Cabinet

8 November 2018

Capital Investment Fund 2018/19 Quarter 3 Report

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

- 1) Approve a total allocation of £2.249m funding from the Capital Investment Fund (CIF) (i.e. a further addition of £1.100m) to complete the funding package for the A46 Stanks Island scheme, subject to confirmation from the CWLEP board that their contribution of £4.100m may be rescheduled to fit the updated project timescales.
- 2) Recommend that Council approve the allocation of £0.596m funding from the CIF to contribute towards the A47 Hinckley Road Corridor scheme and add the project to the Capital Programme at a full cost of £3.485m.
- 3) Approve the continuation of the Small Capital Grants Scheme for a further two years of operation with an allocation of £0.700m funding from the CIF.
- 4) Agree that funding allocated to all these projects will be reduced on a £ for £ basis if alternative sources of funding become available.

1. Purpose of this report and context

- 1.1. As part of the 2017/18 budget, Council approved the creation of the Capital Investment Fund (CIF) to provide an approach to funding capital schemes in support of the delivery of OOP 2020. Members approved a four stage approval process for projects seeking funding from the CIF that would be run on a quarterly basis:
 - Stage 1: A service specific internal approval process, the conclusion of which is a bid to an Evaluation Panel submitted by the relevant Head of Service.
 - <u>Stage 2</u>: The CIF Evaluation Panel provides a technical evaluation and commentary on the proposal that results in a recommendation to Corporate Board.

03 CIF Cab 18.11.08 1 of 5

- <u>Stage 3</u>: Corporate Board review the evaluation and support/reject the proposal going forward to Members.
- <u>Stage 4</u>: For those schemes Corporate Board support, Cabinet/Council approve/reject the allocation. If approved the scheme is added to the authority's capital programme.
- 1.2. Following the additional resources allocated to the CIF in the budget on February 6th 2018, and subsequent approvals through the 2018/19 financial year, the CIF now has £49.948 million to be allocated over the next two years:

2018/19	2019/20	Total
£m	£m	£m
42.448	7.500	49.948

- 1.3. A number of schemes have been identified as "priority" schemes with notional CIF allocations, subject to approval by Cabinet and/or Council as they formally bid into the fund. The schemes considered in this report include one of those priority schemes, the A47 Hinckley Road scheme.
- 1.4. Agreeing to the recommendations of this report would reduce the remaining available CIF funding to £47.552m.

2. Description of the Schemes

A46 Stanks Island scheme

- 2.1. The Evaluation Panel has considered a bid to increase the Council's financial support of the scheme designed to address the congestion issues at the A46 Stanks Island junction.
- 2.2. The Scheme has been in the Capital Programme since 2016 with an initial contribution from WCC of £2.594m and a total cost of £6.000m. Following success in external funding bids, the WCC contribution was reduced to £1.194m, but the scheme has now returned to the CIF to request a reversal of most of this reduction to bring the WCC contribution back to a total of £2.294m. This reflects a net increase in costs of £0.700m following scheme redesign and tenders and a loss of £0.400m Highways England funding after the scheme was delayed beyond their required delivery timescales. Scheme drawings can be found in **Appendix A**.

2.3. The overall funding is still dependent on a majority contribution of £4.100m from the CWLEP, and the Council has requested confirmation that this funding can be rephased from its initial allocation, which was to be spent in 2017/18.

