

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee **Rugby Area Committee**

Date of Committee **24th May 2007**

Report Title **Proposed Abandonment of the Boughton Road Relief Road**

Summary
An improvement line has been historically protected by the County Council for the Boughton Road Relief Road. This would have provided a new highway link between the A426 Leicester Road Tesco roundabout and the Boughton Road near its junction with Waterside Drive. The need for the Relief Road will be removed following the construction of the proposed Link Road as part of the redevelopment of the former Alstom/GEC site. Area Committee is asked to recommend to Cabinet that this scheme be formally abandoned once detailed planning permission for the site has been granted by Rugby Borough Council and a S106 agreement has been signed to secure the delivery of the Link Road. Area Committee is also asked to endorse that officers carry out further work to investigate the opportunities for reducing traffic impact on Boughton Road, following the redevelopment of the former Alstom/GEC site.

For further information please contact Adrian Hart
Team Leader - Transport Planning
Tel. 01926 735667
adrianhart@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)
(With brief comments, if appropriate)

Councillor Ms K King – “I fully support the proposals, especially the complementary improvements as these are vital to ensure that the benefits of the new link road to residents of Boughton Road are maximised.”
Councillor J Wells

Other Elected Members

.....

Cabinet Member
(Reports to The Cabinet, to be cleared with appropriate Cabinet Member)

Councillor M Heatley – for information.

Chief Executive

.....

Legal

I Marriott – comments noted and incorporated.

Finance

C Holden – comments noted and incorporated.

Other Chief Officers

.....

District Councils

Rugby Borough Council – support the abandonment of the scheme.

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 be reported to Cabinet once detailed planning permission for the site has been granted by Rugby Borough Council and a S106 agreement has been signed to secure the delivery of the Link Road.

To an O & S Committee

.....

To an Area Committee

That a further report be brought before the Area Committee to set out the findings of the investigative work recommended in the report. Date to be agreed in due course.

Further Consultation

.....

Rugby Area Committee - 24th May 2007

Proposed Abandonment of the Boughton Road Relief Road

Report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy

Recommendation

That Area Committee:-

1. Recommends to Cabinet that this scheme be formally abandoned once detailed planning permission for the site has been granted by Rugby Borough Council and a S106 agreement has been signed to secure the delivery of the Link Road.
2. Endorses investigation of the opportunities for reducing the impact of traffic on Boughton Road, following the redevelopment of the former Alstom/GEC site.

1. Background

- 1.1 An improvement line has been historically protected by the County Council for the Boughton Road Relief Road. This would have provided a new highway link between the A426 Leicester Road Tesco roundabout and the Boughton Road near its junction with Waterside Drive. The scheme has been identified in the County Council's wider programme of transport schemes for many years, but with little prospect of it being delivered in its intended format even in the long term due to issues of local opposition, land acquisition, cost and priority from the public.
- 1.2 If implemented on the protected improvement line, the scheme would have had significant negative environmental effects on local residents and the nearby River Avon corridor. Whilst it remains in the County's wider programme the scheme creates blight and uncertainty for local residents and businesses.
- 1.3 Construction of the proposed Link Road as part of the redevelopment of the former Alstom/GEC site will remove the justification for the Boughton Road Relief Road. This will deliver a new road between the A426 Leicester Road and Mill Road, less than half a mile to the south of the protected alignment of the Relief Road. It is anticipated that the Link Road, if implemented in conjunction with other improvements in the vicinity of the site, will deliver similar benefits to the Relief Road. The protected alignment of the Boughton Road Relief Road and the proposed alignment of the new Link Road are shown in **Appendix A**.

- 1.4 Rugby Borough Council has recently granted outline planning permission for the redevelopment of the former Alstom/GEC site, including the proposed Link Road. Now that this redevelopment is more certain, it is considered an appropriate time to begin the process of removing the Boughton Road Relief Road from the County Council's wider transport programme.

2. Alternative Scheme to the Boughton Road Relief Road

- 2.1 Over the last three years, the County Council has been working closely with Rugby Borough Council and St Modwen to develop and prepare a Masterplan for the former Alstom/GEC site on Leicester Road. This process culminated in the site being allocated for development in the Borough Council's Local Plan, which was adopted last year.
- 2.2 The preparation of the Masterplan included the identification of a set of transportation improvements to complement the development. An assessment of the Boughton Road Relief Road was undertaken as part of the assessment of local highway access needs. This concluded:-
- (i) That following the building of a number of housing developments off Waterside Drive, the planned route of the Relief Road would now result in a greater impact on residencies than was previously planned, and as such would generate significant local objection; and
 - (ii) That notwithstanding this, highway access improvements would still be required to the Leicester Road site itself, and as such a new highway link between Mill Road and Leicester Road could deliver a similar set of benefits to the Relief Road.
- 2.3 In light of these conclusions, it was agreed that the second option should be developed to form part of the overall Masterplan. It was agreed that the new link would not deliver the benefits of the Boughton Road Relief Road on its own, and that other complimentary improvements would also be required.
- 2.4 The preparation of the Masterplan for the former Alstom/GEC site has resulted in the following proposals to replace the Boughton Road Relief Road:-
- (i) Provision of a new 7.4m wide highway from Mill Road to the existing Leicester Road access to the Junction One Retail Park. The link would be signal controlled at each end, and include an off-carriageway cycleway and a number of pedestrian crossings; and
 - (ii) Provision of an improvement to the junction of Mill Road/Butlers Leap/Boughton Road, in the form of traffic signals. The phasing of these signals along with those at the junction of the Link Road with Mill Road will be designed to encourage the use of the Link Road for through traffic, rather than Boughton Road.

