

Appendix 3: Valley Gardens Phase 1&2 Project Timeline

Stage 0 – Mandate (2007)

A project starts with someone asking for something to be done. In the case of Valley Gardens, numerous policy documents identify a need for improvements in the area. The council's ambition to commence work on the Valley Gardens project was formally established in the 2006 Local Transport Plan, although meaningful progress only started in late 2011.

Stage 1 - Agreeing a Brief (2011 – 2012)

In order to start a project, clarity is needed over what exactly needs to be done and who needs to do it. This stage started with an objective analysis of problems and opportunities associated with the existing Valley Gardens area (the October 2011 Public Realm Analysis). Information from the Public Realm Analysis was combined with community feedback to develop a vision and set of objectives for the project.

Stage 2 - Concept Design (2012- 2013)

Once a brief is agreed, the next stage is to identify a way of delivering objectives of the brief. Working with our design team and the local community, this stage included:

- Understanding specialist considerations that may impact on the work (through commissioning tree surveys etc)
- Considering different design options
- Agreeing which design option can best deliver the brief (the preferred option)
- Checking whether the preferred option is likely to work (through strategic traffic modeling etc)
- Undertaking an initial estimate as to how much the scheme would likely cost
- Identifying how the scheme could be progressed
- Preparing a document summarizing the process and results of the design stage (the July 2013 Concept Scheme Delivery Plan).

Interim Stage: Securing Funding (2015)

In February 2015 the council was successful in securing £8m funding for the northern section of the Valley Gardens scheme from the Coast 2 Capital Local Enterprise Partnership.

Stage 3 – Developed Design (2013 – March 2015)

By its nature, the Concept Scheme is still 'conceptual'. The Concept Scheme Delivery Plan also acknowledged various options that required more consideration before a final scheme could be identified. The next stage of work, Developed Design, involves refining the Concept Scheme into a detailed proposal that sets out what the project will look like 'above ground'. This stage includes detailed traffic modeling of specific junctions, choice of materials, preparation of a lighting scheme and agreement over locations of elements such as loading bays and cycle parking. (During this project stage, detailed junction modeling suggested that the new roads through Victoria Gardens proposed by the Concept

Scheme were unnecessary). This stage also enables and includes further refinement of practical delivery considerations, such as scheme costs and, in the case of Valley Gardens, identification of a team to progress the next project stage.

Interim Stage – 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.

Stage 4 – Technical Design (March 2015 – September 2015)

The final stage of design focuses on the technical construction details that contractors need to build the physical scheme. During this stage we develop a phasing plan identifying when different sections of the scheme can be built to minimize disruption and accommodate other events in the city. Contractors are appointed, enabling our cost plans to be refined even further. A strategy for managing ongoing maintenance of the new scheme will also be completed.

Stage 5 – Construction (September 2015 – March 2018)

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). Phasing of works will be identified during Stage 4.

Stage 6 & 7 – Handover, Close Out and In Use

These stages include checking everything has concluded satisfactorily, any defects have been resolved and project documentation is complete. The physical scheme will be in place but work will be ongoing to ensure local people and visitors can get as much out of the new Valley Gardens environment as possible.