



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

JAMES PALMER
CAMBRIDGESHIRE &
PETERBOROUGH MAYOR

Agenda Item No: 2.2

Report title: A16 Norwood Improvements

To: Transport and Infrastructure Committee

Meeting Date: 06 January 2021

Public report: Yes

Lead Member: Mayor James Palmer

From: Paul Raynes, Delivery and Strategy Director

Key decision: Yes

Forward Plan ref: Not applicable

Recommendations: The Transport and Infrastructure Committee is recommended to:

- a) Approve the Strategic Outline Business Case
- b) Recommend to the Combined Authority Board the drawdown of £630,000 from the Medium Term Financial Plan to produce the Outline Business Case. This includes £320,000 carry forward from the current financial year subject to approval budget.

Voting arrangements: For Item (a), a simple majority of all Members

For Item (b) A vote in favour by at least two thirds of all Members (or their Substitute Members) appointed by the Constituent Councils, to include the Members appointed by Cambridgeshire County Council or Peterborough City Council, or their Substitute Members

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To provide a summary of the outcome of the Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) and request approval to proceed to Outline Business Case (OBC) for the A16 Norwood Improvement.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Peterborough Local Plan (adopted July 2019) sets out the overall vision, priorities, and objectives for Peterborough up to 2036. The updated strategy identifies the required delivery of 19,440 new homes and 17,600 new jobs by 2036.
- 2.2 The 80-hectare Norwood site will provide 2,000 dwellings, a local centre and primary school. The delivery of the development has been split into two phases.
- 2.3 The first phase of development (2019 – 2031) is known as the land off Newborough Road (Leeds Farm Development), which includes up to 870 dwellings and auxiliary uses, including a primary school and local centre, and would initially be accessed via Newborough Road.
- 2.4 The second phase of development (2026 – 2031) will complete the build of the Norwood site, and will include the remaining dwellings.
- 2.5 Adjacent to the Norwood site (to the west of Newborough Road) is the Paston Reserve Urban Extension. Development at this site has begun, with 87 dwellings now complete, and the site will eventually include 945 dwellings, a local centre, a primary school and a secondary school with space for 900 pupils.
- 2.6 The SOBC for A16 Norwood was commissioned by the Transport and Infrastructure Committee in November 2019, following approval by the Combined Authority Board in March 2018 of a pipeline of projects outlined in the Transport Delivery 2018/19 report.

3 Outcome of the Strategic Outline Business Case

- 3.1 The SOBC sets out the case for transport improvements in the A16 Norwood area. It has assessed a number of options against the project's primary objectives:
 - Tackle congestion and improve journey times along the A16 and on the primary approaches to the A16/A47/Welland Road Roundabout;
 - Support Peterborough's growth agenda to ensure that the planned employment and housing growth at Norwood can be realised;
 - Limit impact on the local environment and improve biodiversity.
- 3.2 The SOBC concludes that a package of interventions is needed to improve congestion, safety and enable growth in the area. The package includes:
 - Closure of Newborough Road access onto A47;
 - Dualling of A16 between the A16/A47/Welland Road Roundabout and the Norwood Development Access;
 - Signalisation of A16/A47/Welland Road Roundabout on the A16 southbound

approach;

- A 50-metre flare added to the A47 westbound approach to provide additional capacity for left turning traffic to Welland Road;
- Dedicated Left Turn Lane (LTL) from the A47 eastbound to the A16 northbound.

- 3.3 This package of works will be further developed at OBC. The SOBC reports that the package has a Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) of 3.2, which demonstrates high value for money. The financial case estimates the construction cost at approximately £6,615,466 including a 20% risk allowance. Further work will be undertaken to refine the cost estimating further through the business case stages.
- 3.4 The project is interdependent with the development of the sites. Improvements along the A16 corridor are required as part of planning applications at the Norwood Urban Extension to accommodate new housing. The developer is expected to provide a new access roundabout with the A16 and a new access priority junction with Newborough Road. It is currently understood that the two points of access will be connected by an internal road, providing all residents with direct access to the A16.
- 3.5 These improvements are considered necessary for traffic from the development to be able to access the wider network as planned. Engagement with officers at Peterborough City Council will continue at OBC to ensure the recommended option remains appropriate.
- 3.6 The recommended option has been discussed with Highways England who agree in principle to the proposed interventions. Engagement with Highways England will continue throughout the project development and delivery.
- 3.7 The business case also details the management and commercial considerations for progressing the project and concludes that Peterborough City Council should manage the project, reporting to a project board, and it is proposed to use their Peterborough Highways Contract to deliver the project, but this will be confirmed at OBC.
- 3.8 The SOBC has undergone the independent third party review who have confirmed that the BCR and report have been appropriately developed.

4 Next Steps

- 4.1 The next phase of the project will be for the OBC to be undertaken to develop the recommended option further. This phase will also include a number of surveys and a public consultation to ensure that the Full Business Case (FBC) scope is better defined. An outline programme for the OBC and beyond is detailed in the table below:

| Timing | Milestone Activity |
|-------------------------|---|
| April 2021 – March 2022 | Outline Business Case produced and Preliminary Design undertaken. |
| April 2022 – May 2022 | Review and approval for OBC and progression to FBC. |
| June 2022 – May 2023 | Detailed Design undertaken and Full Business Case produced |

| | |
|------|---|
| 2024 | Closure of Newborough Road Access to A47 delivered in conjunction with Developer schemes including Norwood internal access road and A16 Norwood Developer Roundabout. |
| 2027 | Construction of the remaining schemes, including A16 Dualling and A16/A47/Welland Road Roundabout improvements. |

4.2 The OBC has been costed at £630,000 comprising surveys, traffic modelling, staff time and a third party independent review. The OBC is expected to take approximately a year to complete.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 The recommended option has a high value for money BCR of 3.2.

5.2 The OBC has been costed at £630,000 comprising, surveys, modelling, staff time and a third party independent review. Spend will take place in the 2021/22 financial year.

5.3 The Medium Term Financial Plan provides £320,000 subject to approval in 2020-21 and a further £730,000 subject to approval in 2021-22. There is sufficient allocation for both the OBC and the FBC expected cost within the remaining budget, however the budget profile in the Medium Term Financial Plan requires revision to reflect the current programme from the SOBC.

5.4 A construction budget is included as a “subject to approval” line within the Medium Term Financial Plan in the 2023/24 financial year.

6. Legal Implications

6.1 The recommendations accord with CPCA’s powers under Part 3 of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Order 2017 (SI 2017/251).

6.2 The meeting shall be conducted in accordance with Parts 2 and 3 of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus)(Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings)(England and Wales) Regulations 2020. See Appendix 2 for guidance.

7. Other Significant Implications

7.1 None at this time

8. Appendices

8.1 Appendix 1 – A16 Norwood Improvement Strategic Outline Business Case

9. Background Papers

9.1 7 November 2019 [Transport and Infrastructure Committee Paper](#)