

COUNCIL
17 JANUARY 2019**REPORT OF CABINET – MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE A
DECISION BY COUNCIL**

A4440 Worcester Southern Link Road Structures**Recommendation**

1. **The Cabinet recommends to Council that:**
 - (a) **£3.5 million of funding necessary to complete the Broomhall Way Footbridge is allocated to the Southern Link Road Phase 3 Dualling Project with funding ultimately being received from developers' S106 contributions and that the Capital Programme is updated accordingly; and**
 - (b) **the £3.5 million necessary to complete the Crookbarrow Way Footbridge and Upper Battenhall Farm Accommodation Bridge is provisionally allocated to the Southern Link Road Project and that the Capital Programme be updated accordingly and to vire £0.5 million from existing allocations within the Capital Programme.**
2. The Southern Link Road Dualling Project proposes that three bridges will be installed over the Southern Link Road between the Ketch and Whittington Roundabouts; the Broomhall Way Footbridge to the west of the Norton Roundabout (funded separately to the rest of the scheme through s.106 Agreements), the Crookbarrow Way Footbridge to the west of the Battenhall Railway Bridge and a Farm Accommodation Bridge to the east of the Battenhall Railway Bridge.
3. The funding originally considered necessary to complete the dualling of the A4440 Southern Link Road, including provision of the Crookbarrow Way Footbridge and the Farm Accommodation Bridge, was allocated by Council on 25 September 2014. However, as the scheme has progressed it has become apparent that further funding is necessary to complete these two bridges.
4. The two footbridges are designed for public use by pedestrians and cyclists and the Crookbarrow Way Footbridge, which connects to a bridleway, can also be used by horse-riders. The bridges will provide essential links between existing and future communities and amenities to the south of the Southern Link Road and those, including the City of Worcester and St Peter's, to the north. The Crookbarrow Way Footbridge will also provide a vital link for cyclists between the City of Worcester and the new Worcestershire Parkway Railway Station as well as being an important link in the National Cycle Network.
5. The Farm Accommodation Bridge is required to provide a link between the two halves of Upper Battenhall Farm which are bisected by the Southern Link Road.

Provision of this bridge is required as part of the Compulsory Purchase Order process that was undertaken to secure the land necessary to complete the highway scheme.

6. Policy SWDP 45 of the adopted South Worcestershire Development Plan requires the provision of a cycle and footbridge west of the Norton Roundabout (the Broomhall Way Footbridge) to ensure that the proposed residential development to the south of Broomhall Way is not severed from Worcester City to the north and essential services such as shops, medical facilities and schools. The developers (Seven Capital, St Modwen and Welbeck) have agreed to fund the estimated £3.5 million cost of the bridge through s.106 Agreements and the Council has undertaken to construct it. The Seven Capital s.106 Agreement has been signed and it is expected that the St Modwen and Welbeck Agreements will be signed shortly.

7. Under the terms of the s.106 Agreements the developers are required to make staged payments before the occupation of a specified number of dwellings can take place. Due to the uncertainty of the rate at which the homes will be built and then occupied, it is not possible to accurately predict when the payments will be made, however, it would be reasonable to assume receipt of around £0.5 million by mid-2020 and the balance of around £3 million between 2020 and 2022. The Council will need to forward fund the £3.5 million required until receipt of the developer funding in order to construct the bridge, otherwise it could not be installed for several years.

8. It is important that all three bridges are installed within the next 18 months or so to ensure that existing and future communities are adequately and safely connected via grade-separated crossings which will not result in delays to traffic on the Southern Link Road. It is also important that any impact on the efficient management of Upper Battenhall Farm is kept to a minimum. It should be noted that compensation is payable to the land owner for the period that the bridge is not in place.

9. Cabinet is therefore seeking Council's agreement to add to the £3.5 million of gap funding necessary to complete the Broomhall Way Footbridge to the Capital Programme. In addition, Council's agreement is sought to provisionally add a further £3.5 million to the Capital Programme for the construction of the Crookbarrow Way Footbridge and Farm Accommodation Bridge, and to vire £0.5 million from the existing Worcester Transport Strategy Capital Programme provision.

10. The Cabinet has authorised a planning application to be submitted for the Broomhall Way Footbridge and for any public engagement that is necessary to support the planning application to be carried out. Planning consent has been awarded for the Crookbarrow Way Footbridge but is not required for the Farm Accommodation Bridge. The Cabinet has also authorised the expenditure of the funding allocated to enable the Broomhall Way Footbridge to be delivered, delegated authority to the Director of Economy and Infrastructure to award construction contracts and to finalise any agreements necessary for completion of the bridge, and authorised the Director of Commercial and Commissioning to acquire the land and rights over such land as are necessary to construct and maintain the bridge.

11. Authority to award contracts to enable the construction of the Crookbarrow Way Footbridge and Farm Accommodation Bridge has been delegated to the Director of Economy and Infrastructure, subject to a suitable funding strategy being approved by the Chief Finance Officer as soon as practicable in consultation with the Leader and Director of Economy and Infrastructure.

12. The dualling of the Southern Link Road is being promoted and delivered as a scheme under general powers of wellbeing and promotion of economic prosperity and highway authority powers. It also is an objective of the Local Transport Plan 4.

13. In summary, a total increase to the Capital Programme of £7 million is being requested, with £3.5 million conditional on a funding strategy being approved by the Chief Finance Officer as soon as practicable in consultation with the Leader and Director of Economy and Infrastructure, along with a virement of £0.5 million from the Worcester Transport Strategy Capital Programme provision.

New One-Off Grant – Adult Social Care Winter Pressures

Recommendation

14. The Cabinet recommends that Council approves the use of £2.4 million Adult Social Care Winter Pressures grant and updates the revenue budget cash limits accordingly.

15. The Council has been awarded a £2.4 million one-off Adult Social Care Winter Pressures grant as part of a national £240 million funding allocation from the Department of Health and Social Care.

16. This grant is intended to fund new spending on Adult Social Care services in order to reduce delayed discharges from hospitals through preventative measures, speeding up the process of assessing and agreeing what social care is needed for patients in hospitals or from directly investing in social care packages. In the Chancellor of the Exchequer's statement to the House of Commons on 29 October 2018, he noted that this grant will be recurring for a further year (2019/20). The Council will work closely with health colleagues to optimise best use of this new funding.

Mr S E Geraghty
Chairman

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

Worcestershire Hub: 01905 765765

Specific Contact Points for this report

Nichola Garner, Committee and Appellate Officer

Tel: 01905 846626

Email: ngarner2@worcestershire.gov.uk

Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Agenda and background papers for the meeting of Cabinet held on 15 November 2018