

# ROTHERWAS ACCESS ROAD

## PORTFOLIO RESPONSIBILITY: ENVIRONMENT

CABINET

7TH SEPTEMBER, 2006

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### Wards Affected

Countywide

### Purpose

To seek approval to proceed with the implementation programme for the Rotherwas Access Road.

### Key Decision

This is a Key Decision because it is likely to result in the Council incurring expenditure above agreed budgets for the service or function (as shown as a line in the budget book) to which the decision relates but allowing for virements between budget heads and savings within budget heads of up to £500,000 and it is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards. It was included in the forward plan published on 17th August, 2006.

### Recommendation

**THAT approval be given to proceed with the implementation of the Rotherwas Access Road scheme including invitations to tender and the award of contracts to deliver the scheme.**

### Reasons

To enable the delivery of the Rotherwas Access Road, in accordance with the programme outlined in this report.

### Considerations

#### Background

1. Members will be aware that the Secretary of State for Transport announced in July this year that the Council's latest bid for Major Scheme transport funding for the Rotherwas Industrial Estate Access Road had been rejected. This was particularly disappointing given that the scheme had been identified by the West Midlands Regional Assembly as a priority for funding. The announcement made clear that the scheme was unlikely to meet the Department for Transport's criteria for funding in the future but that funding from alternative sources could be a means of delivery.
2. Since the announcement, officers have been working to establish a funding package to enable the scheme to be delivered independently of Department for Transport major scheme funding. The Rotherwas Futures report elsewhere on the agenda sets out an approach to funding a package of measures to develop and regenerate the

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from  
Richard Ball, Transportation Manager on 01432 260965

estate. There are also potential developer contributions to take into account following inclusion of the Bullinghope housing allocation in the Unitary Development Plan.

- Members are therefore asked to authorise delivery of the access road scheme.

### Scheme Cost and Profile

- Since the recent announcement regarding Department for Transport funding, the scheme has been reviewed and consideration given to a realistic timetable for delivery of the scheme to start during the current financial year, subject to confirmation of funding. The following table highlights the current estimate for the scheme and likely spend profile based on the construction of the scheme commencing in March 2007.

	Earlier years	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	Future years	Total
<b>Cost (£M)</b>	<b>0.48</b>	<b>0.29</b>	<b>2.57</b>	<b>7.35</b>	<b>2.09</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>12.78</b>

### Delivery Timetable

- This above spend profile has been based on the following outline delivery timetable.

Key Event	Timescale
Tenders Invited	October 2006
Main Contract Award	January 2007
Start on site	March 2007
Completion of main works	May 2008

- Whilst this is a realistic timetable in terms of delivery of the scheme, in order to comply with this, funding for the scheme will need to be confirmed by the end of September 2006. The Council is also currently awaiting the confirmation of the Compulsory Purchase Order and Side Roads Order for the scheme that is needed to enable the scheme to proceed. Government Office for the North East, who are administering this process have indicated that announcement regarding these orders can be expected by September 2006.

### Conclusion

- The Rotherwas Access Road is a key priority for the Council and work is currently continuing to ensure it can be delivered in accordance with the programme outlined above. Subject to confirmation of the funding package for the scheme as outlined in the accompanying report on Rotherwas Futures, including developer contributions, and confirmation of the Compulsory Purchase Order and Side Roads Orders, Members are asked to give approval for officers to proceed with the implementation programme above.

## **Alternative Options**

There are no alternative options.

## **Risk Management**

There are various risks to delivery that include: Rotherwas Futures Funding not confirmed, CPO and Side Roads Orders not being confirmed within required timescales, and tender prices are higher than estimated.

## **Consultees**

Public consultation has been undertaken on this important scheme through the planning application process, development of the Local Transport Plan strategy and the Compulsory Purchase and Side Roads Orders process.

## **Background Papers**

None identified.