

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee Cabinet

Date of Committee 7th December 2006

Report Title Heathcote - Warwick Technology Park - Warwick Footway/Cycle Scheme

Summary Tender prices have been received for construction of the above scheme. The lowest tender is higher than the approved estimate. This report seeks Cabinet approval for letting of a contract at the higher cost.

For further information please contact Lisa Jones
Transport Planner
Tel. 01926 735670
lisajones@warwickshire.gov.uk

Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? Yes/No

Background Papers None.

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:- *Details to be specified*

- Other Committees
- Local Member(s) Councillor Mrs M Haywood
(With brief comments, if appropriate)
- Other Elected Members Councillor K Browne } for information
Councillor Mrs E Goode }
Councillor Mrs J Lea }
- Cabinet Member Councillor M Heatley
(Reports to The Cabinet, to be cleared with appropriate Cabinet Member)
- Chief Executive
- Legal I Marriott – comments incorporated.
- Finance C Holden – comments incorporated.

- Other Chief Officers
- District Councils
- Health Authority
- Police
- Other Bodies/Individuals

FINAL DECISION **YES/NO** *(If 'No' complete Suggested Next Steps)*

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS :

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee
- To Council
- To Cabinet
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee
- Further Consultation

Cabinet - 7th December 2006

**Heathcote - Warwick Technology Park - Warwick
Footway/Cycle Scheme**

**Report of the Strategic Director for
Environment and Economy**

Recommendation

That:-

- (i) Cabinet approves the higher cost for the Heathcote - Warwick Technology Park - Warwick footway/cycleway scheme and the letting of a contract for construction of the scheme at the higher cost.
- (ii) The integrated transport capital programme be amended as detailed in this report within resources allocated in the Local Transport Plan and other approved resources.

1. Background

- 1.1 As part of the Local Transport Plan Cycling and Walking programme, it is proposed to construct a new footway/cycleway along Heathcote Lane and Gallows Hill to provide a link between the Heathcote/Warwick Gates area and Warwick Technology Park. The proposed facility will enable commuter journeys to this large employment area to be made on foot or by cycle. The scheme includes a Toucan crossing over Europa Way at the large roundabout between Heathcote Lane and Gallows Hill.
- 1.2 In conjunction with the above scheme, a new shared use footway/cycleway is proposed between the Banbury Road/Myton Road junction in Warwick and Warwick Technology Park. This cycleway is one of the agreed measures within the Interim Warwick Town Centre Traffic Management scheme.
- 1.3 The above proposed sections of footway/cycleway have been combined into one larger scheme in order to achieve best use of resources and to provide a continuous pedestrian and cycle link between the Heathcote area and Warwick. The resulting facility will assist cycle and pedestrian journeys to a range of destinations within Warwick and Leamington (see Plan in **Appendix A**).
- 1.4 An overall total budget of £475,000 was allocated to the Heathcote – Warwick Technology Park - Warwick footway/cycleway scheme, made up of £325,000

from the Local Transport Plan (LTP) Capital Programme and a developer contribution of £150,000. This figure was based on an estimate produced during the feasibility study which was carried out in 2004.

2. Revised Cost of Scheme

- 2.1 Four tenders have now been received for construction of the scheme and based on the lowest tender, see paragraph 2.2. A 'Value Engineering' approach will be adopted to seek further opportunities to keep the overall construction cost to a minimum. This will include looking at the potential to amend the specification of various aspects of the scheme.
- 2.2 The revised estimate for the development, construction and supervision of the Heathcote - Warwick Technology Park–Warwick footway/cycleway scheme is now £625,000 and fees.
- 2.3 With an initial budget allocation of £475,000 and a raised scheme cost estimate of £625,000, an additional £150,000 of Local Transport Plan funding is required to cover the shortfall for this scheme.
- 2.4 The cost increase for this scheme is as a result of the following factors:-
 - (a) The main reason is that construction costs have increased substantially (22%) since the estimate was produced in 2004.
 - (b) During the development of the detail design and following the public consultation, additional costs were incurred as a result of design changes, particularly to the drainage elements.
 - (c) Following the recommendations of an Ecology Survey additional works are necessary in relocating street lighting due to presence of protected species of plants on a section of the route.
 - (d) Additional staff time, mainly associated with (b) and (c) above.

3. How the Increased Cost of this Scheme Can be Met

- 3.1 The increase in cost for the Heathcote to Warwick Technology Park footway/cycleway scheme can be met from the natural slippage of two cycleway schemes in the Safer Routes to Schools Programme, both within Leamington and Warwick.
- 3.2 Phases 2 and 3 of the Aylesford to Woodloes Cycle Route were programmed for implementation in 2006-7. However, the route of Phase 3 (Cape Road to Woodloes Park) is being reassessed to see whether it is possible to avoid the land issues on Lock Lane. The route across Saltisford Common is dependent upon the route of Phase 3, so Phase 2 can not be progressed until Phase 3 is finalised. £50,000 of 2006-7 LTP funding currently allocated to Aylesford Cycle Route will not be used in 2006-7 and, therefore, can be reallocated to the Warwick Technology Park scheme.

- 3.3 Lillington Road Cycle Route (North Leamington School) has been redesigned to take account of views expressed at the consultation. This has resulted in a delay to the scheme. £100,000 of 2006-7 LTP funding currently allocated to Lillington Road Cycle Route will not be used in 2006-7 and, therefore, can be reallocated to the Warwick Technology Park Cycle Route.
- 3.4 Aylesford to Woodloes Cycle Route and Lillington Road Cycle Route can both be funded from LTP funding in the 2007-8 programme.
- 3.5 It is proposed to fully use the above proposed reallocated Local Transport Plan funds for construction of the Warwick Technology Park scheme during 2006/7.

4. Summary

- 4.1 The Heathcote – Warwick Technology Park – Warwick footway/cycleway scheme will enable more local journeys to be made by sustainable modes of transport and form an important link within the cycle route network for Leamington and Warwick. The scheme will contribute towards Local Transport Plan objectives to reduce congestion, improve air quality and improve safety.
- 4.2 There is a significant amount of local support for this scheme from employees of companies based at the Technology Park, local cyclists, local schools and other bodies. National Grid Transco, based at the Technology Park, have contributed £5k towards the scheme. There are expectations amongst these groups that the scheme will be constructed during 2006/7.
- 4.3 Considerable resources have already been dedicated to the development of the scheme, which has been designed in accordance with relevant design standards whilst seeking to ensure best value for money throughout.
- 4.4 For the above reasons, it is considered that the additional cost of constructing this scheme should be met from the slippage of two other local cycle schemes, in order to ensure that the scheme is delivered without further delay.

JOHN DEEGAN
Strategic Director for Environment and Economy
Shire Hall
Warwick

21st November 2006