A47 Hinckley Road Scheme

- 2.4. The Panel has also considered a bid to complete the funding package for the A47 Hinckley Road scheme, which seeks to improve connectivity between Nuneaton town centre, the rail station and planned areas of significant housing growth in north Nuneaton. The scheme includes:
 - Improvements to the junction of A47 Hinckley Road and Eastboro Way
 - Improvements to the junction of A47 Hinckley Road and Higham Lane
 - Removal of a disused railway bridge over the A47 Hinckley Road, and
 - Creation of a cycle corridor off-carriageway along the A47 Hinckley Road

Scheme drawings can be found in **Appendix B.**

2.5. The bid is for £0.596m CIF money in combination with £2.839m DfT funding and £0.050m Highways England funding to create a total scheme cost of £3.485m. The funding from Highways England is not yet secured and represents a reduction in their anticipated contribution, despite the fact that £0.290m of the scheme costs relate to removal of the disused rail bridge for which they meet the maintenance liability. WCC and Highways England are still in negotiation about this funding and should a higher figure be achieved, the CIF requirement will be reduced on a £ for £ basis. A number of s106 and s278 funded schemes along the route have already been completed.

Small Capital Grants Scheme

- 2.6. The Panel has also considered an update report and funding request from the Small Capital Grants scheme, which makes grants to small businesses to provide a maximum of 30% of the costs of investment in tangible assets. The scheme was originally approved as a one-year project by Cabinet in October 2017, with a requirement that the project managers report on the outcomes of the first year before any further funding was allocated. The update requests a further allocation of £0.700m to add to its initial £1.550m from the Capital Growth Fund and CIF, extending the scheme for a further two years.
- 2.7. The scheme makes grants to small businesses to enable them to make capital investments in premises, plant, machinery and similar assets, with a minimum 70% funding coming from the business themselves. The aim of the scheme is to address identified failures in the private finance market and other publicly

03 CIF Cab 18.11.08 3 of 5

3. Evaluation by the Panel

A46 Stanks Island scheme

3.1. The Panel scored the scheme at 76.9/100. The scores awarded in each section were:

• Fit to the organisation's strategic objectives: 13.5/15

• Financial viability: 21.8/30

 Asset enhancement (Service Delivery Need, Community Wellbeing and Capacity, and Economic Growth): 33.4/45

Political, social and environmental impact:
8.3/10

3.2. The Panel's full comments are summarised in **Appendix C**. The Panel recommends that Cabinet approves the allocation of further CIF funding to close this gap, making the total WCC funding £2.294m, subject to confirmation from the CWLEP that their proposed allocation of £4.100m will still be available with the scheme's new proposed timeframes. If the CWLEP reprofiling is not confirmed then the scheme would need to halt and the project position be reconsidered.

A47 Hinckley Road Scheme

3.3. The Panel scored the scheme at 70.6/100. The scores awarded in each section were:

• Fit to the organisation's strategic objectives: 13.8/15

• Financial viability: 20.4/30

 Asset enhancement (Service Delivery Need, and Community Wellbeing and Capacity):
28.4/45

Political, social and environmental impact:
8.0/10

3.4. The Panel's full comments are summarised in **Appendix D**. The Panel noted a concern about the Council's ability to deliver the scheme in line with the DfT's required timescales. Nonetheless the Panel recognised that the scheme is necessary to support the Borough Council's aspirations and so recommend that Cabinet support the allocation and the addition of the scheme to the Capital Programme in its recommendation to Council.

03 CIF Cab 18.11.08 4 of 5

Small Capital Grants Scheme

3.5. The Panel scored the scheme at 77.0/100. The scores awarded in each section were:

•	Fit to the organisation's strategic objectives:	12.6/15
•	Financial viability:	22.2/30
•	Asset enhancement (Economic Growth):	34.2/45
•	Political, social and environmental impact:	8.0/10

3.6. The Panel's full comments are summarised in **Appendix E**. The Panel noted that the outcomes from the allocations made so far have exceeded expectations and so are happy to recommend the continuation of the scheme to Cabinet.

