

Proposed Decision to be made by the Deputy Leader (Finance and Property) on or after 21 March 2018

A46 Stoneleigh Junction Improvements Addition to Capital Programme

Recommendation

That the Deputy Leader (Finance and Property) gives approval to add the following scheme to the Capital Programme for 2017-18, at an approximate cost of £630,000 fully funded from a revenue contribution:

A46 Stoneleigh Junction Improvements – development of detailed design, planning application, and technical approval

1.0 Key Issues

- 1.1 The A46 Stoneleigh Junction Improvement Scheme, also known as Phase 1 of the A46 Link Road Programme, will see a major improvement implemented at the Stoneleigh junction on the A46 between Coventry and Kenilworth to form a gyratory layout with a two bridge roundabout. This will involve installing a new bridge to the east of the existing junction and realigning Stoneleigh Road and Dalehouse Lane to the west of the junction. These revised arrangements will help address existing congestion and safety issues at the junction whilst also improving access to the University of Warwick and Stoneleigh Park. The scheme should also bring benefits to local communities during the construction of High Speed 2 (HS2).
- 1.2 The proposed improvements to the A46 Stoneleigh Junction form part of a number of construction works to take place in the area, namely changes to Stoneleigh Park, HS2 early works and HS2 main works. As part of the interface programming with these works, and in order to support the minimisation of the impact of HS2 construction traffic on the local road network, a key aim of the project is to complete works to tie in with the reported peak in HS2 construction traffic in spring 2020.
- 1.3 As part of the first Growth Deal agreed between Government and the Coventry and Warwickshire LEP, £19.6m was secured by Coventry City Council (CCC) towards the A46 Stoneleigh Junction Improvements. One of the principal drivers for this investment was to improve access to the University of Warwick and south west Coventry more generally.
- 1.4 Of the £19.6m, £1.542m has been allocated by the Department for Transport (DfT) to CCC for scheme development. This work has included the development of an outline feasibility design, completion of environmental,

ecological and archaeological surveys and investigations, preparation of the required land assembly, preparation of the planning application documentation, and preparation of the formal applications for release of funding. Release of the remaining monies from the DfT is subject to a Full Business Case application.

- 1.5 As part of the Devolution Deal agreed between the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) and CCC for improvement works in the South Coventry Package, £3.5m was also secured towards the A46 Stoneleigh Junction. Release of these monies is subject to a Full Business Case application to the WMCA.
- 1.6 Following scheme development, a revised scheme estimate, assured by an external independent consultant, sets the anticipated cost of the overall scheme at £33.1m.
- 1.7 An application has been prepared for £10m from the WCC Capital Investment Fund (CIF). If successful, these monies will complete overall scheme funding package. The application is due to be heard by Cabinet in April 2018 and Full Council in May 2018.

2.0 Proposal

- 2.1 In order to maintain progress on the completion of the detailed design package and resolution of the technical approval process with Highways England it is critical that development continues to progress with the aim of starting construction in autumn 2018. Work cannot therefore be delayed until Council is able to decide whether to approve the full funding package in May.
- 2.2 It is therefore proposed that revenue funding be allocated to cover development costs of the Scheme in the interim before the release of the full funding package.
- 2.3 The allocation of this funding is expected to be repaid once the CIF monies are allocated to the Scheme. It should be noted that should the CIF application be rejected then the funding allocated through the Revenue Contribution would be covered permanently by the Transport and Economy Revenue Budget.
- 2.4 A total of £630,000 would be required from Revenue, phased as follows:

Month	Amount
March 2018	£200,000
April 2018	£215,000
May 2018	£215,000
Total	£630,000

3.0 Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

3.1 Subject to the recommendation being agreed it is expected that the following key milestones are programmed:

Key Date	Activity
May 2018	Completion of detailed design CIF Application heard at Full Council Planning Application heard at WCC Regulatory Committee
June 2018	Submission of WMCA Application
August 2018	Receipt of Tender price
August/Sept 2018	Submission of DfT Application
Autumn 18/19	Receipt of funding approvals from external bodies
Autumn 18/19	Completion of Land Acquisitions
Autumn/Winter 18/19	Start of main construction works
Spring 2020	Scheme open to traffic

Background papers

None

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

Local Members:

Cllr Redford
Cllr Cockburn
Cllr Shilton
Cllr Cooke

Other members:

Cllr Clarke