm the allocation of funds from the Community Infrastructure EMR of approximately £10,000 or lesser amount if optional extras are not included and,
3. Whether to request contrasting colours of the shelter and delegate this to Officers to pursue.