

Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

O&S - Bermuda Connectivity

22 September 2021

Recommendation(s)

1. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to note and comment on this report.

1. Background and Progress

- 1.1 Bermuda Connectivity is a highway scheme, focused on opening up the existing bridge to two-way traffic, delivering additional highway capacity, and improved connectivity between West Nuneaton and Griff roundabout. The scheme will deliver the following range of benefits for the local community in the wider West Nuneaton area.
- 1.2 Contribute towards reducing journey times for local residents on a number of routes in the West Nuneaton area
- 1.3 Contribute towards reducing congestion in parts of the town centre, thus, improving links onto the A444 in Nuneaton for residents in other parts of the town
- 1.4 Enhance accessibility to local businesses, amenities and residential areas, particularly in Bermuda and adjoining areas
- 1.5 Support economic growth in Nuneaton by enhancing accessibility to existing and future local jobs
- 1.6 Improve connectivity to Bermuda Park Rail Station.
- 1.7 Provide an improved environment for cyclists and pedestrians to increase mode choice and accessibility
- 1.8 Drive forward further economic growth in Nuneaton, including potential employment and housing development along the new highway link route
- 1.9 Complement the wider economic aspirations of the Coventry and Warwickshire subregion, such as Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP) Strategic Economic Plan
- 1.10 CR Reynolds are the principal contractor carrying out the construction works.

- 1.11 Management of roadworks applications required to start various elements of works, based on the updated programme, are ongoing.
- 1.12 Works are continuing along St George's Way, to establish off-road cycleways and footways.
- 1.13 The works programme has been updated, Revision F. A revised programme was required due to on site findings, meaning the previous programme was unachievable. There has been an implication in cost, in that Compensation Events totalling £60K have been submitted, but the revised programme has reworked other elements, meaning the proposed finish is still attainable.
- 1.14 A review of the remediation design required to update the Gas Barrier located on the west approach to the Bermuda Bridge deck is in progress. This will ensure that there is an effective system in place controlling environmental conditions.
- 1.15 The next step is to start the works on/under the Bermuda Bridge. This will require access from the A444 to complete the works under the bridge.

2. Financial Implications

2.1 The scheme has a funding of £10.359M, which can be broken down as:

WCC Growth Fund	£3.202M
WCC CIF	£5.657M
CWLEP Growth Deal	£0.5M
CWLEP Growing Places Infrastructure Fund	£1.00M
Total	£10.359M

2.2 Current spend against the scheme stands at £3.44M, which includes for the design and development of the scheme including some of the land acquisition

2.3 The scheme estimates are broken down as follows:

Scheme Development – WCC	£1.793M
Scheme Development – External	£1.456M
Land Acquisition	£0.664M
Works	£4.834M
Part 1 Compensation Claims	£1.5M
Contingency	£0.112M
Total	£10.359M

- 2.4 The key financial risk is the services of a Construction Quality Assurance (CQA) Engineer, in relation to the gas barrier remediation. This is to ensure that the maintenance works carried out on the gas barrier are to standard, along with various accounted, and as yet unaccounted Compensation Events throughout the construction. To date, CE's totalling £60K have been received. It is expected that further CE's will be submitted, putting pressure on the contingency. We are monitoring site works and budget closely to ensure that the scheme will be delivered on time and on budget.

3 Environmental Implications

- 3.1 The Scheme was tested in the 2017 Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Wide Area Traffic Model, which projected a number of benefits should arise from delivery including a reduction in journeys times on a number of routes in West Nuneaton and reduced congestion in parts of the town centre, hence, improving links onto the A444 in other parts of the town.
- 3.2 The environmental impact review of the Scheme found that it would not have a significant adverse effect on air quality even on the roads experiencing an increase in traffic, but it is projected that residential properties at certain locations will be adversely impacted by increased noise levels.
- 3.3 **Gas Barrier** - A gas barrier implemented by developers in 2006 to provide protection to new build properties providing gas venting protection for a land fill site, which sits to the west of Bermuda Bridge has been subject to monitoring over the last 5 months. This monitoring was required to determine whether the gas barrier was functioning correctly and to confirm a suitable design where it will be extended to allow for the new road levels. The design of the gas barrier is ongoing, but a monetary allowance has been included in the scheme budget to complete the remedial works.
- 3.4 **Japanese Knotweed** – was found during exploratory works for the project located on the Bermuda Bridge and an area on the Bridleway. Further to this in 2018 WCC procured remediation through a specialist contract to remove the contaminated soils from site and manage ongoing treatments to destroy and contain this invasive plant.

4 Next Steps

- 4.1 The contractor is currently working to revision F of the Programme which allows for early delays with works on St Georges Way.
- 4.2 The current project milestones are:

Works Description	Completion
Complete Footpath/Cycleway works on St Georges Way	Winter 21
Bermuda Bridge Works – preparation works to create	Winter 21/22

required ground levels for the new road, prepare remediation works for Gas Barrier alignment.	
Highway works on the Bridleway	Winter/Spring 22
Completion	Winter 22/23

Background Papers

None

	Name	Contact Information
Report Author	Daniel Cresswell Colin Smith	danielcresswell@warwickshire.gov.uk colin smith@warwickshire.gov.uk
Assistant Director	Scott Tompkins	scotttompkins@warwickshire.gov.uk
Strategic Director	Strategic Director for Communities	markryder@warwickshire.gov.uk
Portfolio Holder	Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning	wallaceredford@warwickshire.gov.uk

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

Local Member(s): Cllr Clare Golby

Other members: n/a