

County council response to Oxford City Council Executive Board consideration of Frideswide Square –
15 October 2014

Comment from Oxford City Council	County council officer response
1. Express support for the County Council's aspiration to achieve a high quality design for Frideswide Square, which strikes a balance between open spaces and excessive definition and clutter.	Noted
2. Ask the County Council to give further consideration to the following important points in formulating its final design:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearer differentiation of the shared space routes through the use of colour and specific surfacing materials which will improve the clarity of the designation of shared spaces for cyclists and pedestrians and make the Square user friendly for all groups. 	<p>The design already includes the use of sensitively designed but clear shared use symbols repeated throughout the shared areas (cycle and ped symbols together) that will ensure that the space is safely and comfortably shared by all users including vulnerable users.</p> <p>This approach was accepted by the city council at a recent bilateral meeting.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate parking and loading bay provision is allowed for traders and businesses in the Square. Proper provision for taxis moving through the Square. 	<p>New loading bays on the footway will be provided at the north ends of both Becket Street and Hollybush Row. This is greater provision than now.</p> <p>Taxis will benefit from improved flow through the square. No taxi rank provision is made in the plans – this is no change from the current situation.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of an approach to signage that is shared and agreed with the City Council. 	<p>This refers primarily to directional road signing. Officers will discuss proposals with the city council as they are progressed during the detailed design phase of the scheme.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The establishment of an agreed formal structure for the management and control of events and activities in the Square. 	<p>Officers agree that this is needed and will be develop it in discussion with the city council following the Cabinet meeting. There is the potential to manage the use of the space proactively to ensure the right frequency, location and mix of</p>

	events. There is the potential to raise revenue that could be used to maintain the square.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaging artistic and design support for the lamp columns and other important street furniture, and the preparation of a strategy for the lighting of the Square. 	This has been discussed with city officers. Lamp columns designed by artist will be prohibitively expensive. Similarly other street furniture. However, as far as the budget allows, these items will not be standard off the shelf highway spec. It was agreed that street lighting proposals would be shared with the city council.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-locating the Ox sculpture that is currently at the side of the Said Business School. 	The latest plan shows the ox relocated. The ox belongs to the University and in principle they are happy to have discussions regarding its relocation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The retention of some form of water feature on the North side of the Square. 	The water feature is now a stronger element within the design on the north side of the square.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A two lane cycle lane should be added. 	It has been accepted by the City/County Bilateral meeting and city officers that the shared used area with symbols to explain its function is acceptable (county officers have committed to carefully monitoring its operation). The shared use areas will be available for cycling in both directions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration needs to be given to proper phasing of the work, to cause the least disruption possible. 	Naturally
3. To include within the Legal Agreement with the County Council the arrangements for the maintenance and management of Frideswide Square and to delegate to the Executive Director Community Services the responsibility for agreeing such maintenance and management arrangements	Officers understand this to be in response to a concern that maintenance of the improved paving would ordinarily fall to the city council under their S42 powers. Officers have clarified that this is not the case – maintenance of Frideswide Square is a county responsibility.

Craig Rossington/Daniel Round
21 October 2014