

**Report to:** THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER  
DEVELOPMENT, REGENERATION AND  
SKILLS AND THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER  
OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

**Date:** 29/06/09

**Report of:** DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT,  
REGENERATION AND SKILLS AND THE  
DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
SERVICES

**Report No:** EMDRS/47/09

**Contact Officer:** Laura Boardman

**Tele No:** 6135

**Report Title:** Bolton Innovation Zone - Merchants Quarter Public Realm Scheme

**Non Confidential:**

**Purpose:**

- To advise members on the status of a bid to the NWDA to secure match ERDF funding for a public realm scheme in Merchants Quarter.
- To seek approval for the content of the public realm scheme and match funding from the Highways and Development & Regeneration Capital Programmes.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that the Executive:

- i) Note the status of the ERDF Public Realm bid.
- ii) Approve the proposed Public Realm Scheme.
- iii) Approve match funding from the Highways and Development & Regeneration Capital Programmes.

**Background Documents:**

**Decision:**

**Signed:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Leader / Executive Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Monitoring Officer

**Date:**

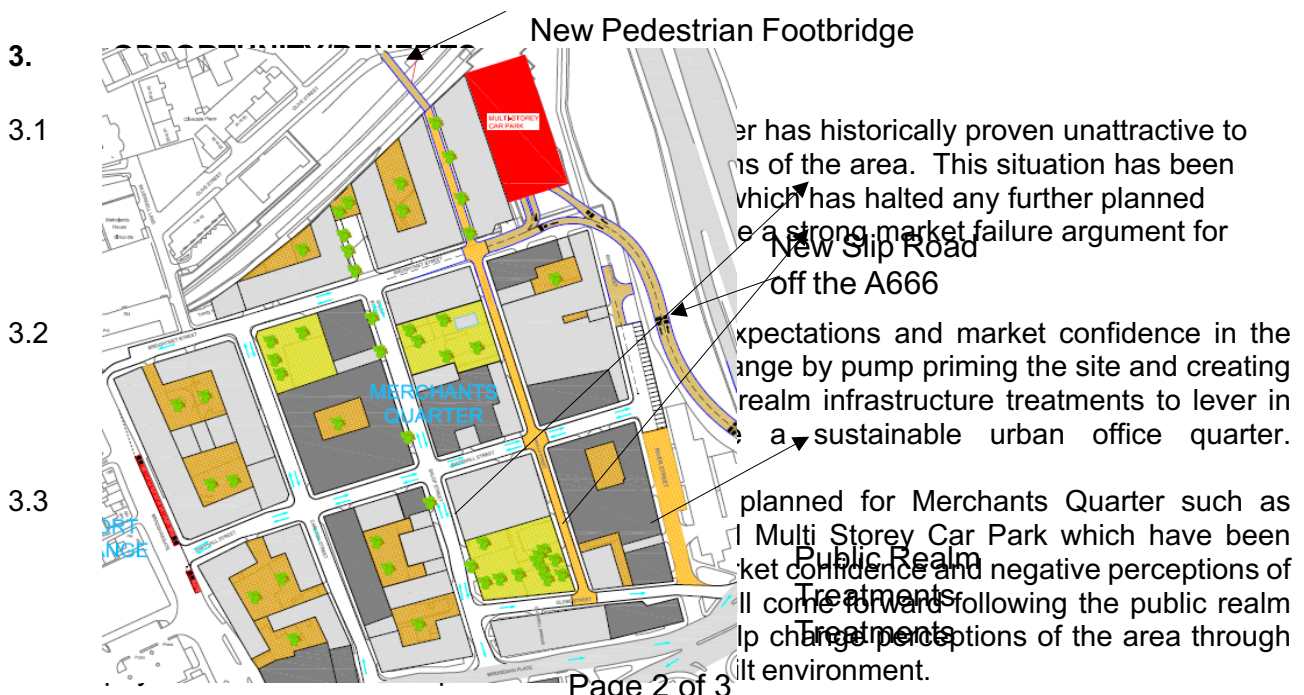
## 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Council recently responded to a request from the NWDA for expressions of interest for public realm projects under the ERDF Priority Action Area 3.2 - Developing high quality sites and premises of regional importance.
- 1.2 This Action Area supports the development of Regional Strategic Sites which have the potential to encourage the expansion of the regions knowledge economy and high value sectors, thereby driving up regional competitiveness and GVA growth.
- 1.3 On this basis, a public realm scheme has been developed for Merchants Quarter, part of the Bolton Innovation Zone, which is the only named site in the town centre located within the Investment Framework as a regionally significant Site.
- 1.4 An expression of interest was submitted for a £3M scheme seeking £1.5M of grant aid, with the remaining £1.5M being matched from the Council.
- 1.5 The scheme is in accordance with the approved Town Centre Transport Strategy and Merchants Quarter SPD.

## 2. SCHEME DESCRIPTION

- 2.1 The public realm scheme is located within the boundary of Merchants Quarter, the layout of the scheme is shown in Diagram 1 below and comprises of the construction of a slip road off the A666 into Merchants Quarter and a pedestrian footbridge, coupled with public realm treatments along River Street and sections of Brightmet Street and Saville Street.
- 2.2 These improvements will provide a good quality traffic and pedestrian route to the first phase of development in Merchants Quarter and improve connectivity for those working in the area and visitors to the town.

**Diagram 1 – Merchants Quarter Public Realm Scheme**



#### **4. TIMESCALE/PROCESS**

4.1 The initial expression of interest was successful in getting to the second stage of the bidding process. The second stage of the process is the Concept Development Stage and the deadline for submission is the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2009. If successful in getting through this stage, the Council will be invited to progress to stage three which is the Development Appraisal, the deadline for this final submission is the 4<sup>th</sup> September 2009.

4.2 All works and investment must be completed by December 2010.

#### **5. RESOURCES**

5.1 Given the tight timescales for the turnaround of submissions and the demanding project delivery timescale of December 2010, a multi-disciplinary project team has been established, led by senior officers from Strategic Development and Highways to ensure that project milestones are met and the scheme is delivered on time.

5.2 A total of £1.5M has been identified from existing Highways and Development & Regeneration Capital Programmes, with £750K allocated from each budget. The D&R budget source is from the public realm allocation and the Highways budget source is a combination of approved town centre schemes including the Link Road and the DDA public realm allocation.

#### **6. RECOMMENDATION**

6.1 It is recommended that the Executive Members:

- i) Note the current status of the ERDF Public Realm bid.
- ii) Approve the proposed content of the Public Realm Scheme.
- iii) Approve match funding from the Highways and Development & Regeneration Capital Programmes.