

**HUNTINGDON WEST OF TOWN CENTRE LINK ROAD
COMPULSORY PURCHASE AND SIDE ROAD ORDERS**

To: **Cabinet**

Date: **29 September 2009.**

From: **Executive Director, Environment Services**

Electoral division(s): **Huntingdon**

Forward Plan ref: **Not applicable** *Key decision:* **No**

Purpose: **To consider the proposal for the Huntingdon West of Town Centre Link and the associated Compulsory Purchase and Side Road Orders**

Recommendation: **To resolve to make the Compulsory Purchase and Side Roads Orders for the Huntingdon West of Town Centre Link Road**

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The proposed Huntingdon West of Town Centre Link Road is contained in the Huntingdon and Godmanchester Market Town Transport Strategy 2003-2011 and is also part of the wider Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan.
- 1.2 The proposed Link Road will support the aspirations of Huntingdonshire District Council for the regeneration of land on the western edge of the town centre as set out in the emerging Huntingdon West Area Action Plan. The road will support an area of development bounded by Ermine Street to the north, Brampton Road to the south and the East Coast Main Line railway to the west (a map will be provided to Cabinet members). The road will also assist in generating some relief to the existing Huntingdon Inner Ring Road.

2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 It is proposed that the Link Road will be single carriageway, approximately 520 metres in length between Ermine Street and Brampton Road. On Ermine Street, there will be a 3 arm signalised junction some 100 metres north-west of the Ermine Street/Inner Ring Road junction. On Brampton Road there will be a 4 arm signalised junction which maintains access to the railway station. The road will ultimately provide access to the developments proposed in the West Area Action Plan.
- 2.2 Funding for the road has been agreed as part of the current round of Housing Growth Fund (HGF). It is proposed that it will be delivered by the County Council's framework contractor on behalf of Huntingdonshire District Council which has received the HGF grant.
- 2.3 Huntingdonshire District Council has submitted a planning application for the construction of the Link Road, and it is likely that this will be determined in September 2009. Whilst negotiations with landowners have been taking place, the need to move the scheme forward to tie in with the HGF timescales means that it is now necessary to consider Compulsory Purchase of the land in order to allow delivery of the scheme.
- 2.4 The Compulsory Purchase Order and Side Roads Order would be made under the 1980 Highways Act. The Orders could be published in early 2010 with an earliest start for construction in late 2010. If a Public Inquiry into the Orders is necessary the start date for construction would be late 2011. The estimated cost of the scheme is £4 million.
- 2.5 The proposed Link Road has been developed in advance of the potential introduction of the Highways Agency's Ellington to Fen Ditton scheme. A traffic model sensitivity test has been carried out to consider the impact of the A14 scheme and to ensure that the proposals for the 2 road schemes are compatible. The modelling work has confirmed that this is the case.
- 2.6 Given the urgent need to move on with this scheme to meet the HGF funding timeframe and its importance to the local area, Cabinet is asked to support the commencement of CPO and Side Roads Order proceedings.

3. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

The following bullet points set out details of significant implications identified by officers:

3.1 Resources and Performance

- The production of the Orders will be managed by existing officer capacity within the County Council
- The County Council's highway consultants, Atkins, have the resource and capability to undertake the work. This will be funded by Huntingdonshire District Council with the HGF grant.
- There are no significant financial implications from this report.

3.2 Statutory Requirement and Partnership Working

- Compulsory purchase Orders will be needed for the timely acquisition of land.
- Side Road Orders are required when it is necessary to stop up highways and /or private means of access.
- The County Council is working in partnership with Huntingdonshire District Council who are the scheme's promoters.

3.3 Climate Change

- There is the potential that as a road scheme, this could lead to an increase in the emission of exhaust gases that impact on climate change. This, however, needs to be balanced against the local regeneration benefits of the scheme as well as the fact that it allows development to take place in a town centre, which is an inherently more sustainable location than out of town.

3.4 Access and Inclusion

- There are no significant implications arising from this report.

3.5 Engagement and Consultation

- There are no significant implications arising from this report

Source Documents	Location
Huntingdonshire District Council Planning Application No.090087FUL	http://planning.huntsdc.gov.uk/PublicAccess/tdc/DcApplication/application_searchform.aspx

