

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Executive Decision Record

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date:</b>	29 September 2020
<b>Title:</b>	M27 Junction 10 Scheme Update
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

**Contact:** Heather Walmsley

**Tel:** 01962 846089

**Email:** [heather.walmsley@hants.gov.uk](mailto:heather.walmsley@hants.gov.uk)

#### 1. The decision

- 1.1 That the Cabinet authorises the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment to suspend all ongoing development work on the M27 Motorway Junction 10 improvement scheme (“the Scheme”) if additional external funding for this work is not made available on reasonable terms and conditions to allow the work to continue beyond September 2020.
- 1.2 That the Cabinet agrees that following any suspension of work on development of the Scheme, the County Council will reallocate or stand down project resources and relinquish its current role as Scheme Promoter, if additional external funding for further scheme development is not received within a month following the suspension of activities.
- 1.3 That the Cabinet approves a change in the approach of the County Council as Scheme Promoter to formally review its continued role on the Scheme to follow the completion of Stage 3 of Highways England’s approval process, rather than following completion of the Full Business Case stage.

#### 2. Reasons for the decision

- 2.1 The County Council has been Scheme Promoter leading on all design, development, and business case work for the Scheme since January 2018 following a request at that time by Chris Grayling, the then Secretary of State for Transport. The Scheme is substantial in scale and complexity, being the highest value single transport scheme ever progressed by the County Council. Progress to date has been significant, but has been complicated by

the parallel work of Highways England's Smart Motorways Programme; and ongoing development and delivery funding issues.

- 2.2 All work on the Scheme to date has been funded through the Department for Transport's retained funding element within the Solent LEP Local Growth Fund. In line with the agreed County Council position in taking on the Scheme Promoter role, there has been no cost to the County Council. Current development funding is set to run out in September 2020. On 15 September 2020 the Solent LEP Board formally confirmed that they had considered a request from the County Council as Scheme Promoter for up to £900,000 to fund the completion of development work up to Stage 3 of the Highways England Project Control Framework process for M27 Junction 10, by the end of March 2021. A full understanding of the conditions associated with this funding are awaited and as such this proposal seeks a mandate for the County Council to initially suspend and then to relinquish its role as Scheme Promoter and to stop work on the Scheme should the conditions prove unacceptable or no other additional external funding is made available within a reasonable period and on acceptable terms. If the conditions for the Solent LEP development funding are acceptable, then future work can progress within a framework of deliverables up to a specified break point, and Cabinet is asked to agree to this new break or review point for the work going forward.

### **3. Other options considered and rejected:**

- 3.1 To continue to progress the design and development work for the Scheme without confirmation of external funding would be the most pragmatic way of getting the Scheme to a point it can be delivered to help facilitate the wider development of Welborne Garden Village in the shortest possible timescale. However, without third party funding in place to enable the continuation of this work, the County Council would need to underwrite the costs, which is against its agreed policy for involvement at Welborne, and for which no funding is identified or in place. Therefore, to proceed without identified third party funding on acceptable conditions, is not considered a viable or appropriate way forward. The option of accepting funding on any conditions was also considered, and rejected as this could place unreasonable financial, outcome or work programme obligations on the County Council.

### **4. Conflicts of interest:**

- 4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker:

Councillor Woodward declared a personal interest as Leader of Fareham Borough Council and left the meeting before the decision was taken.

- 4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted:

**5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.**

**6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.**

**7. Statement from the Decision Maker:**

In reaching this decision, Cabinet noted that positive engagement was underway with the Solent LEP with regards their funding offer and that it was hoped that mutually acceptable terms for the funding could be reached shortly, in which case the decisions at 1.1 and 1.2 would no longer be relevant and therefore would not be implemented.

**Approved by:**

**Date:**

-----

**29 September 2020**

**Chairman of Cabinet  
Councillor Keith Mans**