

REPORT TO:	PLANNING COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 6
DATE OF MEETING:	16th OCTOBER 2018	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR (SERVICE DELIVERY)	OPEN
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SUBJECT:	HIGHWAYS ENGLAND A38 DERBY JUNCTIONS SCHEME, PLANNING ACT 2008 SECTION 42 NSIP CONSULTATION	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ETWALL, WILLINGTON AND FINDERN	TERMS OF REFERENCE: PL01

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Council response to the consultation expresses support for the proposed scheme as it will:
- (i) Provide additional highway capacity needed to enable the development of land allocated in the South Derbyshire Local Plan for new housing; and
 - (ii) Improve the reliability of journey times for traffic using the A38 thereby assisting in the attraction and retention of business investment in South Derbyshire.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To obtain a Council response to the consultation.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The Council has been consulted by Highways England (HE) on the proposals for the A38 Derby Junctions scheme. The consultation brochure and associated documentation may be viewed at www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A38-Derby-Junctions. The Council has previously been consulted on the Draft Statement of Community Consultation, which was the subject of reports to Environmental and Development Services Committee at its meetings of 19th April, 2018 (minute EDS/116 refers) and 16th August, 2018 (minute EDS/34 refers).
- 3.2 The A38 is an inter-regional route linking Birmingham, through South Derbyshire, to Derby and the M1 at junction 28. Where it passes through Derby, long distance traffic interacts with a large volume of vehicles making local journeys. These interactions create congestion and delays at the following three roundabout junctions to the west and north of Derby city centre:

- A38/A5111 Kingsway roundabout
- A38/A52 Markeaton roundabout
- A38/A61 Little Eaton roundabout

3.3 The objectives of the scheme are to:

- Reduce congestion and improve the reliability of journey times between Birmingham, Derby and the M1;
- Help facilitate regional development and growth in Derby City and its surroundings;
- Improve safety for all road users and for those people living near junctions;
- Connect people by maintaining existing facilities (e.g. crossings and ramps etc.) or providing new means for cyclists, pedestrians and disabled users to cross the road.

3.4 The key features of the scheme are to:

- Lower the A38 to pass underneath the modified Kingsway and Markeaton junctions;
- Widen the A38 to three lanes in each direction between the Kingsway and Kedleston Road junctions;
- Build two new bridges to carry the A38 traffic over the modified roundabout at Little Eaton junction.

3.5 The proposed scheme is identified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project under the Planning Act 2008. This means that HE is required to make an application for a Development Consent Order to the Planning Inspectorate, who will examine the proposals on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport. It is intended that an application should be submitted in the spring of 2019. During the current pre-application process, HE must consult with a variety of persons and organisations about the proposed application in accordance with the requirements of the 2008 Act.

3.6 Construction is planned to start in early 2021, with the scheme due to open to traffic in 2024. The programme assumes that works would occur at all three junctions simultaneously, although it would be split into phases in a manner that would, where possible, minimise disruption and construction duration. Modelling undertaken to date indicates that, in many traffic management scenarios, a lot of journeys along the A38 would be quicker during construction than before construction started. However, during the most active construction phases, traffic management would increase A38 journey times through this section of the A38 by approximately 2 minutes.

3.7 A Preliminary Environmental Information Report has been prepared to identify the likely significant environmental effects. This will be refined as more information is gathered during the ongoing Environmental Impact Assessment and proposed scheme design process. No significant adverse impacts are identified within South Derbyshire.

4.0 Conclusions

4.1 The potential benefits of the scheme to South Derbyshire are as follows:

- Providing the additional highway capacity needed to bring forward land allocated for housing development in the South Derbyshire Local Plan Part 1.

- Improving the reliability of journey times for traffic using the A38, thereby assisting in attracting and retaining business investment in South Derbyshire and thereby contributing toward the economic wellbeing of the District.

4.2 Although the Preliminary Environmental Information Report identifies no significant environmental impacts within South Derbyshire, the interruption of traffic flow during construction may result in longer journey times, potentially causing short-term inconvenience to residents and businesses in the District. However, the Preliminary Environmental Information Report indicates that the HE strategy will be to maintain A38 journey times as much as possible.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 There are no direct financial implications for the Council.

6.0 Corporate Implications

6.1 The proposal has implications for the following key aims of the Corporate Strategy:

- “Work to attract further inward investment”: the proposals will improve the reliability of journey times to and from South Derbyshire, thus enhancing the attractiveness of the District to potential investors.
- “Facilitate and deliver a range of integrated and sustainable housing and community infrastructure”: the proposals will provide infrastructure necessary to enable the delivery of housing development in the District.
- “Help influence and deliver the infrastructure for economic growth”: the proposals have potential implications for economic growth in the District.

7.0 Community Implications

7.1 The proposal has potential implications for the following themes of the Sustainable Communities Strategy:

- “Healthy Communities”: the proposals have potential highway safety, air quality, and noise impacts, all of which can affect human health.
- “Safer Communities”: the proposals have potential highway safety implications.
- “Vibrant communities”: the proposals have potential carbon emission implications.
- “Sustainable Development”: the proposals have potential housing delivery and economic development implications.

8.0 Background Papers

“A38 Derby Junctions Scheme Statutory Consultation – Share Your Views”, Highways England, 2018

“Regulation 4 of the Infrastructure Planning Regulations 2009 – Notice Publicising a Proposed Application for a Development Consent Order”, Highways England, 2018

“A38 Derby Junctions - Preliminary Environmental Information Report”, Highways England, 2018