4. Background Papers

None

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Appendices

Appendix A – A46 Stanks Island Scheme Layout

Appendix B – A47 Hinckley Road Scheme Layout

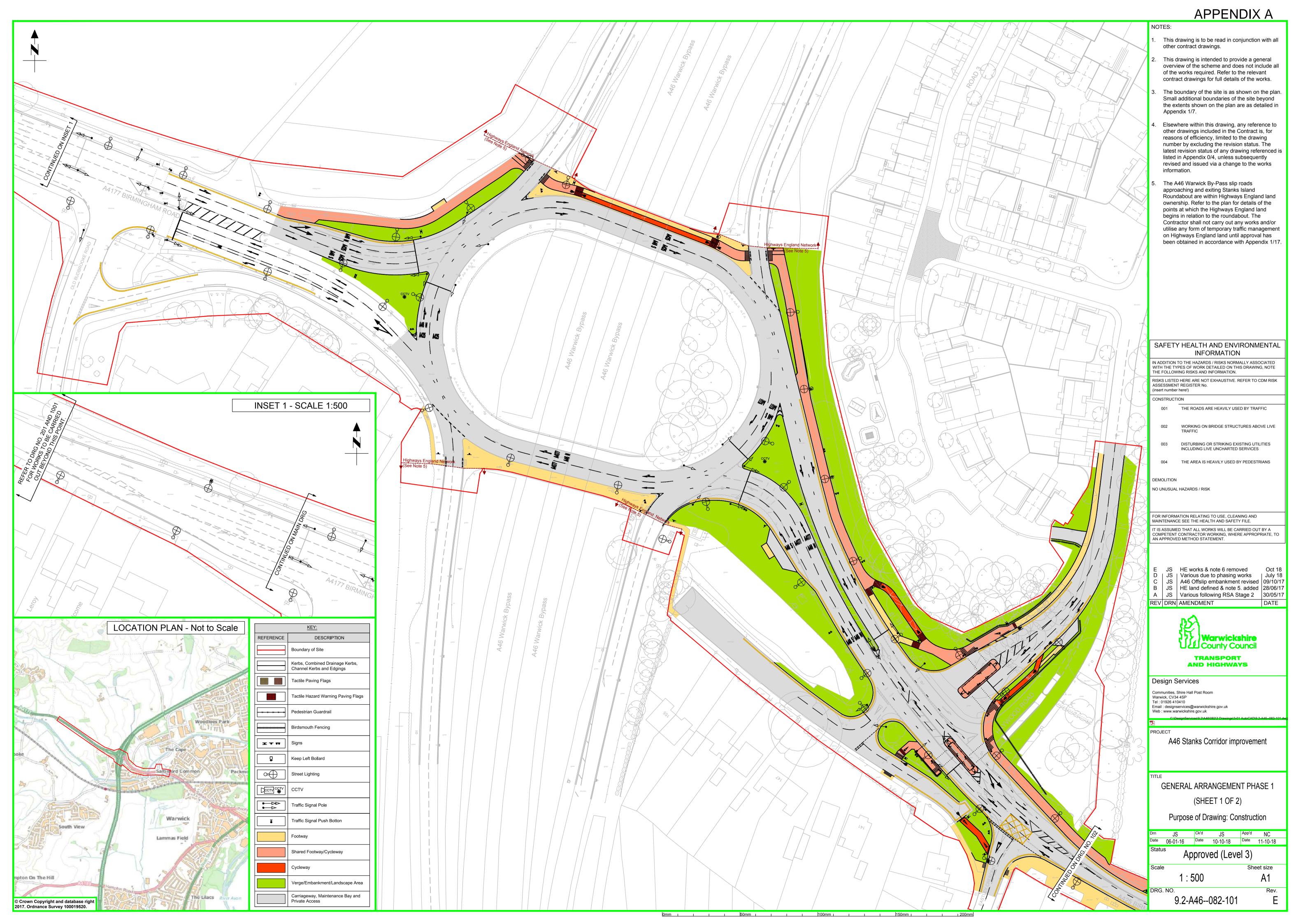
Appendix C - CIF Panel comments: A46 Stanks Island

