

Portfolio Holder Decision

A452 Europa Way Corridor Improvement (WCC-3)

Portfolio Holder	Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning
Date of decision	4 August 2023
	Signed

1. Decision taken

The Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning

1. Considers the reasons for objection as appended to this Report at Appendix 2 and if satisfied that the scheme should proceed despite the objection lodged

2. Approves the progression of the A452 Europa Way Corridor Improvement (WCC-3) consisting of the introduction of traffic signals with pedestrian crossing facilities on the 'Fords Foundry and Queensway roundabouts, as shown on the plans at Appendix 1.

2. Reasons for decisions

- 2.1 Following the consultation and subsequent engagement work between officers and objectors, there remains a single objection. That objection relates to the Council's overall record and approach to active travel and promotion of highways schemes and not to the specifics of the scheme at A452 Europa Way Corridor Improvement (WCC-3).

- 2.2 It remains the view of highways officers that this scheme is required to ensure that the volume of traffic across the corridor now, and increases anticipated arising from developments and job creation along the A452 Europa Way corridor can be effectively and safely accommodated.

3. Background information

- 3.1 A statutory consultation took place from 9th February 2023 to 14th March 2023 on proposals for the signalisation of the roundabouts of Fords Foundry and Queensway roundabouts together with a Toucan crossing on Myton Road. A total of three objections were received during this consultation period.

- 3.2 Through dialogue and changes in the design approach two of the objectors' concerns have been removed. However, one objection remains. The reasons for the objection from the remaining objector are paraphrased below. All correspondence relating to the objection including officers' replies can be seen

within the supporting documentation appended to this report.

Main points from 1st Objector Letter (Dated 17/02/2023)

- Concerns over the evidence that justifies the comment that “cycling and walking” will be promoted and incentivised.
- Lack of meaningful cycling provision.
- Walking routes have been provided only where they fit into the junction signalisation plan and deviate significantly from desire lines.
- Lack of crossing facility from the new developments on the Western side of Europa Way towards Leamington Shopping Park and business district.
- Once this scheme is delivered, how do you intend to deal with the induced traffic.
- Concerns around increased air quality resulting from queuing or slow-moving traffic.

Main points from 2nd Objector Letter (Dated 13/06/2023)

- Frustration that the council seems infinitely better at delivering highway capacity schemes than any form of sustainable or active travel project.
- The proposed scheme only serves to encourage greater car dependency with limited opportunity for vulnerable road user provision.

- 3.3 The proposed highway improvements at the Fords Foundry and Queensway roundabouts will see each of these junctions become signalised. This is considered to be essential to accommodate the perceived increase in traffic now and in future arising from developments and job creation along the A452 Europa Way corridor and form growth outside the immediate corridor. Without such enhancements to effectively manage traffic demand, then the predicted growth in the area is unlikely to be fully realised, as delays and congestion will continue to be a barrier unless improvements are made.
- 3.4 Signalisation will form the principal means of traffic control and management, however measures such as additional lane provision and continued promotion and improvement of pedestrian and cycling are also being considered in connection with the proposals. This includes enhanced facilities across Fords Foundry field and adjacent to the McDonalds restaurant which in turn links to the National Cycle Route.
- 3.5 The improvements will also see several improvements to crossing facilities for pedestrians and cyclists, enabling them to cross Tachbrook Park Drive and the Europa northbound approaches to both roundabouts. A standalone Toucan Crossing on Myton Road is also proposed.
- 3.6 The inclusion of a pedestrian crossing on the southern arm of the Queensway roundabout, which was not illustrated in the plan included as part of the consultation, has since been included as part of the overall scheme proposal to further address issues raised by respondents to the consultation. It is subject to Road Safety Audit process.
- 3.7 The second piece of correspondence suggests that the residual reason for objection relates to the perception of the objector that the Council is too focused on delivering highway improvements that benefit car travel to the detriment of

active travel and sustainable modes of travel. As such the objection now seems to be to the Council's generic approaches to cycling and walking provision and not specifically related to this scheme.

3.8 The highway scheme will deliver notable benefits to cycling and walking through the inclusion of pedestrian crossings and improved links which reinforces the connectivity to facilities and amenities that largely removes the barriers towards cycling and walking being considered as a viable alternative to the private car.

4. Financial implications

4.1 The cost of the improvements will be £6.3 million which was secured by Section 106 monies principally from developments present on the western side of the A452 Europa Way corridor. Additional funding of £3.6 million was provided by Coventry & Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP).

5. Environmental implications

5.1 The scheme once constructed will deliver notable benefits to the highway network in terms of reducing traffic delays and congestion across the network. Without such an improvement then these delays could have implications on air quality and the health and wellbeing of persons.

Report Author	Simon Prescott simonprescott@warwickshire.gov.uk,
Assistant Director	Scott Tompkins Director of Environment, Planning and Transport
Strategic Director	Mark Ryder Executive Director for Communities
Portfolio Holder	Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning

Urgent matter?	No
Confidential or exempt?	No
Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?	No

List of background papers

- Appendix 1 – Highways Consultation Plan
- Appendix 2 - Email thread of objection(s) and Officers response in reply
- Appendix 3 – Public Notice

Members and officers consulted and informed

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Jan Matecki

Executive Director – Mark Ryder

Director – Scott Tompkins

Head of Service – Nicola van der Hoven

Legal – Caroline Gutteridge and Nichola Vine

Finance – Andrew Felton

Equality – Joanna Kemp

Democratic Services – Isabelle Moorhouse

Councillors – Chilvers and Birdi