

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment
Date:	5 November 2013
Title:	Project Appraisal: A27 Western Way Bus Gate Fareham
Reference:	5294
Report From:	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 a Bus Gate, at a new intersection of the A27 Western Way and Western Road in Fareham (subject to approval of the Traffic Regulation Order) at an estimated cost of £249,000.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. The Bus Gate is required to provide direct access for *Eclipse* BRT buses onto the A27 westbound carriageway, in order to help buses avoid significant peak hour delays at the Quay Street roundabout and to help meet scheme objectives to provide more reliable overall bus journey times. Buses currently route from Fareham Bus Station to the A27 Western Way, via the Quay Street Roundabout. The proposed scheme will enable buses to bypass the roundabout and access the A27 Western Way, from Western Road. The scheme will not only provide a faster and more direct route for *Eclipse* services, but will also improve capacity and safety for all other traffic at the Quay Street Roundabout.
- 2.2. To enhance and build upon the success of the recently completed *Eclipse* BRT bus-way from Redlands Lane to Tichborne Way, expansion into a wider network is critical to improve connectivity with Gosport and other areas of the sub-region. The scheme will further improve the reliability of bus journey time for *Eclipse* BRT buses leaving Fareham Bus Station and travelling to the start of the *Eclipse* bus-way, via the A27 Western Way, located on Redlands Lane.

2.3. Approval of the scheme will contribute towards the Corporate Strategy:

- (i) 'Making Hampshire safer and more secure for all' by providing improvements to the bus, cycle and pedestrian network that will help those more vulnerable to access local facilities;
- (ii) 'Maximising well-being' by improving opportunities and the ease with which people can access local facilities and services; and
- (iii) 'Enhancing our quality of place' by improving access in this area of Gosport and enhancing bus services.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

3.1. Three locations on Western Road were considered for the Bus Gate to provide *Eclipse* Bus access on to the A27 Western Way westbound carriageway. It was considered that of the three options, the preferred Bus Gate location would be furthest east, on Western Road and would meet the journey time saving objectives, impose the least detrimental impact in terms of the environment and loss of parking and is the least expensive of the three options. The final recommended scheme was agreed at the BRT Board Meeting, in February 2013. The following two options were investigated and discarded:

- (i) A Bus Gate to be located approximately 150 metres west of the Western Road/ Queen's Road junction, on Western Road and opposite the Kings' Road junction. The environmental bund between Western Road and the A27 Western Way, would have needed to be reduced in length by approximately 14 metres, with the loss of 3 or 4 trees. This may have increased noise levels along King's Road. In this option, traffic signals would have controlled both lanes of the eastbound and westbound carriageways of the A27 Western Way.
- (ii) The other option was located the furthest west, on Western Road, approximately 500 metres west of the selected location at the eastern end of Western Road, next to the entrance of the Holy Trinity Street off street Car park. The environmental bund would have been reduced in length by approximately 9 metres, with the loss of 1 to 2 trees. There would have also been a loss of approximately 9 metres of permit holders only parking. Traffic signals would have controlled both lanes of the eastbound and westbound carriageway of the A27 Western Way.

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 Conduct Advisory Panel: none.

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

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

7.1. At the invitation of the Executive Member, Councillor Chris Wood spoke in support of the recommendations set out in the report.

Approved by:

Date:

5 November 2013

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

Decn/5294/LB