

**Agenda Item 16, Capital Investment Plan Update 2014/15  
Quarter 2**

**Mayoral Motion on Capital Investment Plan**

**Council Meeting**

**4 December 2014**

Proposal:

**That the Council includes the following items in the Capital Investment Plan to be funded from New Growth Points Grant:**

- (i) £350,000 for improvements to the Strand Torquay; and**
- (ii) £240,000 for the replacement decking and associated works on Princess Pier.**

**Proposer: Mayor Oliver**

**Seconder: Councillor Excell**

Supporting Information:

The Mayor requested that officers investigate the ability to undertake improvements to the Strand and to investigate the replacement of the decking to Princess Pier. This is necessary to mitigate the need to close it as the current deterioration is creating health and safety concerns which could lead to the pier being closed or to limit access to the Pier during major events (e.g. firework displays) if action is not taken.

The Council has unallocated funding of £590,000 from the New Growth Points Grant which was awarded to the Council by Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) in 2008. The Council received a total of £6.142 million (revenue and capital) over the period 2007/08 to 2010/11 and the £590,000 is the remaining unallocated balance. Previous proposed uses for this funding have failed to materialise and there are currently no firm proposals for the use of this element of the grant. The grant was provided to encourage areas to deliver more growth, although the grant conditions only require the monies are spent on Capital. This means the Council can allocate these funds to any capital project it wishes to.

The aim of the Strand project is to improve and upgrade the public realm around the harbourside in Torquay. The area in question currently provides two narrow walkways that get congested in the busy times. The proposed work will see these opened up and improved. The area will receive new quality granite paving and street furniture that will match Victoria Parade. The area will have an improved feeling of space and provide a clearer visual link with Fleet Street, Victoria Parade and Beacon Quay. The existing paving, benches and narrow walkways need to be opened up to provide, not only a feeling of space, but also a quality vista around the harbour area. The trees need to be removed and replaced with a species less damaging to the surrounding area. There will be

quality street furniture and the area could feature Public Art when funds allow. Steps will be formed for the whole length providing a continental look that will double up as seating through the busy summer period which will naturally smooth out at each end.

The proposed work on the Strand will form a link to the works already carried out on Victoria Parade and beyond to Beacon Quay and the forthcoming works on Fleet Street. A plan of the area is attached as **Appendix 1**. Consultation has been carried out with key stakeholders and the Council has not received any objections.

It should be noted that if these proposals are approved by Council, notwithstanding exceptional events like the winter weather of 2013/14, officers are confident the works to the Strand and the Pier can be completed before the 1 May 2015 so avoiding disruption during the main tourist season, although there will probably be some works ongoing during Easter.