

Cabinet Member Decision – Economy, Skills and Infrastructure Monday, 2 March 2015

Agenda

Item No	Subject	Page No
1	Recommendations on Final Detail of Phase 3 of the Southern Link Road Scheme having regard to the Public Engagement Exercise	1 - 4

This page is intentionally left blank

Cabinet Member Decision

2 March 2015

RECOMMENDATIONS ON FINAL DETAIL OF PHASE 3 OF THE SOUTHERN LINK ROAD SCHEME HAVING REGARD TO THE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT EXERCISE

Relevant Cabinet Member	Mr S E Geraghty
Relevant Officer	Director of Business, Environment and Community
Local Members	Mr R C Adams, Mr M L Bayliss, Mr R J Sutton
Recommendation	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Economy, Skills and Infrastructure is recommended to approve the recommendations in relation to the Southern Link Road scheme as set out in paragraph 6 below.
Background Information	<ol style="list-style-type: none">At its meeting on 25 September 2014, Cabinet delegated decisions on the final detail of Phase 3 of the Southern Link Road scheme to the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Economy, Skills and Infrastructure in consultation with the Director of Business, Environment and Community. These decisions were to be informed by a public engagement exercise focused on environmental mitigation measures.The public engagement exercise ran from 4 November 2014 to 31 December 2014 and as well as explaining the strategic context of the scheme and how and when it would be delivered, sought to capture residents' and other stakeholders' views on possible environmental mitigation measures. This report makes recommendations regarding the detail of the scheme in the light of these responses.29 survey responses and two letters were received following the engagement exercise which included presentations, exhibitions, meetings, letters, emails, posters and website coverage. The responses are included in the report on the findings of the engagement exercise which is available online (www.worcestershire.gov.uk/slrphase3), and form the basis of the recommendations in this report. A small number of comments were received which fall outside the scope of this report but in summary they refer to

doubling the Carrington Road Bridge, a preference for "fly-overs", the Whittington Roundabout, lane markings, predicted traffic growth, perceived benefits of a Northern Link Road and a third river crossing, a web link not working, potential impact on house values, compensation, a dedicated Malvern junction on the M5 and the removal of roundabouts along the Southern Link Road.

5. A summary of issues raised that are within the scope of this report is as follows:

- Potential increase in noise levels both during and after construction
- Landscaping
- Potential increase in light levels impacting on residents
- The impact of night closures
- Traffic Management during construction
- Safety of cyclists and pedestrians crossing over the A4440 both during and after construction
- Safety of badgers
- Co-lateral community benefits e.g. to Power Park.

Recommendations

6. The recommendations are as follows:

Mitigation during construction

- (a) The control of noise levels during construction should be managed in accordance with statutory guidance and advice from Worcestershire Regulatory Services;
- (b) Construction traffic should not be allowed in residential areas;
- (c) Night closures should be kept to a minimum but where they are necessary, the public should be informed in advance;
- (d) A Traffic Management regime should be employed that ensures that as little disruption is caused to traffic as possible compatible with the safe and efficient management of the works. Lanes should be clearly marked where appropriate;
- (e) An at-grade uncontrolled crossing with a central refuge should be maintained during the construction phase in the vicinity of the Norton Roundabout pending the opening of the proposed pedway bridge to the west of the Norton Roundabout.

Mitigation following construction

- (f) The bridleway bridge that is to be constructed over the A4440 between the Norton and Whittington

Roundabouts should be constructed in such a manner that it is accessible to horse riders, cyclists and pedestrians;

- (g) The County Council should work closely with the developer who is responsible for the pedway bridge to the west of the Norton Roundabout to ensure that is suitable for pedestrians and cyclists and links to existing cycle and pedestrian routes;
- (h) Modelling suggests that there will be no perceptible increase in noise levels for any occupied properties following completion of the proposed works and as such there is no requirement to install mitigation measures such as earth bunding or noise attenuation fencing. However, where the County Council is in control of the land required to do so, it is recommended that consideration is given to minimising the visual impact of the works through measures such as bunding, fencing and/or soft landscaping (planting). These proposals should be developed in association with affected residents/local stakeholders;
- (i) The lighting scheme should ensure that the highway is lit to current standards. The design and location of the lamps should minimise the impact of light-spillage and glare to residential properties;
- (j) There are no trees that need to be removed that are subject to a Tree Preservation Order, however, replacement planting (predominantly native species) should be carried out to mitigate any losses;
- (k) All protected species and their habitats should be dealt with in accordance with statutory requirements and any advice received from Natural England.

Legal, Financial, HR and Equality Implications

7. There are no HR or negative equality implications associated with the recommendations and no legal or financial issues that had not already been allowed for e.g. no additional land acquisition would be required.

Supporting Information

- The A4440 Worcester Southern Link Road Improvements – Phase 3: Norton Whittington Public Engagement Exercise Report available at: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/slrphase3

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

Worcester (01905) 763763, Kidderminster (01562) 822511 or Minicom: Worcester (01905) 766399

Specific Contact Points for this report

Rachel Hill – Programme Director (01905) 728580
Email: RJHill@worcestershire.gov.uk

Background Papers

Andy Maginnis – Programme and Commissioning Manager
(01905) 766160

Email: AMaginnis@worcestershire.gov.uk

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Director of Business, Environment and Community Services) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:-

Agenda and background papers for the Cabinet meeting held on 25 September 2014