

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment
<b>Date:</b>	11 March 2021
<b>Title:</b>	Farnborough Growth Package Update including Lynchford Road advance works
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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### Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Farnborough growth package transport improvements and seek approval to spend on advance utilities diversions and related advanced works concerning the Lynchford Road Improvement scheme.

### Recommendations

2. That the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment gives approval to procure and spend, and to enter necessary contractual arrangements in consultation with the Head of Legal Services, to implement the advanced utility diversions for the Lynchford Road improvements, as well as any necessary street furniture and vegetation removal, at a cost of £0.76million to be funded from Local Growth Funding awarded by the Enterprise M3 LEP.
3. That the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment gives approval to adjust the scope of the Farnborough growth package to include improvements along Alexandra Road, Old Lynchford Road and Camp Road.
4. That authority to make arrangements to implement the works, including minor variations to the design, delivery arrangements or contract, be delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment.

### Executive Summary

5. This paper seeks to:
  - gain approval to commence advance utility diversions as set out in this report for the Lynchford Road scheme; and
  - gain approval to amend the scope of the Farnborough growth package.
6. In July 2020, the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment agreed to explore an optional alternative to a preferred Scheme previously approved by the Executive Member for Environment and Transport in January

2019. The changes are intended to retain the project aims and enable improved provision for cycling, walking and vehicle parking to the northern side of Lynchford Road.

7. Since the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment meeting in July 2020, the design work has developed further and stakeholder engagement events have taken place with various scheme stakeholders including Rushmoor Borough Council, North Camp Support Group, North Camp Matters, local retailers, Cycle Lobby Groups and Farnborough International to gauge their views of the proposals.
8. Local concerns including loss of parking, lack of motorcycle parking, loss of trees and impact of ecology were discussed with stakeholders and where possible these have been addressed within the updated design. Areas for additional tree planting have also been identified in the latest design for the optional alternative scheme.
9. Discussions with regards to the impact of the updated Local Transport Note (LTN) 1/20 on the proposed cycling routes have also been discussed with the local cycling lobby and incorporated into the design for the optional alternative scheme to achieve a more LTN1/20 friendly scheme.
10. A four-week public consultation event commenced on 1 February 2021. A Project Appraisal to report the consultation results and seek approval to implement a preferred design for the main improvements for Lynchford will be brought to the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment in due course.

### **Contextual information**

11. In November 2017 approval was secured from the Executive Member for Environment and Transport to undertake a detailed public and stakeholder consultation on the Farnborough Growth Package. The consultation explained the need to invest in transport in Farnborough and presented a range of “in principle” transport interventions across Farnborough.
12. On 13 March 2018, the Executive Member for Environment and Transport resolved to identify Lynchford Road and Invincible Road as priority schemes, and in relation to Lynchford Road, that further feasibility design work should be undertaken to identify a deliverable scheme, including engagement with the local community and consideration of the potential to mitigate air quality issues on the Blackwater Valley Relief Road. The intention at this stage was for Lynchford Road scheme to be delivered as 3 phases.
13. On 15 January 2019, approval was given to take forward further design and development work for Phase One of the scheme and to submit a business case to the EM3 LEP. The business case was submitted on 5 March 2019, and on 28 November 2019 the EM3 LEP approved the business case and a funding grant of £6.7million.

### **Advanced Enabling Works**

14. Approval to proceed with advance enabling works including the diversion of utilities for Lynchford Road ahead of the main contract will enable the main works to proceed less affected by utilities and reduces the project risk of delays associated with accommodating utility diversions within activities of the main works programme. In addition, the approval will give the scheme an advantage with regards to achieving spending timescales set out by the EM3 LEP. The advanced works will be complementary to options being progressed.
15. No advance works which supports one option over another will take place at this stage.
16. Localised vegetation and street furniture removal will be required to facilitate the diversion of utilities. No trees are expected to be felled during these utilities works.
17. The utilities to be diverted include BT Openreach assets, Southern Gas mains, South East Water assets, SSE assets and Virgin assets.
18. The current estimated cost for the advanced enabling works is around £0.76m and the Council will be entering into a formal agreement with the utilities companies to carry out these works. The intention is for the utilities companies to carry all works including vegetation and street furniture. However, The Council will work with the utility companies throughout the design process to identify any cost efficiencies that can be achieved by doing these works through existing highways and maintenance contracts it has in place.

