

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member – Economy, Transport and Environment
Date:	11th July 2014
Title:	Project Appraisal: A27 Station Roundabout and Gudge Heath Lane Junction Improvements
Reference:	5925
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

Contact name: Heather Walmsley

Tel: 01962 846089

Email: Heather.walmsley@hants.gov.uk

1. The decision:

- 1.1. That approval is given, subject to Solent LEP Board approval of Local Growth funding, to procure and spend and enter into necessary contractual arrangements, to implement the proposed improvements to the A27 Station Roundabout and Gudge Heath Lane Junction, as set out in the supporting report, at an estimated cost of £6.6million with £1.65million to be funded from the County Council's capital programme and £4.95million from the Solent Local Transport Body element of the Local Growth Fund.
- 1.2. That authority to make the arrangements to implement the scheme, including minor variations to the design or contract, be delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport, and Environment in consultation with the Executive Member for Economy, Transport, and Environment.
- 1.3. That the Executive Member for Economy, Transport, and Environment recommends to the Executive Member for Policy and Resources that approval be given for the acquisition of any third party land required for the delivery of the scheme and to making a CPO if required.
- 1.4. That approval is given to process and advertise appropriate Traffic Regulation Orders.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. This scheme will improve two key, adjacent junctions on the A27 near Fareham town centre and railway station. Gudge Heath Lane junction and the Station Roundabout both currently suffer from congestion and limited vehicle movements in the area.

- 2.2. The scheme will provide the opportunity to better manage traffic in this heavily congested area, removing a critical delay point at the start of the A27 Corridor in central Fareham, and will help with the County Council's strategy to remove transport barriers to economic growth in the area.
- 2.3. At Gudge Heath Lane the A27 westbound lane will be widened from one lane to two, with a dedicated right hand turn into Gudge Heath Lane. The removal of this "bottleneck" will improve the flow of westbound traffic through Station Roundabout in the evening peak period and remove the need to significantly modify that junction.
- 2.4. The scheme will improve the modal interchange between the Eclipse and other bus services and South West Trains at Fareham Station, and enhance and improve the connection from Fareham Station to West Street in Fareham. In addition, a new cycleway will be provided from both the railway station and West Street to Fareham College. A new Toucan Crossing across the A27 will be provided at the A27 Gudge Heath Lane junction.
- 2.5. The scheme in its entirety forms just the first Phase of the proposed A27 Corridor Improvements and improvements for Gosport Western Access that will help facilitate improved accessibility to the Gosport peninsula.
- 2.6. In June 2013 a funding bid was submitted to the Solent Local Transport Body (Solent LTB). In July 2013 the scheme became one of four transport schemes prioritised by the Solent LTB. The bid was accepted and a full and proportional transport business case was submitted to the LTB on 19 May 2014 requesting a 75% funding contribution for the scheme. A final decision regarding funding will be made by the Solent Local Transport Body, in September following completion of their ongoing public consultation exercise.
- 2.7. A link to the Solent Local Transport Body web page is provided below:-
<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/transport-planning/solent-local-transport-body.htm>
- 2.8. A requirement of the Solent LTB funding contribution is that it needs to be spent in 2016/17 and before March 2017. The requirement to meet the programme in the bid has necessitated bringing forward the Project Appraisal when there is still a degree of uncertainty about costs, ecological issues, and land. Further to an assessment of these matters and any unforeseen issues which may arise it may be necessary, for a further report to be submitted to the Executive Member for Economy, Transport, and Environment to provide an update and seek approval to award the main works contract.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. Without improvements, congestion and blocking back through central Fareham would continue and become exacerbated by future traffic growth serving to further discourage new development and investment, hence this is not considered a viable option.

3.2. Alternative junction designs were considered as part of the Feasibility Design. The main alternatives were as follows.

3.3. At Station Roundabout, numerous signalised junction layouts were considered but rejected for various reasons including land availability and that the layouts did not provide sufficient capacity. Modified roundabout layouts were considered resulting in the preferred layout other layouts were rejected due to the cost of moving statutory undertakers plant.

3.4. Numerous alternative junction layouts were considered at Gudge Heath Lane but were rejected as they did not provide sufficient capacity or the ability to better manage traffic flow through the junction. Some of these options included changing allowed turning movements at the junction to allow traffic to turn right from Gudge Heath Lane on to the A27 westbound, and also allowing the A27 eastbound traffic to turn right in to Redlands Lane. These options were rejected as they compromised the operational effectiveness of the junction.

3.5. A roundabout option was also considered at Gudge Heath Lane. This was rejected as it did not operate effectively due to imbalanced flow patterns and the requirement for more land than the preferred option.

4. Conflicts of interest:

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

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

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.

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

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

In reaching this decision this taken I have taken into account the views of Councillor Peter Latham who was supportive of these proposals.

Approved by:

Date:

11 July 2014

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