



<b>TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No: 2.7</b>
<b>09 JANUARY 2020</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE TRANSPORT STRATEGIC STUDY

### 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1. 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) commenced as a joint delivery study to consider the capacity challenges in the area. In March 2019 the Combined Authority subsequently approved the commissioning of a Huntingdon Third River Crossing study to consider capacity challenges in the area and the potential opportunities to relive this.
- 1.2. Emerging findings from the A141 Huntingdon Capacity Study and St Ives Area Transport Study suggest that the wider growth issues in the area need to be looked at in the rounds. It is therefore proposed that this work be extended to include the Huntingdon Third River Crossing issue.
- 1.3. Following the outcomes of this change and any recommendations, a further decision would be taken on the necessity to undertake further standalone study of the Huntingdon Third River Crossing.

<b><u>DECISION REQUIRED</u></b>	
<b>Lead Member:</b>	<b>James Palmer, Mayor</b>
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	<b>Paul Raynes, Director of Delivery &amp; Strategy</b>
<b>Forward Plan Ref: 2019/xxx</b>	<b>Key Decision: No</b>
<p>The Transport and Infrastructure Committee is recommended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Approve scope change on the A141 Huntingdon Capacity Improvements study and St Ives Area Study to consider the impact of a Third River Crossing at Huntingdon</li> <li>(b) To approve the drawdown of budget of £150,000, from the previously approved Huntingdon Third River Crossing budget within the MTFs</li> <li>(c) Advise on any issues requiring consideration within these proposals</li> </ol>	<p><b>Voting arrangements</b></p> <p>Simple majority of all Members</p>

## **2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1. There is existing congestion in the Huntingdon area. With known growth already allocated in the Local Plan to 2017 and the prospect of future growth, this is set to worsen. As a result, the A141 Huntingdon Capacity Study (Combined Authority Funded), St Ives Area Transport Study (CCC Funded but jointly delivered) and the Huntingdon Third River Crossing study (Combined Authority funded) were approved and commissioned to consider opportunities to overcome both current and future challenges. The Huntingdon Third River Crossing is a key project for the purposes of the Combined Authority's Business Plan 2019/20.
- 2.2. On review of the issues associated with each study and the progress of the advanced A141 Huntingdon Capacity Study and the St Ives Area Transport Study, it has become clear that congestion issues affecting Huntingdon and its neighbouring areas need to be considered fully and thoroughly, so that the scope of studies is not focused in a way that risks producing competing solutions to the same problems.
- 2.3. It has become apparent that any findings from these studies need to consider the scope identified for the Huntingdon third River Crossing Study.
- 2.4. In addition, since the studies detailed in this document were commissioned, the new A14 from the A1 to Swavesey has opened a year early. With the existing A14 permanent closure between Spittals and Godmanchester now in place, it is sensible that we conduct new traffic surveys for the wider corridor to include all three of the studies to better inform recommendations.
- 2.5. It is recommended therefore that the original A141 Huntingdon Capacity Study and St Ives Area Transport Study scope be amended to include assessment of the need for the Third River Crossing in transport terms as a supplemental technical note. The A141 brief currently includes a sensitivity test looking at the impact of an additional river crossing, specifically in relation to the level of improvement of the A141 needed if there was a Third River Crossing. This now needs to be supplemented by carrying out modelling showing the impact of alternative solutions with and without Third River Crossing scenarios. The key change to the existing studies over and above the additional run set out above is revised analysis and emphasis of both the existing A141 work, and the additional run which will need to be carefully worked through, challenged, and reported.
- 2.6. The change to the study scope means that it will be necessary to compare the performance of the wider road network as a result of both schemes.
- 2.7. Once this test has been completed it will then be necessary to assess the level of change to any A141 scheme to provide the same potential benefits as the Third River Crossing on the wider road network.

2.8. In addition to the transport modelling work detailed above there will be a high level environmental desktop study specifically for the study area in relation to the Huntingdon Third River Crossing.

### **3.0 NEXT STEPS**

3.1. Subject to funding reassignment approval by the Transport and Infrastructure Committee and Combined Authority board it is proposed to instruct the Cambridgeshire County Council and their supplier in the form of a variation to conduct the necessary work to deliver the revised scope outputs.

### **4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE**

4.1. The Transport Committee is invited to:

- (a) Approve scope change on the A141 Huntingdon Capacity Improvements study
- (b) To approve the drawdown of budget of £150,000.00, from the previously approved Huntingdon Third River Crossing budget within the MTFS
- (c) Advise on any issues requiring consideration within these proposal

### **5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1. There are no significant financial implications to report at this stage
- 5.2. Officers consider the scope and outcomes of all the studies combined will reduce any duplication of effort and provide better value for money.

### **6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1. There are no direct legal implications at this stage

### **7.0 SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS**

7.1. None

### **8.0 APPENDICES**

8.1. None

<u>Source Documents</u>	<u>Location</u>
NA	NA