### **Change of Scope to Farnborough Growth Package**

19. In January 2019, authority was given by the Executive Member for Economy Transport and Environment to enter into a funding agreement with the Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership for the delivery of Phase One of the Lynchford Road scheme and the Invincible Road Scheme. These schemes formed part of the Farnborough Growth Package. To better reflect changing national and local policy, provide operational efficiencies, and take advantage of further funding opportunities available, the Farnborough Growth Package is being expanded to include the schemes below. These schemes are not included within the Phase 1 package of works that was given approval in January 2019.

### **Active Travel Fund – Old Lynchford Road & Camp Road**

20. Further changes to Old Lynchford Road and Camp Road are planned as part of the Active Travel Fund to increase walking and cycling infrastructure.

### **Blackwater Gold Grid – Alexandra Road**

21. The Alexandra Road Improvement Scheme initial proposals support the delivery of bus priority and intelligent transport systems improvements at Alexandra Road to reduce car-based travel in North Camp. This forms part of the Black Water Gold Grid 1 project.

## North Camp Low Traffic Neighbourhood Scheme

22. Capacity improvements along Lynchford Road should reduce the amount of traffic that uses the residential and commercial streets in North Camp as short cuts. Low Traffic Neighbourhoods would provide the opportunity to rebalance the streets and spaces within North Camp for people, not traffic, and create a safer and more liveable neighbourhood.

## Consultation

23. An online public engagement event commenced on 1 February 2021, this lasted four weeks and results of the consultation event will be brought to the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment in due course.
24. The engagement covered not only the Lynchford Road scheme but also elements of the Blackwater Gold Grid (Alexandra Road), Active travel schemes (Old Lynchford Road and Camp Road) and early engagement on a Low traffic neighbourhood scheme at North Camp.
25. The proposals for Lynchford Road improvements form part of Hampshire County Council's 2020/21 Capital Programme.
26. The project delivery timescales for the Lynchford Road scheme are set out below:

<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Expected</b>
Detail design completion	June 2021
Project Appraisal	June 2021
Tender	August/ September 2021
Construction Start	November/ December 2021

## Finance

27. The breakdown of advanced Utilities diversion costs is set out in the table below.

<b>Estimates</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>% of total</b>	<b>Funds Available</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Design Fee	5	0.7	Local Transport Plan	0
Site Clearance	10	1.3	Developer Contribution	0
Diversion Works	745	98.0	Local Enterprise Partnership	760
<b>Total</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>760</b>

## Climate Change Impact Assessments

28. Hampshire County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience of its projects and decisions. These tools provide a clear, robust, and transparent way of assessing how projects, policies and initiatives contribute towards the County Council's climate change targets of

being carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of a 2°C temperature rise by 2050. This process ensures that climate change considerations are built into everything the Authority does.

29. An initial Vulnerability Assessment was conducted and has concluded the scheme diversionary work can be considered to have an overall low level of vulnerability to changing climatic indices. Results from the screening tool suggest that any vulnerabilities to this project arise during construction from strong winds and storm events. However, the materials to be used and construction methodologies for the diversion works will be compliant with the appropriate design and construction standards (Design Manual for Roads and Bridges) and British Standards. The location does not require any additional considerations in terms of more resilient materials.

30. The scheme diversion works supports one of the key strategic priorities:

*Green Economic Growth & Prosperity* – the diversionary works include the replacement of key utilities with the aim of improving energy efficiency and facilitating delivery of the main Lynchford Road widening works.

31. A full climate change impact assessment for each of the schemes in the Farnborough Growth Package will be brought forward when a project appraisal is completed.

#### **Land**

32. At this stage of the design, the utilities work does not require additional land, and all works including vegetation removal are expected to be carried out within land designated as highway.

#### **Future Direction**

33. A Project Appraisal to report the consultation results and seek approval for a preferred design for the main improvements for Lynchford will be brought to the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment in due course.

## REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

### Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	no
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	no

### Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Lynchford Road Farnborough Growth Package	02/07/2020
Farnborough Growth Package – Lynchford Road and Invincible Road Improvements	15/01/2019
Farnborough Growth Package and Blackwater Valley Gold Grid	13/03/2018
Farnborough Growth Package and Blackwater Valley "Gold Grid"	14/11/2017
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>

### Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

## **EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:**

### **1. Equality Duty**

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

### **2. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

- 2.1. The proposed improvements to Lynchford Road aim to deliver capacity improvements to address existing congestion and accommodate future growth in travel demand in the area. The proposals also aim to improve conditions for pedestrians and cyclists as well as enhancing the public realm within North Camp Village centre.
- 2.2. This decision to approve the diversion of utilities and changing the scope of the Farnborough growth package will have a neutral impact on residents with protected characteristics, and as the scheme progresses to the detailed design stage, a project appraisal will be brought forward which will include an equalities impact assessment of the implementation of the Scheme.