

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services
Date:	22 January 2024
Title:	A326 North Waterside Improvements Update
Report From:	Director of Hampshire 2050

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1. The decisions:

- 1.1 That, following the confirmation of additional third-party funding set out within the finance section of the supporting report, the Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 confirms the continued development of the A326 North scheme and associated commitment of resources up to Planning Application and Outline Business Case (OBC) submission, planned for Autumn 2024.
- 1.2 That, in light of the engagement feedback and design development work set out in the supporting report, authority is delegated to the Director of Hampshire 2050 to make all necessary arrangements for submission of a Planning Application and OBC for the scheme; and (in consultation with the Head of Legal Services) to enter into and progress any necessary contractual arrangements.
- 1.3 That the key project risks associated with both the development and delivery of the scheme are noted, as set out in the table at paragraph 48 of the supporting report.
- 1.4 That, given the risks around potential scheme cost increases post OBC approval, the Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 confirms that the County Council is willing to continue being scheme promoter should the scheme proceed to the delivery stage, but that it cannot use any of its general funding to contribute to scheme delivery costs or future scheme cost increases, unless these are underwritten by a third party.
- 1.5 That the County Council's conditions for being scheme promoter during the project delivery phase are noted, as set out in paragraph 58 of the supporting report and that authority is delegated to the Director of Hampshire 2050 to notify funding bodies of these conditions and seek confirmation in writing of their acceptability and/or willingness to enter into negotiations around how cost risks could be fully managed. Confirmation will be required post any OBC approval, or the County Council will be unable to proceed with delivery of the scheme.
- 1.6 That authority is delegated to the Director of Hampshire 2050 to identify and agree in principle the necessary local match funding package to deliver the

scheme, and (in consultation with the Head of Legal Services) to enter into and progress any necessary contractual arrangements. This local match funding will need to be fully identified by the point of OBC submission, or the County Council cannot submit the OBC.

2. Reasons for the decisions:

- 2.1. Bringing the scheme forward will help to deliver on the aims of the County Council's adopted Waterside Transport Strategy and the objectives of the 'Waterside Vision' document, previously approved by the County Council, National Park and New Forest District Council in September 2020. As such the scheme has the potential to solve a number of longstanding transport issues impacting existing businesses and residents of the Waterside, mitigate the impact of potential growth of national importance and do so in a way that enhances the natural environment and access to it.
- 2.2. The decisions are required to report back on the results of engagement activity recently undertaken and to highlight the changing risks related to the scheme and reaffirm the County Councils role as project sponsor during scheme development and to set the conditions under which it would take on a delivery role.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. Not continuing with the development of the scheme would mean that the issues of transport congestion and severance on the A326 remain unaddressed which in turn would threaten the delivery of the Waterside vision and the Waterside Transport Strategy.
- 3.2. Failure to seek approval at this time may mean the scheme is unable to progress, that the impact of future development remains unmitigated, and that the County Council as Highway Authority may not be able to sustain support for some growth proposals. Delay in progressing the scheme would also mean that the programme would be delayed and could extend beyond the end of the Large Local Majors funding window, putting the Department for Transport (DfT) funding for the scheme at risk.

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:

Approved by:

Date:

22 January 2024

**Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050
and Corporate Services
Councillor Rob Humby**