

Cabinet Member Decision 1 April 2014

REPORT TO THE CABINET MEMBER ON MITIGATION MEASURES AND FINAL DETAIL AT THE KETCH ROUNDBABOUT, WORCESTER

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| Relevant Cabinet Member | Mr S E Geraghty |
| Relevant Officer | Director of Business, Environment and Community |
| Local Members | Mr R C Adams, Mr M Bayliss and Mr R Sutton |
| Recommendation | <p>1. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Economy, Skills and Infrastructure is recommended to:</p> <p>(a) approve the measures in relation to the Ketch Roundabout, Worcester as recommended in the report below; and</p> <p>(b) authorise the Director of Business, Economy and Community to take all necessary steps to implement those measures.</p> |
| Background Information | <p>2. Cabinet approved the scheme to improve the Ketch Roundabout through implementation of Phase 1 of the Worcester Transportation Strategy on 7 March 2013. This followed extensive consultation on the Worcester Transport Strategy and Local Transport Plan 3 which was adopted by Worcestershire County Council on 17 February 2011 and which highlighted the need to improve the Southern Link Road. Funding for the scheme was approved by the Department for Transport following a comprehensive review on 13 February 2013.</p> <p>3. On 12 December 2013, Cabinet resolved that:</p> <p>(a) the continued development of the project to dual the Southern Link Road which will be the subject of a further Cabinet report when key decisions are required to be endorsed;</p> <p>(b) public engagement on the final details of the Ketch junction improvement scheme, in particular upon aspects of mitigation and the local environment, be undertaken; and</p> <p>(c) the final decision on the final details of the Ketch</p> |

junction improvement and implementation following the public engagement set out in (b), be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Responsibility for Economy, Skills and Infrastructure in consultation with the Director of Business, Environment and Community.

4. A twelve week public engagement exercise was carried out, concluding on 28 February 2014. The methodology and key findings can be found in the *Ketch Roundabout Improvement Scheme Public Engagement Report* which is published with this report.

5. Some of the responses to the public engagement exercise fall outside the scope of the exercise but have, nevertheless, been accorded a response in the *Ketch Roundabout Improvement Scheme Public Engagement Report*. As per the Cabinet decision on 12 December 2013, this report for a Cabinet Member decision is focused on final detail and mitigation measures.

6. The key measures which the Cabinet Member is therefore being asked to approve are itemised below.

Noise mitigation

- The existing earth bund which lies between Begonia Close and the Ketch Roundabout to be extended in an easterly direction towards the pedestrian entrance to Orchid Close
- A 1.8m acoustic fence to be installed between the earth bund and the pedway (which is being slightly realigned). The fence to extend from a point that aligns with the front wall of 8 Begonia Close to a point just short of the pedestrian access to Orchid Close
- The fence to be "returned" at one or both ends if so requested by Worcester City Council
- The acoustic fence to be installed on a new earth bund where necessary to ensure that the intended final fence height is achieved
- The existing earth bund located to the north of the A4440 between the Ketch and Norton Roundabouts to be extended in a westerly direction thereby increasing the overlap between the two bunds
- The new road surface to be constructed so as to minimise noise e.g. minimum ironworks.

Light mitigation (headlamps)

- The installation of the acoustic fence is intended to ensure that there is no increased impact from headlights
- Trees to be planted to supplement the fencing where necessary.

Light mitigation (streetlights)

- Lighting scheme to be installed which will have a similar or lower impact on residential property than at present.

Mitigation for removal of vegetation

- All trees, shrubs and bulbs that are removed to be replaced with similar varieties
- Tree species to include a mix of evergreen and deciduous varieties
- Replacement trees to be of a reasonable size i.e. not just whips
- Officers to be empowered to commission the Parish Council to carry out some or all of this replacement planting
- The Millennium Oak Tree to be relocated in consultation with the Parish Council and Worcester City Council
- Bare areas to be re-seeded.

Mitigation during construction

- A Traffic Management plan to be developed in association with the Highway Agency to minimise traffic disruption
- Contractor's compound to be located away from residential areas
- No construction vehicles to be allowed in residential areas
- Work to be subject to usual Regulatory Services scrutiny
- Temporary screening to be erected in the vicinity of Begonia Close to reduce the impact of construction works.

Other measures

- The existing earth bund located to the north of the A4440 between the Ketch and Norton Roundabouts to be landscaped so that it is a minimum of 2m above the carriageway
- A 1m high post and mesh fence to be installed on the boundary between the Highway and Power Park
- Officers to be empowered to locate the fence marginally on the Worcester City side of the boundary should both parties consider it to be beneficial for maintenance purposes
- Officers to be empowered to enhance fencing around the Area 51 play area subject to a request to do so from Worcester City Council.

7. It is proposed that all mitigation measures should be implemented before the road improvements are complete (subject to those which have to be approved by Worcester City Council being agreed).

Legal, Financial, HR and Equality Implications

8. It is proposed that noise and lighting levels are measured post-construction to ensure that they have not increased and to indicate if further mitigation measures are required.

Supporting Information

9. There are no additional legal, financial, HR or equality implications relating to this decision that have not already been taken account of.

- [Ketch Roundabout Improvement Scheme Public Engagement Report](#)

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

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Specific Contact Points for this report

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Director of Business, Environment and Community) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:-

Cabinet agenda papers 7 March 2013 and 12 December 2013

