

**EGREMONT MARKET TOWN INITIATIVE – GATEWAYS PROJECT UPDATE  
AND ISSUES**

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** Councillor Cath Giel  
**LEAD OFFICER:** Mike Tichford – Head of Regeneration  
**REPORT AUTHOR:** Simon Walker – Egremont Market Town Initiative  
Programme Manager

**Summary:**

This report updates on the Egremont Gateways project and requests the Executive to consider two issues:

1. The Egremont Castle and Cemetery buildings Lighting scheme, within the Egremont Gateways project, and details anticipated revenue costs.
2. The tendering of works in the town centre, including street furniture refurbishment and new finger posts.

**Recommendation:**

1. Note the update and agree to meet some of the revenue costs.
2. Agree that Contract Standing Orders be suspended to allow the town centre works to be carried out via the County Council as client, through their term contract agreement with Amey Infrastructure, where appropriate.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The Egremont Gateways project, funded by West Lakes Renaissance, European Regional Development Fund, Copeland Borough Council, Arts Council England and British Nuclear Group (Sellafield Ltd), is well underway at the entrances to the town. Several elements are still in the process of implementation, including the Castle and Cemetery Lighting projects and the town centre street furniture elements.

1.2 The Egremont Gateways project, included a scheme to light the castle and cemetery buildings, to give Egremont a dynamic presence for passers by and from within the town centre. A tender process for the design work was completed in October and a lighting test was carried out in November. Detailed design work has now been completed, with tendering of the electrical installation to be carried out in the next few weeks, along with an application for Scheduled Monument Consent and planning permission to carry out the works

1.3 As part of the detailed design, estimated running costs have been established, including electricity draw, lamp replacement and maintenance.

1.4 Other works in the town centre have been designed and consulted on and are now ready for tendering. These works include refurbishment of the street furniture, procurement and placement of new finger post signage for pedestrians and highways signage for car parking, visitor information boards and waymarking of cycle routes. It is considered for reasons outlined below that these works would be best procured through an agreement with the County Council as Highways Authority to be carried out under their term maintenance contract with Amey Infrastructure.

## **2. ARGUMENT**

2.1 The Lighting of Egremont Castle has been a long term ambition of the Friends of the Castle and will help to safeguard the prized Green Heritage Award. The scheme brings with it revenue costs linked to electricity usage, lamp replacement and maintenance of £700 pa for the castle and £150 pa for the Cemetery buildings.

2.2 Egremont Town Council has agreed to pay the revenue costs for the cemetery and a private sponsor is being sought for part of the revenue costs of the castle. This would leave a sum of around £350-£400 pa from Copeland Borough Council budgets. It is considered that this could be contained within existing Open Spaces provision for electricity.

2.2 The Town Centre works have been detailed and have been consulted on with stakeholders. The work involves renovating, limited repositioning existing street furniture, addition of new pedestrian direction finger posts and removal of street clutter, ground repairs, way marking and signage for cycling and walking routes on County highways and County maintained rights of way. In order to simplify the contract administration and to take advantage of the cost benefits of work being carried out in the town centre by contractors that are familiar with all of the issues, including agreeing all on-going maintenance requirements, a Section 278 agreement with the County Council has been found to offer the best route for procurement of a number of these items. The total value of the works is in the region of £150,000.

2.3 To this end, it is requested that Contract Standing orders be suspended for this work and that the Council enter into this agreement.

## **3. OPTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED**

3.1 The lighting scheme selected for the castle includes colour change lighting for the south wall of the Great Hall. This adds a unique element to the scheme and will facilitate the staging of events at the castle. A purely white light scheme would have lower annual running costs, saving up to £200 per annum. This is not

the favoured option, but would offer a solution with marginally lower running costs.

3.2 The contracts for various elements of the work can be let separately, with just some elements, where necessary being carried out in the manner detailed. This will require more intensive management and will potentially delay implementation. There is pressure to maximise spend under the Market Town Initiative by the end of March, with no guarantee as yet that any funding can be carried over.

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS**

4.1 The revenue implications attached to the lighting scheme are small and can be contained within existing budgets. Match funding is also being drawn in. This is an important project for Egremont, helping to make best use of its heritage assets.

4.2 Given the timescales for completion of the works under the Gateways project, the commissioning of the works via the Highways Authority under a Section 278 agreement offers the most efficient route and the contract between Cumbria County Council and Amey Infrastructure to maintain the Highways has been tendered and is able to show best value. This approach will ensure a coordinated works programme and completion to meet Northwest Regional Development Agency timescales.

#### **5. FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOURCES OF FINANCE)**

5.1 There is a revenue impact of £400pa to sustain the lighting scheme at Egremont Castle.

5.2 Failure to deliver the town centre works within the Market Town Initiative deadlines might result in funding being lost to Egremont.

#### **6. PROJECT AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

6.1 The Council is responsible, as Accountable Body, for delivery of the Market Town Initiative. The proposed route for commissioning town centre works will help to ensure successful delivery.

#### **7. IMPACT ON CORPORATE PLAN**

7.1 The Market Town Initiative and associated regeneration delivery and community engagement in Egremont meets a number of Corporate Plan objectives, primarily under 2.2, Regenerating Copeland.

7.2 Support of the Egremont and Area Regeneration Partnership impacts on 2.1, Creating opportunities for community involvement

7.3 The MTI also has an impact on the following objectives:

- 2.3 Improving skills and education; retaining skills
- 3.1 Sufficient and diverse job opportunities
- 3.3 Quality living environment
- 3.4 Sustainability
- 3.5 Quality housing
- 3.6 Leisure and culture

**List of Consultees:** Corporate Team, Cllr Cath Giel, Cllr Elaine Woodburn,

**CHECKLIST FOR DEALING WITH KEY ISSUES**

Please confirm against the issue if the key issues below have been addressed. This can be by either a short narrative or quoting the paragraph number in the report in which it has been covered.

Impact on Crime and Disorder	
Impact on Sustainability	Yes
Impact on Rural Proofing	
Health and Safety Implications	
Project and Risk Management	Yes
Impact on Equality and Diversity Issues	
Children and Young Persons Implications	
Human Rights Act Implications	
Section 151 Officer Comments	
Monitoring Officer Comments	No comments

Please say if this report will require the making of a Key Decision NO