



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

JAMES PALMER
CAMBRIDGESHIRE &
PETERBOROUGH MAYOR

Agenda Item No: 2.8

A47 Dualling

To: Transport and Infrastructure Committee

Meeting Date: 10 March 2021

Public report: Yes

Lead Member: Mayor James Palmer

From: Paul Raynes
Director of Delivery and Strategy

Key decision: No

Forward Plan ref: N/A

Recommendations: The Transport and Infrastructure Committee is recommended to:

a) Note the content of this report

Voting arrangements: Simple majority of all Members present and voting.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To update the Committee on the outcome of discussions with Highways England on the A47 Dualling project.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Mayor, Combined Authority and partner organisations have long recognised the strategic importance of the A47 to the regional and national economy. The Mayor has committed to a number of ambitious and strategic transport improvements including the dualling of the A47.
- 2.2 This scheme provides:
 - a) Vital connectivity to the north of the Combined Authority area and will complement other Combined Authority transport and infrastructure priorities such as Wisbech Rail and the development of a new Garden Town at Wisbech.
 - b) Route enhancement that is anticipated to stimulate economic growth in the north of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough region, notably in housing, education, employment and the agri-tech economy.
 - c) A safer strategic route offering improved journey times and journey time reliability as incidents can be better handled by reducing diversion route lengths.
- 2.3 The A47 is part of the national route network managed by Highways England.

3 Progress Update

- 3.1 Since the A47 dualling update at the 4 November Transport and Infrastructure Committee, the Mayor and the Minister for Transport, Baroness Vere, met in January to discuss the A47 and future activities. Thus far, the Combined Authority has promoted this scheme on its own responsibility. The Combined Authority's objective has been to secure agreement with the government that this project would be taken forward in partnership with the Highways England and recognised as a priority for development work by Highways England and DfT. The meeting confirmed that Highways England would undertake the strategic assessment of the A47 between the A16 and the Walton Highway east of Wisbech, working in partnership with the Combined Authority. An important Combined Authority objective has therefore been achieved.
- 3.2 An additional and secondary highway section will also be considered along the single carriageway section of the A47 between East Tilney and the A47/A17 junction at Kings Lynn, located within Norfolk County Council's authority.
- 3.3 Highways England has now confirmed that it will fund the work. This shows significant commitment to the development of the project. A Highways England Project Manager has been appointed and work commenced in February 2021.
- 3.4 The renewed work will use Highways England's established Project Control Framework (PCF) process to review existing evidence, including the work delivered by the Combined

Authority. It will also assess current and future network conditions, as well as reviewing and identifying options for the A47 between Peterborough and Wisbech. The review will also be informed by other highways proposals including options for the A47/A1101 roundabout junction currently being developed by Highways England.

- 3.5 The updated final PCF Stage 0 report is expected to conclude by October 2021 and will be submitted to the DfT for consideration for further development work.
- 3.6 Continued engagement with Highways England will be through the monthly Project Board with the first meeting scheduled for 8 March. Officers will provide an oral update to the Committee at its meeting on 10 March.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 None at this time

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 The recommendations accord with CPCA's powers under Part 3 and 4 of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Order 2017 (SI 2017/251).
- 5.2 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.

6. Other Significant Implications

- 6.1 None at this time

7. Appendices

- 7.1 None

8. Background Papers

4 November [Transport and Infrastructure Committee Paper](#)