

Equality Impact Assessment



Hampshire
County Council

Project Appraisal: Waterside East West Connectivity (Phase I)

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Department: Economy, Transport and
Environment

Date of
assessment: 29/03/2021

Description of current service/policy

The A326 connects Waterside communities and places of work with other destinations with significant traffic volumes experienced at peak times. Capacity improvements are being delivered through the A326 South Junction Improvement Works and potentially the A326 Local Major Scheme. In the meantime, the route severs communities from access to the New Forest national park as East-West connections across the A326 make access for recreation difficult and restrained. A package of East-West Connectivity measures is proposed for the 2021/22 Capital Programme. This would allow their delivery in line with existing programmes of work and to provide enabling infrastructure.

Geographical impact: New
Forest

Description of proposed change

Approval is being sought to procure, spend and enter into necessary contractual arrangements, in consultation with the Head of Legal Services, to implement the proposed improvements for the Waterside East-West Connectivity (Phase 1) package of schemes, at an estimated cost of £610,000 funded from S106 contributions, subject to Cabinet approval of the addition of the East-West Connectivity Package of schemes to the 2021/22 Capital Programme at a value of £970,000.

Impacts of the proposed change

This impact assessment covers Service users

Engagement and consultation

Has engagement or consultation been carried out? Yes

Consultation has taken place for the A326 Improvement Scheme in March 2020. Responses were made on walking and cycling measures to improve East-West connectivity by the Waterside Cycling Action Group with support from local Councillors. These have been taken into account in development of the Phase 1 package of measures. As a result of planned works further consultation will be required on the installation of controlled crossings.

Statutory considerations	Impact	Mitigation
Age: Neutral		
Disability: Neutral		
Sexual orientation: Neutral		
Race: Neutral		
Religion and belief: Neutral		
Gender reassignment: Neutral		

Gender: Neutral		
Marriage and civil partnership: Neutral		
Pregnancy and maternity: Neutral		
Other policy considerations	Impact	Mitigation
Poverty: Neutral		
Rurality: Neutral		

Neutrality statement (if all considerations have a neutral impact)

The proposed package of measures delivers improvements to walking and cycling routes to connect Waterside communities with public open space in the New Forest. At this stage, it is considered that the Scheme as currently set out would have a positive impact for all pedestrians and cyclists, including people with reduced mobility due to age or disability by providing improved pedestrian and cyclist crossing facilities at a variety of locations and improved footways. The improvements therefore have a neutral impact on groups with protected characteristics.

Any other information