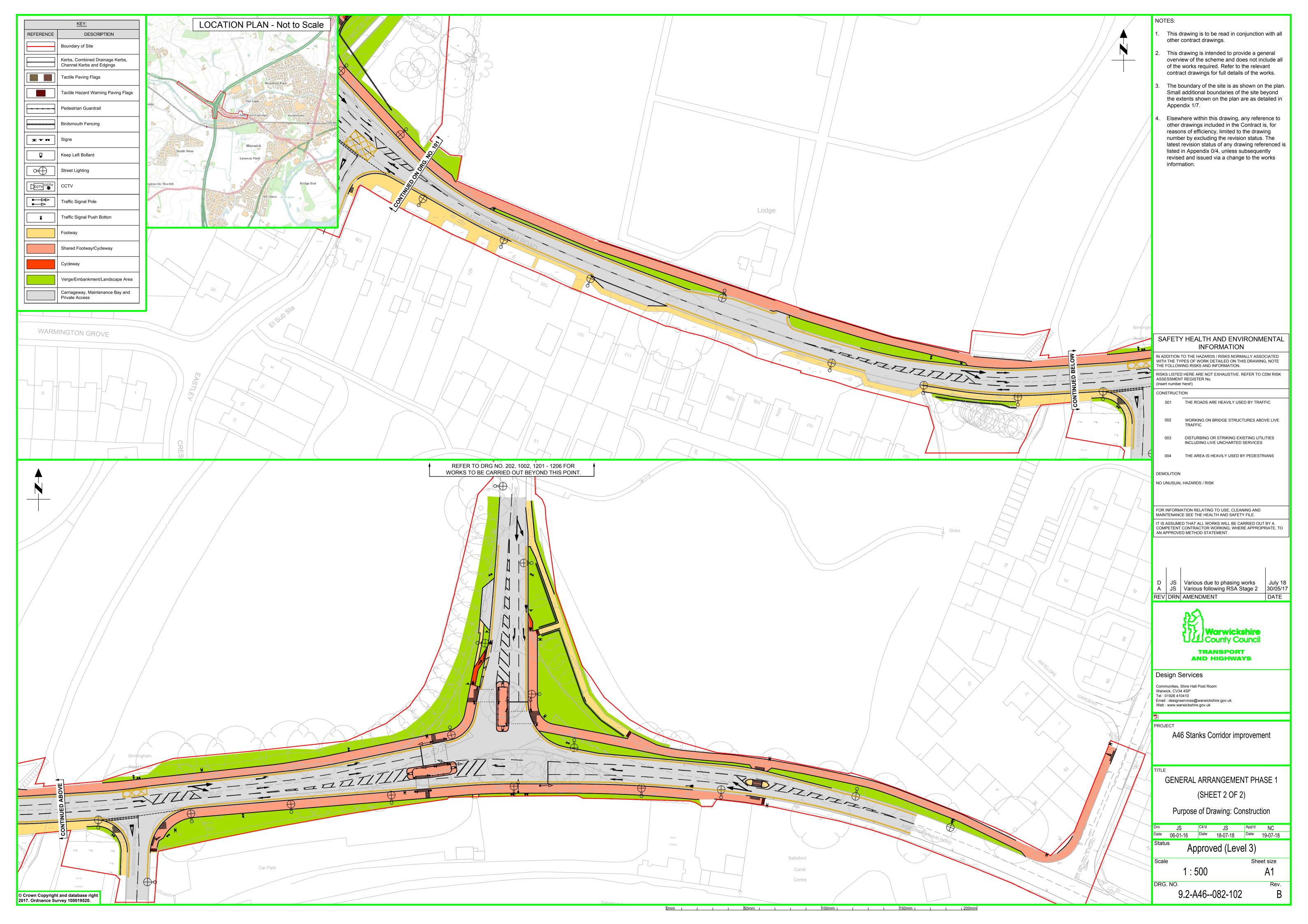
Appendix D - CIF Panel comments: A47 Hinckley Road

