

MEETING:	ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	26 MARCH 2010
TITLE OF REPORT:	CONNECT 2 GREENWAY ROUTE OPTIONS
PORTFOLIO AREA:	HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION

Wards Affected

Central, Hollington, St Martins and Hinton & Tupsley

Purpose

To provide an update to the Committee regarding Connect 2 Greenway preferred route key decision (11 March 2010)

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Members note the contents of this report.

Background

1. The Connect 2 cycle scheme seeks to link Hereford City, via Rotherwas to Holme Lacy. The scheme forms part of a national initiative supported by Sustrans with funding through lottery grants. The scheme has been in development for a number of years and following issues identified during the design stage a report has recently been prepared and considered by the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation to determine the way forward to deliver the scheme. This report is intended to inform the committee of the issues surrounding this review of the scheme and the decision taken.
2. Additional options were considered for the delivery of the Connect2 scheme due to additional risks and constraints associated with the previously agreed route. A new Preferred Route has been considered in detail and has been accepted by the Cabinet Member in his recent decision.
3. The Connect 2 Route Options Cabinet Member Report dated 3 March 2010, copy attached as Appendix 1 to this report, recommended that the preferred route, subject to any minor amendments considered necessary by the Director of Regeneration, should be progressed and a planning application submitted accordingly and the increased cost of £845,000 be funded from Growth Point and Local Transport Plan capital budgets.

4. Whilst the new preferred route does have associated cost implications, it is considered that the route has a range of benefits compared to the original route including being more attractive to users and having a lower level of risk to delivery. Full details of the comparison of the route options, the cost implications and risks are included within the Cabinet Member report attached.
5. On 11 March 2010 the Cabinet Member took the key decision to progress the preferred route and fund the increased costs from Growth Point funding (Ref No:2010.H&T.002KEY). This decision became effective on 17 March 2010. Affected land owners are now being contacted in advance of the publication of the new preferred route. In this context Appendix A to the Cabinet Members report was marked Not For Publication under Schedule 12A of the Local Government (Access to information) Act 1985 due to information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

Financial Implications

Details are contained within the attached cabinet member report.

Risk Management

Details are contained within the attached cabinet member report.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Connect 2 Route Options: Report to Cabinet Member of Highways and Transportation (3 March 2010)

Background Papers

None