It has been agreed that these works will be funded by St Modwen through a S106 Agreement with the County Council.

- 2.5 In February 2007, Rugby Borough Council granted outline planning permission for the redevelopment of the former Alstom/GEC site, including the proposed Link Road. It is anticipated that a detailed set of planning applications will follow in due course, and that at an appropriate point the Link Road will be granted permission. It is proposed to submit a report to Cabinet recommending that the Boughton Road Relief Road be formally abandoned once detailed planning permission for the site has been granted by Rugby Borough Council and a S106 agreement has been signed to secure the delivery of the Link Road.
- 2.6 Rugby Borough Council has confirmed that it supports the abandonment of the scheme.

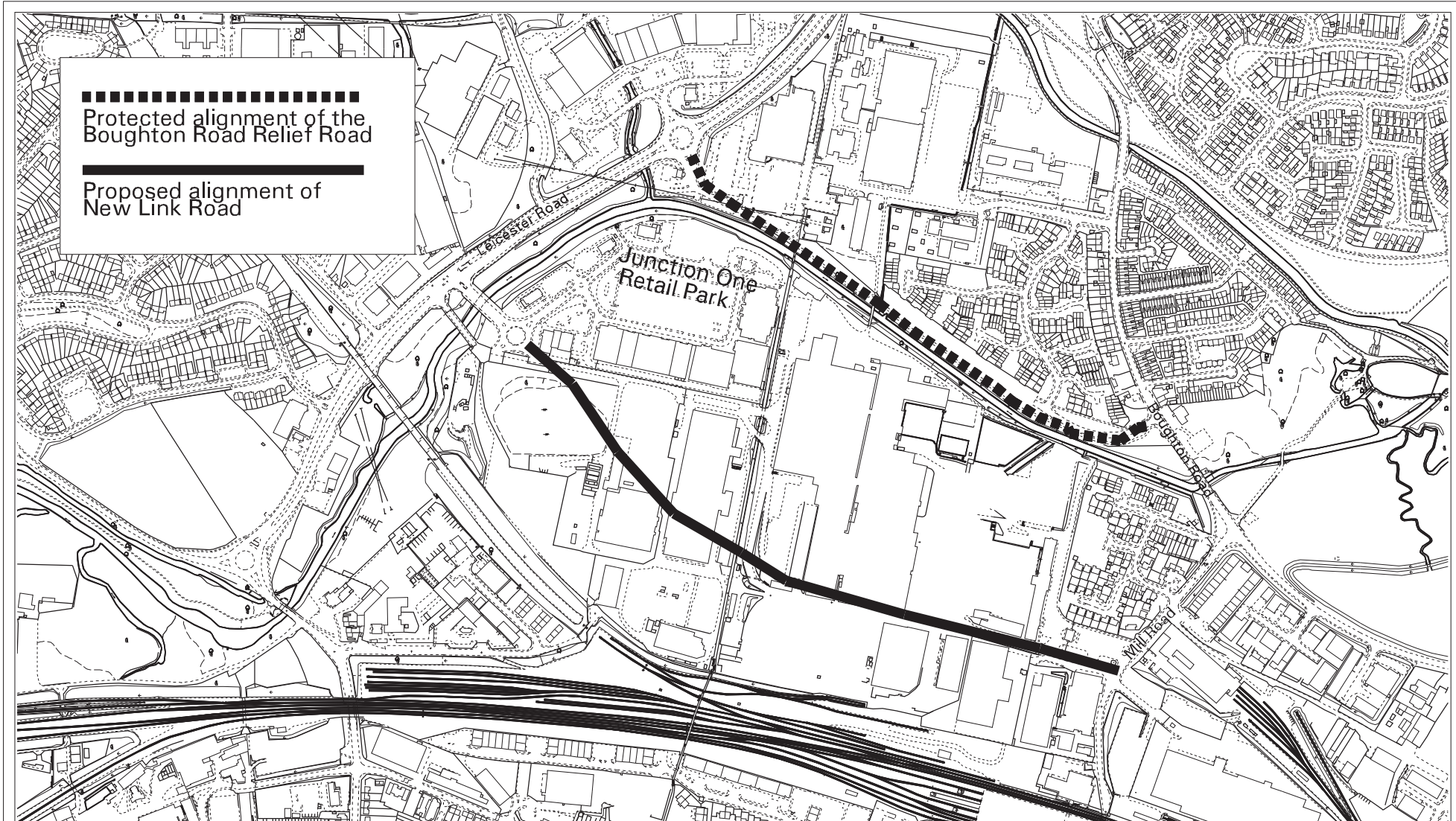
3. Further Opportunities to Reduce Traffic on Boughton Road

- 3.1 It is anticipated that the improvements described above will result in less traffic utilising Boughton Road for through journeys. To reinforce this however, it is recommended that further work be undertaken by officers to investigate the opportunities for reducing the impact of traffic on Boughton Road. This will need to take into account the use of Boughton Road by bus services, specifically Stagecoach Service 4 (Brownsover to the town centre).

JOHN DEEGAN
Strategic Director for Environment and Economy
Shire Hall
Warwick

4th May 2007

APPENDIX A



Scale **NOT TO SCALE**

Ref No

Drawn **C BURROWS**

Checked **AH**

QA Form 19
02/96

Rugby Area Committee 24th May 2007

Subject
Proposed Abandonment of the Boughton Road Relief Road

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office
© Crown Copyright 2006

Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.
Warwickshire County Council, 100018285, 2006

