



Agenda Item No: 2.8

## A141 St Ives Improvements

To:	Transport and Infrastructure Committee
Meeting Date:	13 July 2022
Public report:	Public Report
Lead Member:	Mayor Dr Nik Johnson
From:	Emma White, Transport Programme Manager
Key decision:	No
Forward Plan ref:	Not applicable
Recommendations:	<p>The Transport and Infrastructure Committee is recommended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Note the progress on the A141 St Ives Improvements scheme;</li><li>b) Recommend the Combined Authority Board approve the release of £6m funding for the delivery of the Outline Business Case; and</li><li>c) Recommend the Combined Authority Board delegate authority to the Interim Head of Transport and Chief Finance Officer to enter into Grant Funding Agreements with Cambridgeshire County Council.</li></ul>
Voting arrangements:	<p>Point a) is for noting only: no vote required, Points b) requires 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 and Peterborough City Council, or their Substitute Members and c) a simple majority of all Members present and voting</p>

# 1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report summaries the work on the A141 and St Ives Improvements scheme including a recommendation for approval of budget to progress the Outline Business Case. The report also requests to delegate authority to the Interim Head of Transport and Chief Finance Officer to enter into Grant Funding Agreements with Cambridgeshire County Council.

# 2. Background

- 2.1 In April 2018, the A141 Huntingdon Capacity Study (commissioned by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority) and the St Ives Area Transport Study (commissioned by Cambridgeshire County Council [CCC]) commenced as a joint delivery study to consider the capacity challenges in the area
- 2.2 In March 2019, the Combined Authority subsequently approved the commissioning of a Huntingdon Third River Crossing feasibility study to also consider how that proposal might address the capacity challenges in the area.
- 2.3 Emerging findings from the A141 Huntingdon Capacity Study and St Ives Area Transport Study suggested that they needed to consider the wider growth issues in the Huntingdon and St Ives area. It was therefore agreed by the January 2020 Transport and Infrastructure Committee and Combined Authority Board that this work be extended to include the Huntingdon Third River Crossing work.
- 2.4 The change to the study scope meant that it was necessary to compare the performance of the wider road network as a result of both schemes. The proposal for a Huntingdon Third River Crossing was therefore included within the traffic modelling and a high-level environmental desktop study for the area. The options compared included a bypass route for the A141 North of Huntingdon as well as the river crossing.
- 2.5 The outcomes of the study were reported at the August 2020 Combined Authority Board. Evidence demonstrated that an A141 bypass was the better performing option for addressing current and future congestion and growth and the Combined Authority Board decided to commission a Strategic Outline Business Case for that option. Atkins were subsequently engaged through a procurement exercise to undertake a Strategic Outline Business Case for that option.
- 2.6 In March 2021 the Combined Authority Board were presented with the St Ives Strategic Outline Business Case paper. This detailed that in August 2020 at the Combined Authority Board a decision was taken that £500,000 from the capital budget will be allocated for developing a Strategic Outline Business Case for St Ives. This was to be spent and progressed by the CCC. Following discussions with the County Council it was agreed that the Combined Authority would be able to directly commission the work. The project team identified new and improved ways of working that resulted in efficiencies savings that are to be used to fund the St Ives study.
- 2.7 In June 2021 the Transport and Infrastructure Committee and the Combined Authority Board were presented with the latest update on the A141 Huntingdon Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) including a description of the SOBC and results on the public and stakeholder engagement.

2.8 In January 2022 the Transport and Infrastructure Committee and the Combined Authority Board were presented with the St Ives study results including public engagement and the findings of the A141 and St Ives joint SOBC. Approval was given for the next stage of the study, to develop cost programmes and proposals for the OBC and St Ives Local Improvement Study. In March 2022 the Combined Authority Board gave approval for £2.3 million for the St Ives Local Improvements.

### 3. A141 St Ives Improvements Scheme (Outline Business Case - OBC)

3.1 The A141 and St Ives Improvements scheme is designed to progress the completed SOBC to meet the potential future requirements of any grant funding from the Department for Transport (DfT). This proposes the preparation of an Outline Business Case (OBC) to DfT Green Book, as well as the Combined Authority’s and CCC’s assurance requirements, including a preferred route accompanied by robust costs and a preliminary design with full supporting information.

3.2 A key early stage of the scheme is to revalidate the outcomes of the SOBC in the context of updated guidance, e.g., Local Transport Note 120, the requirement to assess the carbon implications of schemes and requirement for net increase in biodiversity to be at least 20%. Once the SOBC has been revalidated and any implications of this work established, the scheme can move into the OBC stage.

3.3 The initial expectation is that the work will cost £6 million and will be completed across the two financial years 2022/23 and 2023/24.

3.4 The resources required from the County Council teams to support delivery are being assessed and engaged so that they will be available to meet the demands of the scheme when required.

3.5 CCC and the Combined Authority will look to minimise costs and maximise efficiencies wherever possible to reduce the burden on budgets. This will be kept under constant review and reinvested within the programme – especially when further information becomes available an update will be provided in a timely manner.

### 4. Significant Implications

4.1 None.

### 5. Financial Implications

£,000	Financial Year	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
A141 OBC & FBC	<i>MTFP (Subject to Approval)</i>			1300	2300	

	MTFP (Approved to Spend)		650			
St Ives OBC & FBC	<i>MTFP (Subject to Approval)</i>			1400	1500	
	MTFP (Approved to Spend)	500	1000			
Total		500	1,650	2,700	3,800	0

5.1 £2.3 million has already been approved for the St Ives Local Improvements study from the MTFP.

5.2 The request is for a further £6 million, therefore some of the 2024-2025 budget will be re-profiled to be used in 2023-24.

## 6. Legal Implications

6.1 None.

## 7. Public Health Implications

7.1 The delivery of the scheme will have a positive impact on public health through the improvement to the local environment.

## 8. Environmental and Climate Change Implications

8.1 The delivery of the scheme will have a positive impact on the local environment through the delivery of place-improvement measures.

## 9. Other Significant Implications

9.1 None

## 10. Background Papers

[Combined Authority Board reports 14 March 2022](#)

[Combined Authority Board reports 26 Jan 2022](#)

