

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

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| Decision Maker: | Executive Member – Environment |
| Date: | 29 June 2010 |
| Title: | Project Appraisal: Northern Avenue, Andover - Cycles and Accessibility Improvements |
| Reference: | 1585 |
| Report From: | Director of Environment |

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1. The decision: **(PROPOSED)**

- a) That the project appraisal for a shared use cycleway between Cricketers Way and West Street, Andover, at an estimated cost of £365,000, be approved.
- b) That, under the powers contained in Sections 65 and 66 of the Highways Act 1980, the existing and proposed footways which comprise this scheme be formally converted to shared use for pedestrians and cyclists.

2. Reasons for the decision:

2.1 This scheme aims to improve accessibility to the town centre, provide a safer environment for all road users including cyclists and enhance the main pedestrian route between northern settlement areas of Andover with the bus station and the town centre. The route will form part of a substantial section of shared use cycle network identified in the Test Valley Borough Council Cycle strategy. This strategy has already made provision of southern and eastern cycle routes around the town centre in accordance with the aspiration to complete a circular route, identified as essential in the Andover Town Access Plan.

2.2 The widening of footways, the provision of Toucan crossing technology and the upgrading of some street lighting will make it easier for pedestrians and cyclists to access local facilities and will provide a safer environment for people to cross the road. The route will improve accessibility for all including the more vulnerable users who need to access the town centre shops and other amenities.

2.3 Two major development areas, known as Picket Twenty and East Anton north of the town centre, are expected to provide over 3,700 new dwellings. This

proposed cycle route will provide improved access to the town centre for these new developments and to the existing northern settlement areas of Andover.

2.4 Approval of the scheme will contribute towards:

(i) 'Making Hampshire Safer and more secure for all'

Improvements to footways and cycle networks encourage healthier options for travel which can make a positive contribution to a reduction to our carbon footprint by reducing traffic congestion and improved air quality.

(ii) 'Maximising well-being'

Ensuring that the town centre of Andover and all of its facilities and services are accessible for all sections of the community including the mobility impaired, help maximise wellbeing and promote a reduced reliance on motor vehicle traffic.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

3.1. To do nothing was rejected as the improvements are needed to provide a safer environment for residents and commuters to the town centre and the other connecting circuitous cycle routes to the important industrial, business and retail areas of Andover.

3.2. Improvements to other areas of Andover have been considered but are restricted by the terms of the developer contribution agreement which fund this scheme.

4. Conflicts of interest:

4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: none.

4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: none.

5. Dispensation granted by the Standards Committee: none.

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:

Date:

29 June 2010

**Executive Member for Environment
Councillor M J Kendal**