

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Executive Decision Record

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment
<b>Date:</b>	4 March 2014
<b>Title:</b>	Project Appraisal: A30 Hartford Bridge Flats and Blackbushe Junctions Improvement
<b>Reference:</b>	5582
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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#### 1. The decision:

- 1.1. That approval be given to procure and spend and enter into necessary contractual arrangements to implement the proposed improvements to the A30 Hartford Bridge Flats and Blackbushe Junctions Improvement scheme, as set out in this report, at an estimated cost of £2,464,100.
- 1.2. That approval be given to promote traffic regulation orders to reduce the speed limit through the proposed and existing roundabouts.
- 1.3. That approval be given to promote traffic regulation orders to ban the right turn into and out of Blackbushes Road at the A30 junction.
- 1.4 That a scheme for the provision of a 4th arm serving Blackbushes Road at Hartford Bridge Flats junction be developed and future funding opportunities be sought, subject to acquisition of the necessary land and statutory consents.
- 1.5 That in finalising the scheme design for phase 1, opportunities are sought for minimising abortive works should phase 2 be implemented.

#### 2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. To improve safety and capacity at this location on the road network, in order to address on-going safety concerns and accommodate future traffic growth, and to enhance access to existing and future jobs, supporting economic development.
- 2.2. To approve at this stage, in recognition of the time constraints, the award of £1,478,400 Pinch Point Funding from the Department for Transport.

### **3. Other options considered and rejected:**

3.1. Several options have been considered in the development of this scheme other than the one recommended in the report. Principal among these alternative options were:

1. Traffic Signals: initial feasibility work was undertaken some years ago but indicated that vehicle speeds would be a safety problem with a substantial risk of high speed rear end shunts. In addition, the removal of all vegetation on all approaches to the junction would be required to provide the necessary inter-visibility and approach visibility. Queuing was indicated to be significant on all arms with no reserve capacity. Consequently, traffic signals are not considered a viable option.
2. A four arm roundabout at Hartford Bridge Flats junction incorporating realignment of both the A327 and Blackbushes Road approaches. This scheme would require land at both North East and South West Quadrants; the former incorporating a SSSI and the latter requiring planning permission. In view of the procedural constraints, the need for land negotiation that may lead to Compulsory Purchase and the environmental impacts on the SSSI this option has not been considered
3. An elongated, four arm roundabout at Hartford Bridge Flats junction. This is much larger than in the proposed scheme and has straight sections. This is not to standard (except for Grade Separated Roundabouts) and will encourage higher speeds on the circulatory which conflicts with the scheme brief for a safer junction. This option requires land outside of the highway boundary and would have ecological impacts on the adjacent Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). This option also does little to address the accident record at Blackbushe Airport roundabout.
4. A three arm roundabout at Hartford Bridge Flats, but omitting the improvements to the roundabout at Blackbushe Airport. This option was rejected at Road Safety Audit because of the current safety record at the Blackbushe Airport roundabout, and its geometry which would not adequately accommodate U-turning traffic, therefore increasing safety risks at this junction.

### **5. Conflicts of interest:**

5.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker:

5.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted:

6. **Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.**
7. **Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.**
8. **Statement from the Decision Maker:**

In making this decision I have welcomed and considered comments made to me by Cllr David Simpson.

**Approved by:**

**Date:**

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**4 March 2014**

**Executive Member for Economy, Transport and  
Environment  
Councillor Seán D T Woodward**