Appendix E - CIF Panel comments: Small capital grants

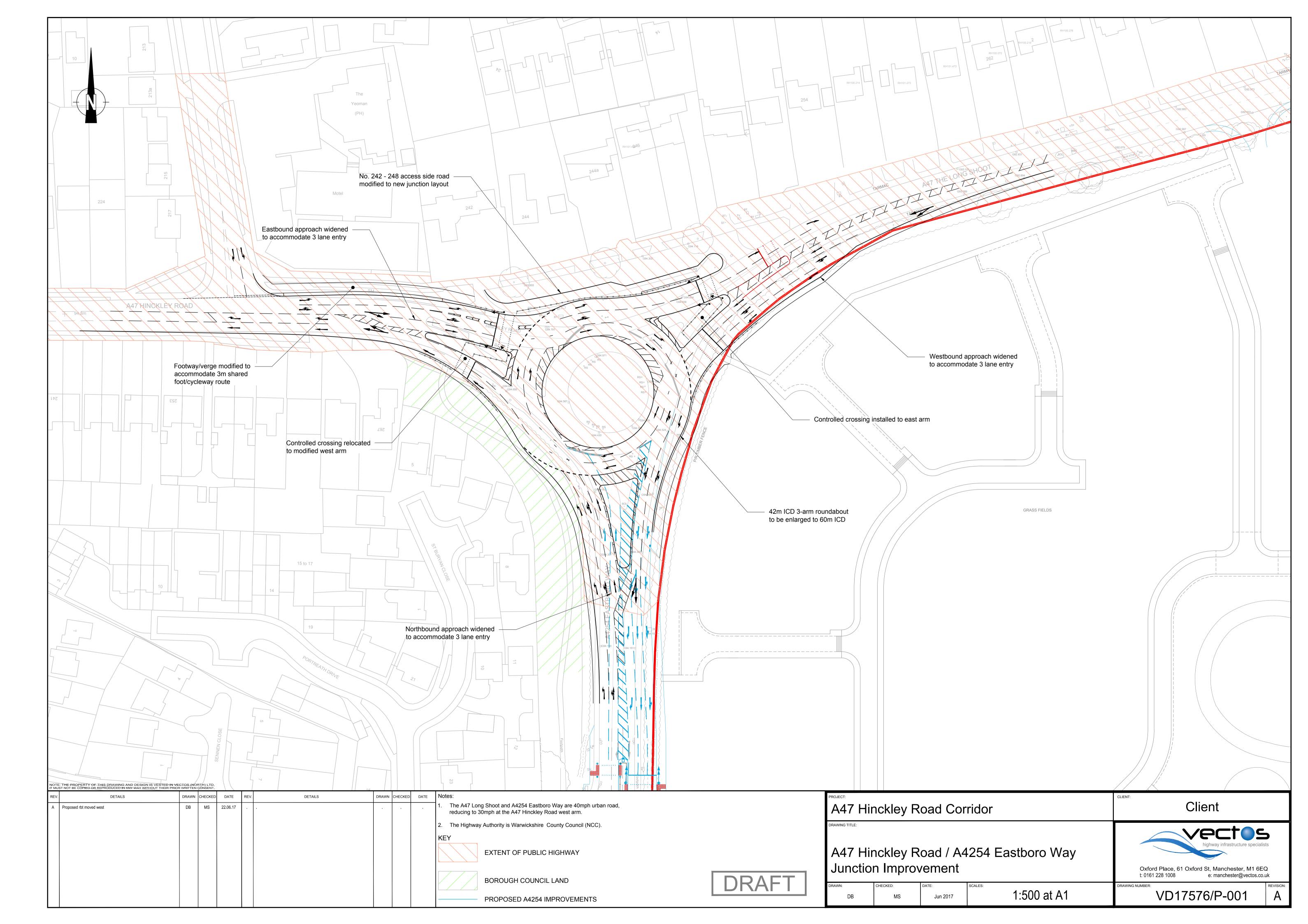
This report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

