



Agenda Item No: 2.1

Report title: A141 Huntingdon and St Ives Outline Business Case and St Ives Local Improvements

To: Transport and Infrastructure Committee

Meeting Date: 14 March 2022

Public report: Public Report

Lead Member: Mayor Dr Nik Johnson

From: Rowland Potter

Key decision: No

Forward Plan ref:

Recommendations: The Transport and Infrastructure Committee is recommended to:

- a) Note the progress of the St Ives Local Improvements study;
- b) Note the progress of the A141 and St Ives Strategic Outline Business Case;
- c) Recommend to the CA Board that it:
 - i. Approve the drawdown of £2.3 million for commencement of the St Ives Local Improvement Schemes; and,
 - ii. Delegate authority to the Head of Transport and Chief Finance Officer to agree a Grant Funding Agreement with Cambridgeshire County Council

Voting arrangements: a), and b) are note only items: no vote required. C) a simple majority of members present and voting.

1. Purpose

1.2 The purpose of the report is to:

- Update the progress of the St Ives Local Improvement
- Update the progress on the A141 and St Ives Strategic Outline Business Case; and
- Recommend the approval of the drawdown of £2.3 million for commencement of the St Ives Local Improvement Schemes.

2 Background

- 2.2 In April 2018, the A141 Huntingdon Capacity Study (commissioned by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA)) 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 local area.
- 2.3 In March 2019, the CPCA approved the commissioning of a Huntingdon Third River Crossing Feasibility Study to consider how that proposal might address the capacity challenges in the area.
- 2.4 The 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. Subsequently it was agreed by the January 2020 Transport and Infrastructure Committee and CA Board that this work be extended to include work on the Huntingdon Third River Crossing.
- 2.5 The change to the study's 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 included within the traffic modelling and a high-level environmental desktop study. The options compared included a bypass route for the A141 North of Huntingdon as well as the river crossing.
- 2.6 The outcomes of the study were reported at the August 2020 CA Board. This report outlined that the study's evidence demonstrated that an A141 bypass was the better performing option in addressing current and future congestion and growth. It was agreed to commission work to develop a Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) for that option. Atkins were subsequently engaged through a procurement exercise to undertake the Strategic Outline Business Case work.
- 2.7 In March 2021 the CA Board were presented with a St Ives Strategic Outline Business Case paper. To continue the development of the SOBC work for St Ives, the CA Board approved to allocate £500,000 from its capital budget. This was allocated to Cambridgeshire County Council who ensured the work progressed. Following discussions with the County Council, the CPCA has decided that there is a better way forward to progress the work associated with St Ives. The project team have found efficiency savings to fund the St Ives study and consequently the CPCA have been able to commission the work directly.
- 2.8 In June 2021 the CA Board were presented with the latest update on the A141 Huntingdon SOBC including the results on the public and stakeholder engagement.
- 2.9 In November 2021 the CA Board were shown the findings of the A141 and St Ives SOBC as well as update on the St Ives Local Improvement schemes. Both studies were approved for

progression onto the next stage. This included further collaboration with Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) to develop a proposal, cost and programme to bring forward to the Transport and Infrastructure Committee and CA Board to drawdown the funds and commence the schemes as soon as possible.

