

**Title: Hereford Western Bypass Phase
One – Full Business Case**

Meeting: Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee

Meeting date: Monday 20 July 2026

Report by: Scott Tompkins, Delivery Director - Infrastructure

Classification

Open

Report purpose

To provide committee members with the full business case for Hereford Western Bypass Phase One, along with the assessment criteria that will be used alongside the full business case by Cabinet to determine whether to proceed with the project.

Background

1. Cabinet requested that the Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee scrutinise both the full business for Hereford Western Bypass Phase One, along with the assessment criteria that will be used alongside the full business case by Cabinet to determine whether to proceed with the project.
2. On 15 April 2026 the committee scrutinised the assessment criteria to be used alongside the full business case. It recommended that the business case and assessment criteria:
 - a. Move from pass/fail assessments to scored or graded assessments, to ensure more granularity in traffic outcomes, safety outcomes, land acquisition, carbon reduction, woodland mitigation, biodiversity net gain, construction price, social value, affordability, and value for money.
 - b. Widen the criteria for measuring social value to include the distribution of impacts on people in Herefordshire.
 - c. Ensure clearer reporting of project risks, assumptions and uncertainty.
 - d. Ensure the report to Cabinet incorporates high/medium/low growth risk scenarios.
3. Cabinet accepted all four recommendations and have revised the assessment criteria for the full business case. The revised criteria are attached as Appendix 1.
4. The revised assessment criteria will provide a framework for Cabinet to determine whether to proceed with Hereford Western Bypass Phase One on the basis of the full business case. The full business case is attached as Appendix 2, and its appendices are attached as Appendices 3 and 4.

Meeting objectives

5. Scrutinise the full business case to ensure it provides Cabinet with sufficient information to make an informed decision on Hereford Western Bypass Phase One, having regard to the assessment criteria.

Report information

6. The information relevant to scrutiny of this item is contained in the report's appendices.

Consultees

7. None

Appendices

Appendix 1: Assessment Criteria Hereford Western Bypass Phase One Full Business Case
Appendix 2: Hereford Western Bypass Phase One Full Business Case
Appendix 3: Hereford Western Bypass Phase One Full Business Case appendices Hereford Western Bypass Phase One Full Business Case Appendices A-H
Appendix 4: Hereford Western Bypass Phase One Full Business Case appendices Hereford Western Bypass Phase One Full Business Case Appendices I-S

Background papers and resources

None identified