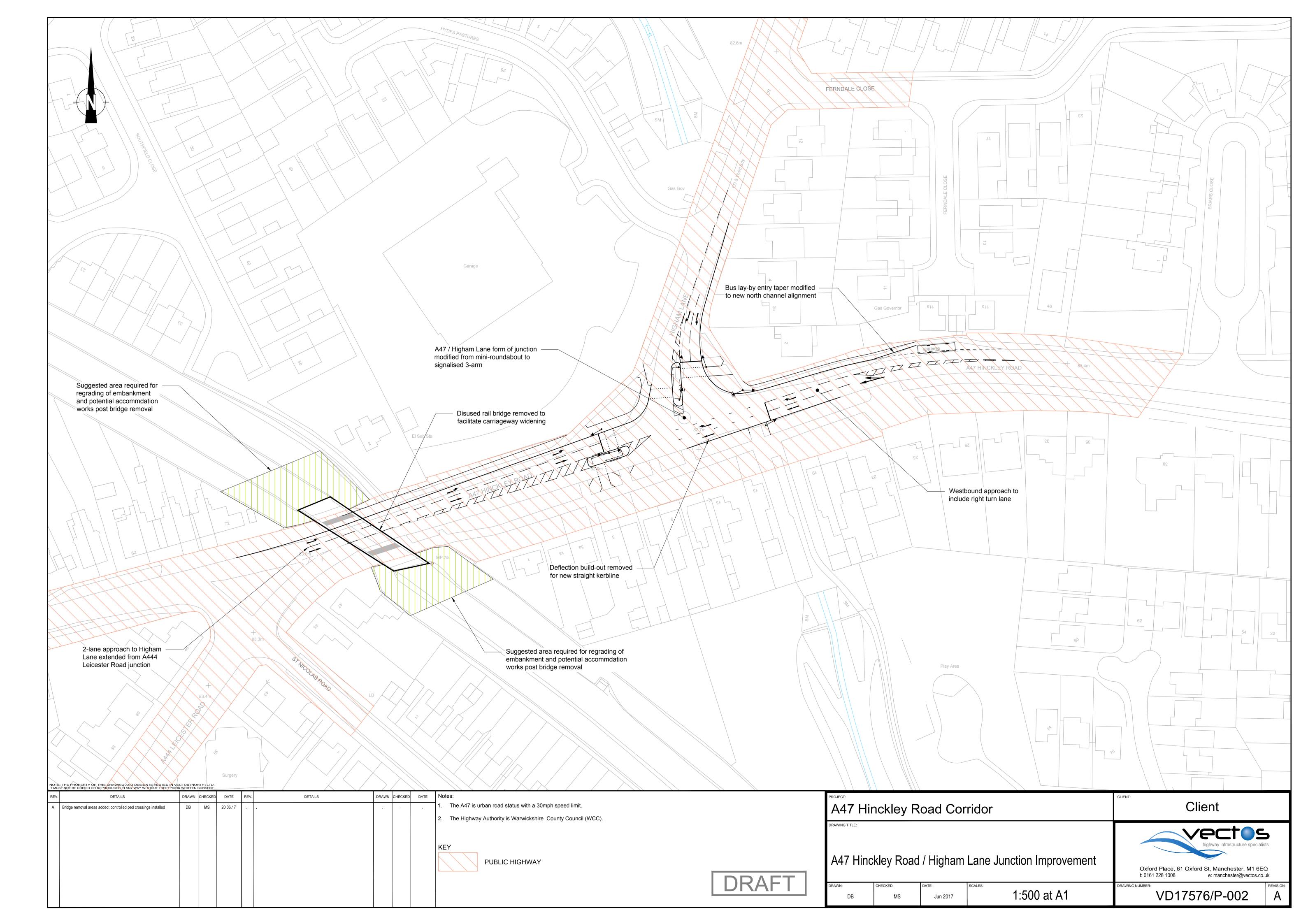
Cllr Seccombe, Cllr Butlin, Cllr Timms, Cllr Singh Birdi, Cllr Maggie O'Rourke, Cllr Boad

