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## **A2500 Lower Road / Barton Hill Drive**

To: **Swale Joint Transportation Board – 25 June 2018**

Main Portfolio Area: **Growth, Environment & Transport**

By: **Tim Read, Interim Director of Highways & Transportation**

Classification: **For Information**

Ward: **Sheppey Central**  
Division: **Sheppey**

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**Summary: Update on proposals for improving the A2500 Lower Road between Cowstead Corner and Barton Hill Drive and a junction improvement at Lower Road / Barton Hill Drive - Minster**

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### **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 Members will be aware of the scheme to improve the A2500, Lower Road and Barton Hill Drive junction, Minster from previous reports and attendance by officers at meetings of this Board - most recently 18 December 2017.
- 1.2 This report gives a further update of the programme to deliver the A2500 Lower Road Improvement Schemes.
  - Phase 1 – Lower Road/Barton Hill Drive - Junction Improvement
  - Phase 2 – Lower Road Widening – Cowstead Corner to Barton Hill Drive
- 1.3 The scheme for Phase 1 is a new roundabout at the junction of the A2500 Lower Road with Barton Hill Drive. Proposals are shown on the scheme plan in Appendix A
- 1.4 The scheme for Phase 2 is to widen a 1.1km section of the A2500 Lower Road between the A249 at Cowstead Corner and Barton Hill Drive, including the construction of a new shared footway/cycleway alongside the road which will improve and provide the infrastructure for all road users, currently lacking in this location. Proposals are shown on the scheme plan in Appendix B.
- 1.5 Approval to progress these proposals has been confirmed following the Environment & Transport Cabinet Committee meeting on the 15 May 2018.

### **2.0 Current Situation**

### **Phase 1**

- 2.1 The South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) funding has been confirmed and developer contributions from s106 agreements identified.
- 2.2 Detailed design work for Phase 1 is complete and a construction contract has been awarded to Breheny Civil Engineering as the Principal Contractor to undertake the works.
- 2.3 The roundabout has been developed to incorporate the potential for a spur road from a fourth arm to serve as access to the development site identified as Policy A12 in 'Bearing Fruits 2031: The Swale Borough Local Plan 2017'.
- 2.4 The landowner, who also holds the land allocated under Policy A12 has made the land available for the scheme at nil cost. Access has been granted to allow construction to proceed while the formal transfer of the land is progressed by solicitors.
- 2.5 Discussions have taken place with the KCC Streetworks Team to identify the most appropriate times to undertake these works. Details are still to be finalised, but construction will ensure minimum traffic disruption in July and August to avoid delays to holiday traffic.
- 2.6 To facilitate the construction of the new roundabout, the contractor is proposing a temporary road closure of Barton Hill Drive for 10 weeks starting in August with traffic diverted via Thistle Hill Way see Appendix C. Temporary parking restriction are proposed along the diversion route.
- 2.7 Further temporary road closures and/or night-time working will be required to complete the tie-ins of the new roundabout to the existing carriageway. These works will be scheduled for November/December 2018 and details will be publicised nearer the date.

### **Phase 2**

- 2.8 The improvement of the Lower Road is part of the Local Plan Policy A12 and is to be provided in association with the residential development.
- 2.9 National Productivity Investment Fund (NPIF) bid for part funding of Phase 2 was confirmed in October 2017.
- 2.10 Match funding and the provision of the land required for the widening of Lower Road has been identified and agreed in principal with the promoters of the site of Policy A12. The match funding and land for Phase 2 will be conditional on receipt of planning consent for housing on the site of Policy A12 and this will need to be secured through a s106 agreement.
- 2.11 The provision of the new footway cycleway will provide an important connection between the residential area of Minster with the retail and business areas at Rushenden and Neat's Court. The proposals are for a 3.5m shared footway cycleway separated from the carriageway by a 1.5m verge.
- 2.12 WSP has been engaged as the engineering consultant to provide the detailed design and construction drawings for Phase 2.

