

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Executive Decision Record

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment
<b>Date:</b>	10 March 2020
<b>Title:</b>	Project Appraisal: A326 South, Junction Improvement Works, Fawley Waterside
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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#### 1. The decision:

- 1.1 That the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment approve the Project Appraisal for A326 South Junction Improvement works in Fawley Waterside, as outlined in the supporting report.
- 1.2 That the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment gives approval to procure, spend and enter into necessary contractual arrangements including any funding agreements, in consultation with the Head of Legal Services, to implement the proposed improvements to eight junctions between Dibden and Fawley (along the southern end of the A326 and on the B3053); improvements works for pedestrians and cyclists; and other associated works, as set out in the supporting report, at an estimated cost of £8.1million to be funded from Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (SLEP) with £5.7million and local match funding from Fawley Waterside Limited of £2.4million.
- 1.3 That the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment endorses the approach to preparing a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) in consultation with the New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA) and include mitigation measure identified in the CEMP in the construction contract documentation.
- 1.4 That authority to make the arrangements to implement the scheme, including minor variations to the design or contract, and any formal agreements required in connection with the provisions of the CEMP, be delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment (in consultation with the Head of Legal Services where necessary).

#### 2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1 The A326 (and the B3053 at its southern end) is the key road linking the communities of the Waterside Peninsula to the A35, the M27 and onward to

Southampton and the wider area. It is a single carriageway road for most of its length, and various junctions experience existing peak period capacity issues, including the Heath (J6), Applemore (J7) and Dibden (J8) roundabouts.

- 2.2 The proposed A326 (South) junction improvement works will contribute to the resilience of the existing highway network, improve existing capacity and relieve congestion on a key inter-urban road corridor.
- 2.3 The proposed works are required to ensure that all necessary highway improvements works are delivered early ahead of the proposed Fawley Waterside housing developments, in order to minimise potential transport impacts on the network from the Fawley Waterside Housing development.
- 2.4 The scheme will also help to protect the rural environment of the New Forest by improving capacity on a strategic route (the A326) and helping to ensure that traffic does not divert onto less appropriate more minor routes through the National Park, during times of congestion on the A326.
- 2.5 The scheme supports a high quality of life for people who live in, work in, and visit Fawley, and is a significant improvement to the highway network, reducing journey times.
- 2.6 The scheme also provides improved connectivity to existing and future footway/cycling infrastructure, which then offers opportunity for users to choose the health benefits associated with active travel. The scheme provides alternative transport options accessible and appealing to all. Walking and cycling are the healthiest and most sustainable ways to travel, either for whole trips or as part of longer journeys on public transport.

### **3. Other options considered and rejected:**

- 3.1 A “do Nothing” option was considered and rejected, as the proposed works will contribute to the resilience of the existing highway network and relieve local congestion, and 100% of the funding for this important scheme has been secured from external sources.

### **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: 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:**

**Approved by:**

**Date:**

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**10 March 2020**

**Executive Member for Economy, Transport and  
Environment  
Councillor Rob Humby**