2.10 Figure 1 below shows a summary of the timeline of the project.

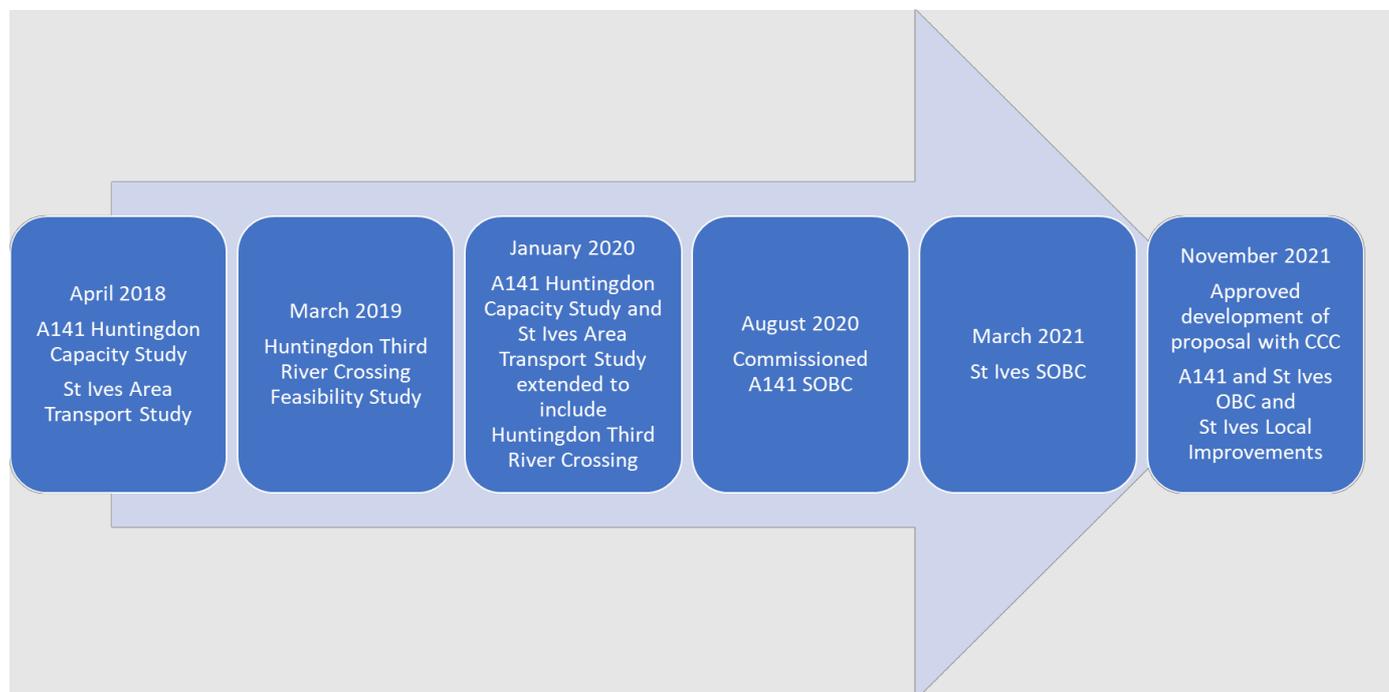


Figure 1 – A141 and St Ives project timeline.

3 A141 and St Ives Outline Business Case (OBC)

3.1 The CPCA are continuing to work with the County Council to develop a proposal, cost and programme to bring forward to Committee and CA Board to drawdown the funds and ensure the schemes are started in a timely manner.

4 St Ives Local Improvement Study

4.1 The St Ives Local Improvement Study builds upon the highway improvements identified in the A141 and St Ives Transport Study Options Appraisal Report dated 2020. Documented below are five packages of schemes planned to be progressed.

Package 1 – St Ives Town Centre – Package of schemes

4.2 Introduction of a 20mph speed limit across St Ives Town Centre. Changing priorities and localised road widening at the Ramsey Road / North Road, Globe Place / North Road / Broad Leas and Globe Place / West Street / East Street junctions. Changes to on-street parking restrictions in the town centre area, to reduce illegal and inconsiderate parking. Focus on reducing congestion pinch points in town centre, rat running and improving bus access

Package 2 – Silvaco West Roundabout Improvement (A1123 / B1040) and right turn ban Needingworth Road to A1123 Audrey Lane

- 4.3 Silvaco West (A1123/B1040) roundabout improvements, including the replacement of the roundabout at the A1123 St Audrey Lane / B1040 Somersham Road junction with traffic signals.
- 4.4 A right-turn ban for all traffic from Needingworth Road onto A1123 St Audrey Lane. To re-test the impact of recommendations, consider possible alternative options and recommendation of preferred option.

Package 3 – Bus Stop Improvements

- 4.5 Improvements to bus stop infrastructure, including:
- a) 22 priority bus stops;
 - b) Removal of redundant bus stop infrastructure; and
 - c) Non-priority bus stops and hail and ride.
- 4.6 To make travel by public bus services in St Ives a more attractive option by improving the bus stop infrastructure facilities.

Package 4 – Walking and Cycling Signage Improvements

- 4.7 Package of walking and cycling signage improvements.
- a) 41 new signs;
 - b) Removal of redundant infrastructure; and
 - c) Consideration of conducting a quality audit of pedestrian and cycling routes.
- 4.8 To improve consistency and connectivity of walking and cycling signage throughout St Ives to encourage increased levels of walking and cycling.

Package 5 – Non-Motorised User (NMU) Routes Development Study

- 4.9 Audit, feasibility, scoping and optioneering and development of a network of active travel routes in and around St Ives. This work will build on CPCA’s study work, the LCWIP, and other local evidence. Output will be a more developed package of projects for consideration for investment. Detailed programme and cost profile to be provided after engagement with the supply chain and development of a more detailed scope.

Programme and Cost of each pack of measures

The programme and cost of each package is shown in the table below.

Package	Start date	End date	Cost £
1	April 2022	August 2023	617,419
2	April 2022	August 2023	834,480
3	April 2022	January 2023	360,192
4	April 2022	January 2023	87,908
5	April 2022	August 2023	400,000

- 4.10 The A141 and St Ives OBC and St Ives Local Improvements will be run concurrently to make sure co-ordination between the two projects thereby offering the best possible integrated solutions.

5 Significant Implications

- 5.1 It is noted that the timing of establishing a preferred route for the A141 Northern Bypass is critical to the development of schemes within the planning process. The combined authority will continue to work with Cambridgeshire County Council officers in the development of a programme to consider the development of options for public consultation at the earliest opportunity, so that a preferred option can be presented for consents. Huntingdonshire District Council officers will be involved within this process.

6 Financial Implications

- 6.1 The project currently has subject to approval capital programme budget of £4.4m in total across financial years 2021/22 to 2024/25. This report recommends the approval of a drawdown of budget of £2.3 million for commencement of the St Ives Local Improvement Schemes, in line with the current estimated costs and timescales shown in the table in section 4.9.

7 Legal Implications

- 7.1 No legal implications.

8. Other Significant Implications

- 8.1 None

9. Appendices

- 9.1 None

10. Background Papers

[A141-St-Ives-Option-Assessment-Report-Part-A1](#)

[A141-St-Ives-Option-Assessment-Report-Part-A2](#)

[Combined Authority Board report 12th January 2022](#)