

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive member - Environment
<b>Date:</b>	21 July 2010
<b>Title:</b>	Project Appraisal: Alençon Link, Basingstoke – Bus Interchange Improvements
<b>Reference:</b>	1846
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Environment

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### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the implementation of improvements on Alençon Link, Basingstoke to enhance the accessibility to the town centre from the main railway station approach and to the bus services that use Alençon Link to collect/drop off passengers. The works on the highway will be undertaken as part of a Section 278 agreement with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council who are undertaking improvements to The Malls Shopping Centre.
- 1.2 It is considered that this is the most efficient way of implementing the improvement scheme on the current highway land. By entering into a Section 278 agreement with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council a single contractor can undertake all the works both on and off the highway as one contract thereby minimising disruption and delays to both pedestrians and buses/taxis that currently use Alençon Link.
- 1.3 By implementing the improvement scheme in this way it will enhance the reputation of The County Council as it demonstrates joint working with the Borough Council to realise efficiency savings.
- 1.4 The overall scheme will be delivered in phases and a separate Project Appraisal report will be submitted in 2010/11 seeking approval to implement the second phase of works on the northern side of Alençon Link.
- 1.5 The proposed improvements will also act as an aid in the economic recovery/growth within the town.

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
EXECUTIVE MEMBER - ENVIRONMENT

PROJECT  
APPRAISAL  
(Externally Funded)

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21 JULY 2010

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PROJECT: ALENÇON LINK, BASINGSTOKE – BUS INTERCHANGE  
IMPROVEMENTS

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COMMENCEMENT DATE: AUGUST 2010  
COMPLETION DATE: MARCH 2011

PLANNED YEAR OF START IN ACCORDANCE WITH CAPITAL  
PROGRAMME: 2010/11

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1. **Executive Summary**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the implementation of improvements on Alencon Link, Basingstoke to enhance the accessibility to the town centre from the main railway station approach and to the bus services that use Alencon Link to collect/drop off passengers. The works on the highway will be undertaken as part of a Section 278 agreement with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council who are undertaking improvements to The Malls Shopping Centre.
- 1.2 It is considered that this is the most efficient way of implementing the improvement scheme on the current highway land. By entering into a Section 278 agreement with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, a single contractor can undertake all the works both on and off the highway as one contract thereby minimising disruption and delays to both pedestrians and public transport using Alencon Link.
- 1.3 Implementing the improvement scheme in this way will enhance the reputation of the County Council as it demonstrates joint working with the District Council to realise efficiency savings.
- 1.4 The overall scheme will be delivered in phases and a separate Project Appraisal report will be submitted in 2010/11 seeking approval to implement the second phase of works on the northern side of Alencon Link.
- 1.5 The proposed improvements will also act as an aid in the economic recovery/growth within the town.

2. **Contextual Information**

- 2.1 This proposed improvement scheme supports the County Council's Local Transport Plan policies of improving accessibility for all and encouraging a behavioural change in using alternative modes of travel other than the car.

3. **Introduction**

- 3.1 The purpose of these improvements is to enhance the accessibility to the rail/bus interchange facilities as well as the shopping centre situated along and adjacent to Alencon Link. This scheme fulfils The County Council's overarching corporate policy of making Hampshire more safer and secure and the sub priorities of maximising wellbeing and enhancing our quality of life.

- 3.2 This report covers the improvements that are proposed along both sides of Alencon Link but is only seeking approval of the improvements on the southern side. The reason for this division of the overall scheme is to allow the works on the southern side to be progressed via a Section 278 agreement with the Borough Council in association with works they are about to undertake to The Malls development entrance, which is adjacent to Alencon Link. Their work is being undertaken as part of their regeneration of the town centre.

4. **Details**

- 4.1 The overall proposed scheme will include the following works:

Improvements to both sides of the existing carriageway on Alencon Link to provide a 3 bus layby with raised kerbs to give easy access to low floor buses, together with new bus shelters.

- 4.2 In an effort to maximise efficiencies, the work on the southern side of Alencon Link will be undertaken as part of a Section 278 agreement with the Borough Council. The Borough Council has planned to undertake its improvements to The Malls in the next few months. The detailed design of the work on the northern side of the carriageway is still ongoing and will therefore be implemented separately later in 2010/11. A separate Project Appraisal covering the works on the northern side of Alencon Link will be submitted for approval later this year.

- 4.3 A location plan is attached and detailed plans will be displayed at the meeting.

