

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM: 9</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2018</b>	<b>CATEGORY: DELEGATED</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>STRATEGIC DIRECTOR (SERVICE DELIVERY)</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
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<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>HIGHWAYS ENGLAND A38 DERBY JUNCTIONS SCHEME – STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION</b>	<b>REF:</b>
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE: EDS17</b>

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## **1.0 Recommendations**

1.1 It is recommended that authority for determining a Committee resolution in response to the forthcoming Highways England consultation on the A38 Derby Junctions Scheme Statement of Community Consultation be delegated to the Chair and Vice Chair of this Committee. This response would then be presented to a future meeting of this Committee for information.

## **2.0 Purpose of Report**

2.1 The purpose of the report is to seek approval for the delegation of authority to the Chair and Vice Chair of the Environmental and Development Services Committee to determine the Council response to the planned Highways England consultation on the proposed A38 Junctions Scheme Statement of Community Consultation. This response would then be reported to a later meeting of the Environmental and Development Services Committee for information.

## **3.0 Detail**

3.1 Highways England has recently announced its “preferred route” for the Derby Junctions Scheme. The A38 is a strategic route from Birmingham to the M1 (junction 28), passing through Burton-on-Trent and Derby. Where it passes through Derby the long distance traffic interacts with a large volume of vehicles making local journeys, increasing congestion and creating delays at the following three existing roundabout junctions:

- A38/A5111 Kingsway
- A38/A52 Markeaton

- A38/A61 Little Eaton

- 3.2 Highways England delivered an interim improvement scheme at Markeaton and Little Eaton in 2014/15, but has been developing plans to address the problems in the longer term. The overall objectives of the scheme are to:
- Reduce congestion and make journey times between Birmingham, Derby and the M1 more reliable;
  - Help facilitate regional development and growth in Derby City and its surrounding areas and increase capacity of the strategic road network to absorb growth;
  - Minimise impacts on the environment;
  - Reduce impacts on air quality and noise;
  - Improve safety for all road users and for those living near the junctions;
  - Facilitate integration with other transport modes where applicable;
  - Maintain or provide appropriate facilities for crossing and travelling along the road, particularly for cyclists and pedestrians;
  - Be affordable and represent high value for money
  - Improve integration by supporting the local transport plan
  - Minimise traffic disruption during construction
- 3.3 The preferred options for all three junctions involve grade separation, meaning the A38 will pass beneath Kingsway and Markeaton junctions and above the Little Eaton junction, without interruption to traffic flow. The junctions themselves will be redesigned and some existing local road connections to the A38 within Derby will be closed.
- 3.4 The scheme is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project under the Planning Act 2008. As such, the next stage in the process will be the publication of a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), which sets out the applicant's suggested community consultation techniques and methods. These should reflect local circumstances, such as access to online content (internet speeds) and the geographical spread and nature of communities, including hard to reach groups.
- 3.5 It is a requirement under the process that relevant local authorities be consulted on the SoCC. Any disagreements about the effectiveness of the methodology used can be reflected in local authority representations. Highways England intend to submit an application for a Development Consent Order to the Planning Inspectorate later this year and the local authority representations of the SoCC may have a bearing on the Inspectorate's acceptance decision. The Planning Inspectorate will examine the application in public hearings and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Transport who will decide whether the project can proceed.
- 3.6 It is currently anticipated that construction will begin in March 2021 and that the scheme will be open in September 2024.

#### **4.0 Conclusions**

- 4.1 The Planning Act 2008 states that consultation on the Statement of Community Consultation should be four weeks in length. This will allow insufficient time to prepare a report to Committee and it is therefore proposed that authority for determining a resolution be delegated to the Chair and Vice Chair of this Committee. The response would then be presented to a future meeting of this Committee for information.

## **5.0 Financial Implications**

5.1 There are no direct financial implications for the Council.

## **6.0 Corporate Implications**

6.1 The A38 Derby junctions scheme has implications for the following key aims of the Corporate Plan:

- “Facilitate and deliver a range of integrated and sustainable housing and community infrastructure”. The build-out of the entirety of Local Plan Part 1 housing allocation H19 “Land West of Mickleover” is dependent upon the completion of the proposed works to the A38 junctions, in particular the Kingsway junction, to address highway capacity constraints.
- “Help to influence and develop the infrastructure for economic growth” and “work to attract further inward investment”. The accessibility of the District is a key consideration for business investors and the alleviation of traffic congestion through the implementation of this scheme will therefore be important to the future success of the local economy.

## **7.0 Community Implications**

7.1 The A38 Derby junctions scheme has implications for the following theme of the Sustainable Community Strategy:

- “Sustainable development”: Motorised transport that utilises the internal combustion engine can create noise and air pollution, but improvements to accessibility can enable development and provide economic and employment benefits.

## **8.0 Background Papers**

“A38 Derby Junctions – Preferred Route Announcement”      Highways England, 2018