

DECISION MAKER:	Assistant director place based commissioning
DECISION DATE:	28 April 2015
TITLE OF REPORT:	South wye transport package planning application – Southern link road
REPORT BY:	Construction manager

Classification

Open

Key Decision

This is not an executive decision

Wards Affected

Hollington, Stoney Street, Belmont and St Martins & Hinton

Purpose

To approve the submission of the planning application for the South Wye Transport Package (SWTP) – Southern Link Road (SLR) along the SC2 route selected by cabinet on 18 December 2014

Recommendation(s)

THAT:

- (a) a planning application for the South Wye Transport Package – Southern Link Road along route SC2 selected by cabinet as part of a package of measures in the South Wye area be submitted in accordance with the planning drawings attached as an Appendix to this report.**

Alternative Options

1. None – planning application is a statutory requirement.

Reasons for Recommendations

2. Cabinet selected SC2 on 18 December 2014 as the preferred route to be taken forward for planning and implementation of a Southern Link Road (SLR) as part of a complementary package of measures to address the transport problems in the South Wye area of Hereford.
3. Cabinet delegated authority to the Assistant Director Place Based Commissioning to prepare and submit a planning application for a scheme along route SC2. This decision is necessary to comply with this cabinet decision.

Key Considerations

4. On 13 November 2014 cabinet agreed a preferred route for the new link road from the A49 to the A465 as part of a package of measures in the South Wye area and delegated authority to the assistant director place based commissioning to prepare and submit a planning application for a scheme along route SC2.
5. On the 18 December 2014 Cabinet resolved that:
 - (a) the responses to the resolutions of General Overview & Scrutiny Committee (2 December 2014) as set out in this report be noted and in light of those responses the following recommendations (previously agreed by cabinet) be reaffirmed;
 - (b) route SC2 is selected as the preferred route for the Southern Link Road (SLR);
 - (c) authority is delegated to Assistant Director Place Based Commissioning to prepare and submit a planning application for a scheme along route SC2; and
 - (d) subject to planning permission being obtained authority is delegated to the Assistant Director Place Based Commissioning to continue detailed design of the scheme and develop proposals for land acquisition. A further report will be prepared for cabinet outlining land and property acquisition plans and draft orders in due course.
6. Following this decision the planning application for this scheme has been developed and a suite of planning documents has been prepared for submission to the planning authority in accordance with current guidance and standards. This application sets out the detail of the scheme, its impact and proposed mitigation.
7. In accordance with guidance the planning application documentation has been completed. This includes:
 - Planning Statement (including Site Location Plan and Key Plan and Landscape Mitigation Plan)
 - Design and Access Statement
 - Consultation Report
 - Environmental Statement including Non-Technical Summary
 - Transport Assessment

Flood Risk Assessment
Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan
Outline Site Waste Management Plan
Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 8 The Appendix attached to this report contains scheme route and long section plan and landscape mitigation plan which will form part of the planning application,
- 9 In finalising the planning application a public exhibition was held to engage with stakeholders; to provide an early view of the proposed scheme and to provide an opportunity to discuss the plans with representatives from Herefordshire Council, Balfour Beatty Living Places (BBLP) and Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB).
- 10 The Public Exhibition was held on the 29 January 2015 at the Three Counties Hotel, Hereford and was attended by 145 people and following this event the plans have been available at Belmont Library and Hereford City Library.
- 11 Comments had been received following the public exhibition and all comments have been considered and addressed in completing the planning application. A report of this is included in the planning submission documents.
- 12 The planning application for the scheme has been developed along the route SC2 chosen by cabinet. The planning application boundary and scheme detail has evolved following the selection of the preferred route and is informed by engineering and environmental considerations and a detailed topographical survey of existing land along the route.
- 13 The Council's consultants and project team has reviewed the planning application and are satisfied it is a robust application which can be submitted for consideration by the planning authority. The Assistant director place based commissioning is therefore invited to authorise its submission.

Community Impact

- 14 The economic, environmental and health objectives of the SWTP contribute to the corporate plan and health and wellbeing strategy. The SWTP aims to reduce congestion and enable access to developments such as the Hereford Enterprise Zone. A package of measures alongside the new SLR will reduce growth in emissions such as CO2 and NOx and reduce traffic noise. The sustainable measures on Holme Lacy and Belmont Road and other links to improve connections to the city cycle network alongside a programme of behavioural change aims to encourage physical activity and reduce accidents.
- 15 The SLR scheme will have an impact on the landscape in which it is set which will include impact on adjacent properties. The impact of the scheme is set out within the planning document and mitigation measures which are proposed are also described.

Equality and Human Rights

- 16 The appraisal process used to select a preferred route for the SLR assessed the impact of the scheme equally across all route options considered. Social impacts of each route were considered alongside economy, environmental and public account

criteria

- 17 The impacts of the proposed scheme are set out in the planning application alongside proposed mitigation measures.

Financial Implications

- 18 The financial implications of a decision to submit this scheme to planning commits spend on planning fees (approximately £1,700) and costs associated with responding to queries. £20k is our estimated allowance for consultant fees to cover the cost of responding to queries that arise during the planning process. These costs are contained within 2015/16 budget for the scheme.

Legal Implications

- 19 The planning application has been developed in line with guidance and advice from the council's planning department and statutory consultees. The council in its capacity as local planning authority will carry out the necessary consultation in accordance with the Planning Acts and its own published procedures.

Risk Management

- 20 The planning application has been developed in accordance with current planning and transport guidance. The Council's consultants and project team has reviewed the planning application and are satisfied it is a robust application which can be submitted for consideration by the planning authority. External stakeholders have been engaged during the appraisal of the SWTP options and, as the planning application has developed the project team will continue to respond to queries from the council's planning department. There may be specific queries that need to be addressed once the application is submitted and these can be handled as and when required.
- 21 A delay to the submission of a planning application would affect the programme for the scheme and if significantly delayed could affect future funding for the scheme. It is therefore recommended to submit the planning application to ensure the scheme remains on programme.

Consultees

- 22 In advance of submitting the planning application a Public Exhibition was held to provide the public with an early view of the proposed scheme, and to discuss the plans with representatives from Herefordshire Council, BBLP and PB. The Public Exhibition was held on the 29 January 2015 at the Three Counties Hotel, Hereford. 145 people attended this exhibition and following this event plans have been available at Belmont Library and Hereford City Library. Comments received following the public exhibition have been considered and where possible incorporated into the scheme. A report summarising this information is contained within the planning application.
- 24 Statutory consultees, local members and parish councils have been consulted.
- 25 Formal statutory consultation will take place once the application has been submitted. This will be organised by the council in its capacity as the local planning authority.

Appendices

Appendix A – Southern Link Road Route and Long Section Plan

Appendix B – Southern Link Road Landscape Mitigation Plan

Background Papers

None identified