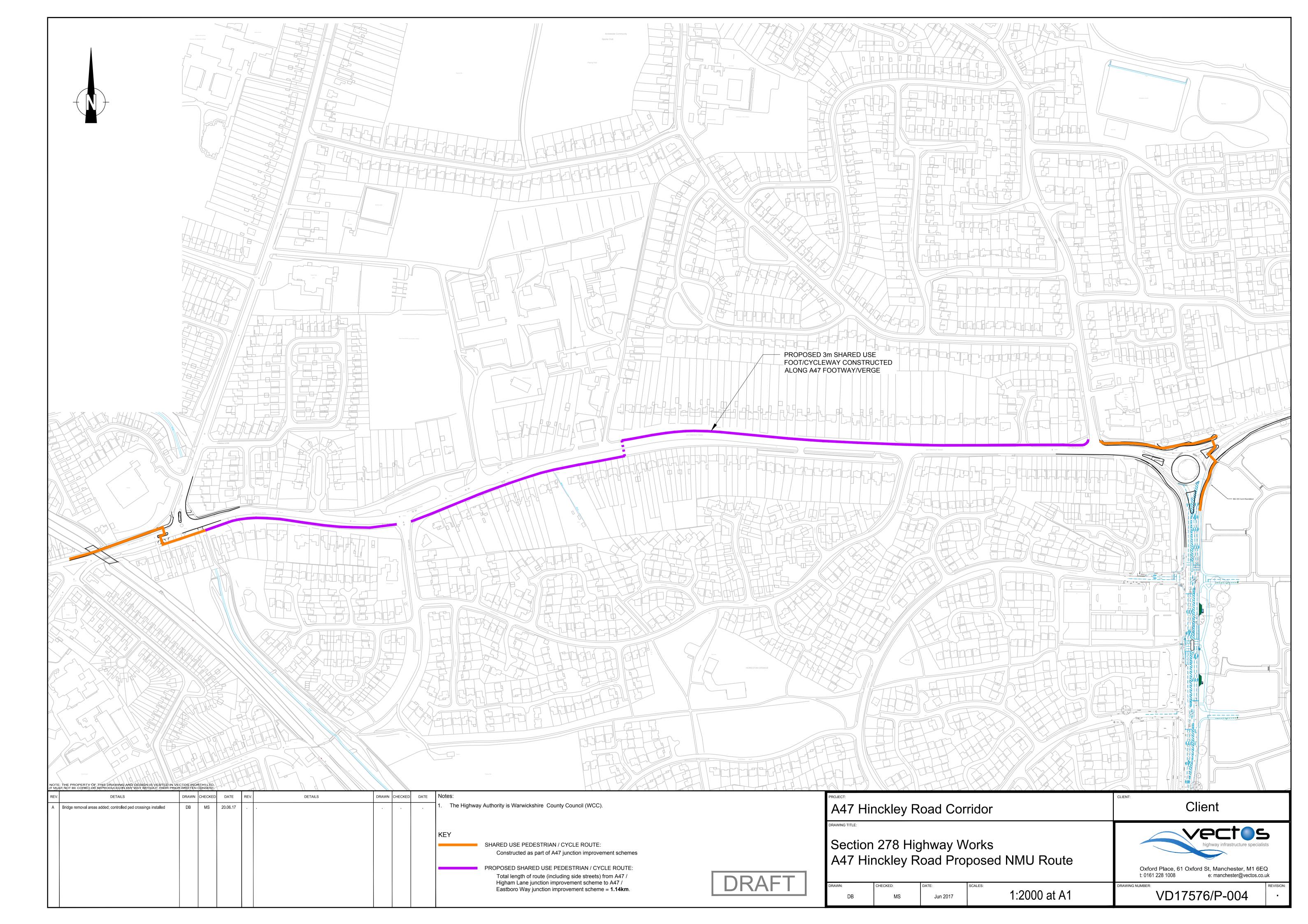




Appendix B







CIF Panel Comments

A46 Stanks Island and Birmingham Road Improvement Scheme

In considering the CIF bid, the Panel made the following comments:

