

Appendix 1: Valley Gardens Process and Decision Making Summary

1. Mandate (2007)

The council's ambition to commence work on the Valley Gardens project was formally established in the 2006 Local Transport Plan.

2. Agreeing a Brief (2011 - 2012)

A design brief for Valley Gardens, based on public realm analysis and consultation, was agreed by the council's Transport Committee in July 2012. Officers were asked to develop draft design options (a concept scheme).

3. Concept Design (2012- 2013)

A concept design scheme was developed and considered by the March 2013 Transport Committee. Committee agreed that 'the principles established by the concept scheme should guide future improvements in Valley Gardens', 'that further work should be undertaken to develop the concept scheme design' and 'that early consideration should be given to the preparation of bids for external funding that would assist in developing and implementing elements of the Valley Gardens proposals'.

4. Securing Funding (2013-15)

Between March 2013 and July 2014, the concept scheme was refined, a potential funding source was identified (through the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)) and a Business Case was developed with a view to securing £8m funding from the LEP to deliver the northern section of the Valley Gardens proposals (referred to as Phases 1&2).

July 2014 Environment, Transport & Sustainability (ETS) Committee agreed that the Business Case should be submitted to the LEP.

In July 2014 the Department for Transport confirmed that £8m funding was available for Valley Gardens Phases 1&2 and that further funding of up to £6m was available for Phase 3 (between Edward Street and the seafront) subject to preparation of an additional successful Business Case.

In October 2014 ETS Committee agreed that a Business Case to secure funding for Valley Gardens Phase 3 should be prepared. *This work is due to commence next financial year. The remainder of this note focuses solely on Valley Gardens Phase 1&2 (Edward Street to St Peters Place / Ditchling Road)*

In February 2015 the LEP approved the Valley Gardens Phase 1&2 Business Case, enabling the Council to secure an £8m funding contribution.

5. Refining the Valley Gardens layout (2014)

In October 2014 ETS Committee agreed amendments to the refined Phase 1&2 scheme design contained in the July Business Case. The updated design, which did away with new sections of carriageway through Victoria Gardens following consideration of further detailed traffic modeling, enabled delivery of the scheme with reduced impact on open space and trees. Committee also agreed that a Member Project Board (the Project management Board) should be established to act as a reference group and advisory body for the scheme.

6. Planning Consent

As the Valley Gardens project impacts on Open Space in the city, Planning Approval is required. A Planning Application has been submitted, but timescales for consultation and a Planning Committee decision date are to be confirmed.

7. Technical Design (March 2015 – September 2015)

March 2015 ETS Committee will be asked for approval to commence work on the Technical Design stage. This final stage of design focuses on the construction details that contractors need to build the physical scheme. During this stage a works phasing plan will be developed identifying when different sections of the scheme can be built to minimize disruption and accommodate other events in the city, contractors will be appointed (subject to separate Policy & Resources Committee approval – see below), enabling cost plans to be refined further and a strategy for managing ongoing maintenance of the new scheme will be completed. When contractors and a work schedule is in place, and a final cost schedule has been prepared, ETS Committee will be asked for approval to start building the scheme.

8. Contractor Procurement

In June 2015, Policy & Resources (P&R) Committee will be asked to approve procurement of contractors to deliver physical works in Valley Gardens. P&R approval is required due to the values of the contracts.

9. Construction (September 2015 – March 2018)

In July 2015, ETS Committee will be presented with final scheme cost estimates and a works phasing / management plan and asked for approval to commence the construction stage of the project. As LEP funding is spread over financial years 2015/16 to 2017/18, construction work will take place over this period (although the project may well be finished before March 2018).