5. **Targets and Outcomes**

- 5.1 The improvements proposed within this scheme are aimed at improving general accessibility to public transport and to the Malls shopping centre.
- 5.2 The success of the improvements will be measured by analysis of the patronage levels of public transport vehicles from/to The Malls/railway station together with a pedestrian count to measure the footfall into and from The Malls.

6. **Standards**

- 6.1 The scheme has been designed in accordance with national design standards and has been subject to a road safety audit following completion of the detailed design. A post opening safety audit will be undertaken upon completion and opening of the works to the public/vehicles.

**7. Statutory Procedures and Consultation**

7.1 There are no statutory procedures associated with this scheme other than the Section 278 agreement that has been entered into between the County and District Councils to allow works to be undertaken on the existing highway as part of a new development adjoining the highway.

7.2 As the works are essentially improvements to the existing arrangements on the highway on Alencon Link for buses delivering/collecting passengers it was not considered necessary to undertake public consultation. However, extensive consultation/discussions have taken place between the County and the District Council, who have entered into the Section 278 agreement for works on the existing highway.

**8. Policy Considerations**

8.1 The proposed improvements on Alencon Link complies with the policies of the Local Transport Plan (LTP) for improving accessibility and safety especially for the mobility impaired.

**9. Land Requirements**

9.1 There is no land acquisition required. All works on the highway are being undertaken under a Section 278 agreement.

**10. Alternative Arrangements**

10.1 The only other option considered was 'a saw tooth ' arrangement for the bus laybys. However this would have necessitated the diversion of an 18 inch gas main. The cost estimate for the diversion of this utility was excessive and could not be met by the budget available for the improvements.

10.2 This option was therefore rejected and a conventional single long layby on either side of Alencon Link was taken forward as the preferred option.

**11. Local Member's View**

11.1 The Local Member, Councillor Hussey, has been consulted on the scheme proposals and has given his support to their implementation.

12. **Sustainability**

12.1 This scheme supports the County Council's policy to encourage use of other modes of travel other than the car.

13. **Financial Arrangements**

13.1	<u>Expenditure*</u>	<u>£'000</u>	<u>Funds Available</u>	<u>£'000</u>
	Design Fee	65	Developer Funding	600
	Supervision	5		
	Project Works	230		
	Land			
	Total	300	Total	600

\* This expenditure relates to Phase 1 of improvements only

13.2	<u>Revenue Implications</u>	<u>£'000</u>	<u>% Variation to Committee's budget</u>
	Net increase in current expenditure	0.5	0.001
	Capital Charge	11.7	0.009
	Total Expenditure	12.2	0.010

14. **Maintenance Implications**

14.1 The implementation of this scheme will negate the need for maintenance work on this section of highway for many years thereby having no impact on the current maintenance budgets.

15. **Recommendations**

15.1 That this Project Appraisal Report for the implementation of improvements to Alencon Link, Basingstoke, to enhance accessibility to public transport and the major shopping centre in the town under a Section 278 agreement as part of a major redevelopment of the

approach to the town centre from the railway station at a cost of £600,000, be approved.

- 15.2 That the Head of Legal Services, in consultation with the Director of Environment, be authorised to enter into a Section 278 agreement for Phase 1 of the works providing agreement has been reached with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council over the highway boundary.
- 15.3 That a separate Project Appraisal Report be submitted later in 2010/11 for approval to implement the second phase of improvements that are proposed on the northern side of Alencon Link.

**CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:****Links to the Corporate Strategy**

<b>Hampshire safer and more secure for all:</b>	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>Maximising well-being:</b>	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>Enhancing our quality of place:</b>	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

**Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents**

**The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)**

DocumentLocation

Alencon Link Improvements Working File

Environment Department

## **IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:**

### **1. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

- 1.1. Assessment of the Race Relations (Amendment Act) has been considered in the development of this scheme and it is viewed that there is no adverse impact. This scheme will contribute towards a safer environment for pedestrians especially children and the mobility impaired by making it safer and easier to cross Alencon Link and also to have easier access to the bus services that use Alencon Link by the introduction of raised kerb heights at the layby.

### **2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:**

- 2.1. This proposal enhances the safety in and around Alencon Link in support of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

### **3. Climate Change:**

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint/energy consumption?

This proposal will encourage walking and use of public transport in favour of using the car thereby reducing the use of fossil fuels and the impact of the carbon footprint of travel in general.

- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

This scheme complements the County Council's long term policy of changing travel behaviour as an aid to reversing climate change and improving air quality levels.