

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Committee

Date of Committee 28th March 2007

Report Title Nuneaton Development Project - Phase 3

Summary This report requests that Area Committee recommends to Cabinet that the Phase 3 scheme proposals as shown on drawing 9-2-A444-35/08 be approved. The report includes details of the funding and proposed works.

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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 Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Committee
26th May 2004.
Cabinet 24th June 2004, 26th May 2005.
11th January 2007.

Local Member(s) Councillor B Hicks
(With brief comments, if appropriate) Councillor Mrs J Tandy

Other Elected Members

Cabinet Member Councillor M Heatley – for information.
(Reports to The Cabinet, to be cleared with appropriate Cabinet Member)

Chief Executive

Legal I Marriott – comments incorporated.

Finance V Rennie – 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 10th May 2007.
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee
- Further Consultation

Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Committee - 28th March 2007

Nuneaton Development Project - Phase 3

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

Recommendation

Area Committee recommends to Cabinet that the Phase 3 scheme proposals as shown on drawing 9-2-A444-35/08 in **Appendix A** (together with any subsequent minor modifications made by the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy) be approved and that construction be commenced in Autumn 2007.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 At the 26th May 2004 Area Committee meeting, it was resolved to support Phase 3 proposals, which were subsequently approved by Cabinet at the 24th June 2004 meeting.
- 1.2 The construction of Phases 1 and 2 of the project were largely completed in June 2004. However, as a result of inflation and increased utilities/service diversion costs, there was insufficient funding from the Department for Transport (DfT) allocation to construct Phase 3 and complete the project. An application was therefore made to the DfT for an additional allocation of £0.947 million to cover the increased costs up to 2004.
- 1.3 In 2006 the DfT allocated £710,000 of additional funding subject to the County Council providing £237,000 of match funding. However, as a result of high construction inflation since the application was made, there is now insufficient funding available to complete Phase 3 as previously agreed by Area Committee and Cabinet. Consequently Phase 3 works will need to be reduced to keep within the funding available.
- 1.5 The report details the revised Phase 3 proposals for support by Area Committee.

2. Current Status of Project

- 2.1 The construction of Phases 1 and 2 of the Project were completed in June 2004, which achieved one of the objectives of the project by removing traffic from the town centre and extending the existing pedestrian priority zone.

- 2.2 The second aim of the project, to promote alternative modes of transport by improving facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport, has also been achieved in part. Access for pedestrians and cyclists has been significantly improved with new cycle and pedestrian facilities around the ring road. Carriageway and junction changes have reduced bus journey times and also provided additional cycle and pedestrian facilities.
- 2.3 Further benefits for public transport and cycle access will be achieved on completion of the revised Phase 3 works.

3. Project Funding

- 3.1 The original DfT funding for the project was £5.5m which has now been increased by £710,000 to £6.21 million which is subject to £237,000 of match funding by the County Council. The total funding available for the project is therefore £6.541 million including £94,000 prior years cost and the match funding.
- 3.2 The benefits achieved by the revised Phase 3 proposals are similar to the original scheme and on the 8th February 2007 the DfT confirmed that they are content to fund the additional £710,000. As this is a major project, this sum is ring fenced.
- 3.3 On the 11th January 2007, Cabinet gave outline approval for the match funding and Council ratified this at the meeting in February 2007.
- 3.4 Cabinet allocated some of the match funding for the project at the meeting on 26th May 2005 whereby the capital receipts from the sale of surplus highway land on Roanne Ringway was allocated to the project. The land valuation is still being negotiated, however, the anticipated capital receipt is likely to be in the region of £160,000. The balance of the match funding, £77,000 will be from the integrated transport allocation for 2007/2008.

4. Revised Phase 3 Proposals

- 4.1 Following the public consultation in March 2004, the original Phase 3 proposals were approved in June 2004. These revised proposals are based on the previously approved scheme and are in accordance with the objectives of the project as outlined in section 2.
- 4.2 An A4 copy of drawing 9-2-A444-35/08 is included in **Appendix A** (coloured copies attached for Members of the Committee only). A larger 1:1250 scale drawing will be on display for the meeting.
- 4.3 The revised works are based on the original Phase 3 proposals and are outlined below:-
- (i) The Introduction of a bus gate at the end of Abbey Street. The bus gate would be controlled by the bus activating the pedestrian signals on Roanne Ringway which would stop traffic on the Ringway allowing the bus to turn left. This work also includes the widening of the Ringway to

allow two lanes in the anti-clockwise direction. This will allow the buses and other traffic to pass queuing right turning traffic waiting to turn into Queens Road.

- (ii) The completion and marking out of the shared pedestrian cycleway between Harefield Road to join up with the existing cycleways in the Vicarage Street area and other existing radial cycle routes around the Ring Road e.g. Queens Road. This will involve the installation of a number of new Toucan crossings and for the upgrading of some puffin/pedestrian controlled crossings to Toucan standards.
- (iii) Bus priority will be introduced at the Queens Road junction and the pedestrian crossing facilities upgraded to a Toucan facilities.
- (iv) The provision of cycle stands in various locations around the town centre.

5. Programme

May 2007	Cabinet approval of revised Phase 3 works
Autumn 2007	Start on site

6. Summary

- 6.1 The revised proposals for Phase 3 achieve the objectives laid down for the project.
- 6.2 These proposals offer increased benefits for pedestrians, cyclists and buses.
- 6.3 The extent of the work has been reduced to remaining within the existing funding and offers value for money by providing additional benefits.

7. Recommendation

- 7.1 That Area Committee supports the revised proposals and recommends to Cabinet that approval is given to Phase 3 scheme proposals as shown on the draft drawing No H/A444-35/05/B and that construction be commenced in the Autumn 2007.

JOHN DEEGAN
Strategic Director for Environment and Economy
Shire Hall
Warwick

14th March 2007