

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Cabinet
Date:	16 March 2021
Title:	Waterside Transport Strategy Update
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

Contact name: Keith Willcox

Tel: **Email:** keith.willcox@hants.gov.uk

1. The decision:

- 1.1 That the enhanced significance of the Waterside Multi-Modal Transport Strategy and the associated combined transport improvements for the Waterside area be noted in light of the emerging proposals for Freeport status.
- 1.2 That approval be given for the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment to continue to work with the Department for Transport and Network Rail to explore the potential for the re-introduction of passenger services on the Waterside rail line, through the continuing scheme development and business case processes.
- 1.3 That the County Council conditionally supports the re-introduction of passenger services on the Waterside rail line between Totton and a point south of Hythe in the vicinity of the original Hardley Halt subject to further work being undertaken at the next stages of scheme and business case development to fully consider feedback from the planned public consultation in Spring/Summer 2021, and to further consider the impacts of re-opening the railway on local buses, the Hythe ferry, level crossings, and the environment, together with potential mitigation.
- 1.4 That the Waterside East-West connectivity scheme be entered into the 2021/22 Economy, Transport and Environment capital programme at a value of £0.97million to be funded from Section 106 contributions, underwritten by Local Transport Plan (LTP) integrated transport capital funds.
- 1.5 That Cabinet approves the entry of Redbridge Causeway Phase 4 -Improvements to the Approaches for Pedestrians and Cycles into the 2021/22 Economy, Transport and Environment capital programme at a value of £1.98m to be funded from the DfT's Major Road Network (MRN) allocation of funding for Redbridge Causeway.
- 1.6 That the County Council makes further monthly payments for the current national lockdown period, to both the Hythe Ferry (£7,500) and the Gosport Ferry

(£15,000), subject to agreement of matched funding of equal contributions from other affected Local Authorities.

2. Reason for the decision:

2.1 The decisions are required to enable the evolving position of Waterside Rail to be more fully defined and conditions of support referenced to enable the County Council to move from a neutral position to a conditioned position of support, given the more positive ongoing business case work that is generating much interest from DfT and Network Rail. The decisions are further required to enable the addition of financial allocations to the Capital Programme for 2021/22 for both: Fawley Waterside East-West Connectivity Pedestrian and Cycle schemes; and also Phase 4 Redbridge Causeway Approaches Pedestrian and Cycle Improvements. Finally, the exceptional support for Ferry operations are an important aspect of the current transport arrangements and approval is required to extend the previous exceptional payment arrangements to cover the current lockdown period.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1 To not update the County Council's position with regard to Waterside Rail would mean that there would be a degree of misalignment between the submitted Strategic Outline Business Case and the neutral position previously recommended.
- 3.2 To not seek to adjust the capital programme to include the Fawley Waterside East-West Connectivity Pedestrian and Cycle schemes; and Phase 4 Redbridge Causeway Approaches Pedestrian and Cycle Improvements, would mean that these schemes could not proceed in line with anticipated programmes defined by bid criteria.

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:

16 March 2021

**Chairman of Cabinet
Councillor Keith Mans**