- As the scheme had already been considered and previously added to the Capital Programme the Panel focussed on the additional funding element and financial viability.
- Scheme costs have increased by a net figure of £0.700m, with the dominant movements being an increase in construction cost which emerged during tendering, partially offset by a decrease in utility costs as a result of pre-tender redesign. In addition, scheme delays have led to the withdrawal of £0.400m Highways England funding in support of cycle schemes. These two impacts are presented in combination in the request for £1.100m extra WCC funding.
- The scheme funding package is still dependent on the allocation of £4.100m from the CWLEP, and this funding may be withdrawn as the original award letter is clear that this should all be spent by the end of 2017/18 and that slippage between years is not permitted. The Panel therefore recommends that Cabinet only approve the extra funding if it is satisfied that the CWLEP is prepared to change the allocation of its funding to suit the latest project timescales i.e. into 2019/20. The CWLEP's decision is expected to be confirmed by the date of Cabinet. If the CWLEP does not agree to make its funding available on the new timescale then the project would need to consider its funding options, which may include a fresh bid to the CIF for a much larger figure.
- The Panel recognised that as a Highways Authority it is the Council's responsibility and strategic objective to ensure that adequate infrastructure exists to support economic and housing growth and were satisfied that the proposed scheme connected into Warwick District Council's Local Plan and would help deliver growth as well as community benefits.

CIF Panel Comments

A47 Hinckley Road Corridor Scheme

In considering the CIF bid, the panel made the following comments:

- The Panel noted that consultation was still required with some key stakeholders, including the local community. Furthermore, the scheme is largely based upon the Borough Council's draft Local Plan, which in itself is still undergoing consultation and therefore subject to change.
- The Panel noted a significant risk regarding the Council's ability to deliver the scheme in time for the DfT's funding deadline of 31st March 2020. The DfT conditions allow for a (discretionary) clawback of funding if this deadline is not achieved, which could leave WCC forced to fill a funding gap if the scheme suffers delays. The project will require careful management to ensure no delays are encountered that compromise the DfT's funding.
- The scheme has four major components: a) works to the A47 Higham Lane junction (£0.728m), b) works to the A47/A425 Eastboro Way (£1.938m), c) demolition of the bridge over the unused railway line to the west of the Higham Lane junction (£0.290m), and d) construction of cycle facilities along the A47 off-carriageway (£0.529m). In financial terms, the DfT funding covers parts a) and b) while the proposed WCC and Highways England funding (£0.050m) covers parts c) and d). Parts a) and b) were included in an Economic Benefit analysis which suggests a good benefit/cost ratio of 2.4.
- Justification for the bridge works was to reduce the risk of high vehicle strikes and the Panel accepted that disruption could be minimised by undertaking the bridge works at the same time as the other works in the area.
- The Panel recognised the general case for creating and improving cycleway infrastructure whenever road schemes are being designed.

CIF Panel Comments

Small Capital Grants Scheme

In considering the CIF bid, the panel made the following comments:

- The bid acknowledges the need for substantial legal advice, not least in the area of State Aid, and the Panel agreed that this should be undertaken as early as possible to confirm the status of the scheme.
- The Panel noted that performance of the scheme to date had exceeded expectations; more jobs were created than anticipated, for example, and the input ratio of private sector funding was higher than expected. A number of positive case studies were also included with the bid.
- The Panel noted that whilst the geographical distribution of grants across the county seemed to be uneven, this reflects historical distribution of demand for the grants, which may be caused by a number of factors including the availability of other funding schemes in different parts of the county and the degree to which the lower tier council encourages the scheme locally.