- 2.13 A screening opinion is being prepared for Phase 2 to determine if a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required. As the nature of the site of Phase 2 is similar to Phase 1 it is anticipated this will not be required and hence the scheme will also be able to proceed as permitted development.
- 2.14 An option to carry out Phase 2 of the scheme has been included in the construction contract awarded for the Phase 1 works.

### **3.0 Programme**

- 3.1 The works will be carried out in two phases. The roundabout on Barton Hill Drive will be carried out in 2018 with the work to improve the A2500 Lower road following on in 2019 subject to progress on site planning and completion of a s106 agreement.
- 3.2 The current programme is;

#### **Phase 1 - A2500 Lower Road / Barton Hill Drive Junction Improvement**

- commence works on site week commencing 25 June 2018.
- The completion date for the Phase 1 works is January 2019, but we are looking at opportunities with the contractor to complete Phase 1 before Christmas 2018 if practical.

#### **Phase 2 - A2500 Lower Road Improvement – Cowstead Corner to Barton Hill Drive**

- prepare detailed design – October 2018.
  - developer to obtain planning consent for the site of Policy A12 – Nov 2018.
  - confirm funding and land agreements.
  - commence works Spring 2019 – subject to land and s106 contributions.
- 3.3 Consideration is being given to ensure that construction works have minimal impact during the main tourist season. For Phase 1 the proposed roundabout is mainly within land adjacent to the highway that will allow much of the works to be constructed with minimal impact on the existing traffic flows. The timing and traffic management for the Phase 2 works involving the online widening of Lower Road, is more critical and will be planned in detail with the Streetworks Co-ordinator.

### **4.0 Communications**

- 4.1 The current proposals for Phase 1 were first presented to Minster Parish Council on 20 October 2016.
- 4.2 A Communications Plan has been developed. This will involve informing residents, road users and key organisations of the proposals and timescale for each of the phases of the project.
- 4.3 An exhibition was held at Minster Parish Council Offices on Tuesday 5 December 2017 and this was attended by approximately 40 people. The proposals were generally well received. Attendees included a representative from the Lower Road Action Group who welcomed the proposals for the new

footway/cycleway link. This was followed up by a presentation to Minster Parish Council on 7 December 2017. A further presentation to Minster Parish Council is planned for the 5 July 2018.

- 4.4 Advance notification of the roadworks for Phase 1 will be advised by temporary variable message signs, and by a letter drop to local residents. Further updates will be provided as the works progresses and the contractor implements the various traffic management proposals.

## **5.0 Financial**

### **Phase 1**

- 5.1 The latest cost estimate of the Barton Hill Drive Roundabout stands at £1.8m and assumes the land contribution from the landowner. Contributions of £540,000 are being sought from the proposed developments at Plover Road and Harps Farm, with the balance of £1,260,000 being funded by the South East Local Enterprise Partnership through the Local Growth Fund.

- 5.2 The s106 agreement with the developers of Harps Farm and Plover Road have been signed with their contribution due for payment prior to commencement of the developments.

### **Phase 2**

- 5.4 The cost estimate for the widening of Lower Road is £4.85m.
- 5.5 The current cost estimate is robust and is based on outline proposals that have been reviewed by external cost consultants. It includes;
- construction costs
  - budget estimates from the utility companies
  - project management costs
  - allowances for contingencies, inflation and risk

## **6.0 Legal implications**

- 6.1 This Report is for information only and hence there are no legal implications for the Board.

## **7.0 Conclusions**

- 7.1 The successful award of the SELEP and NPIF funding, the commitments to make all the land available and match funding from s106 agreements will enable the full scheme of highway improvements along the A2500 Lower Road to be delivered. This will provide the new junction with Barton Hill Drive as well as provide the much need footway and cycleway link connecting the key areas of the Minster and Queenborough
- 7.2 The scheme has made significant progress. The design and procurement for Phase 1 is complete and the construction contract. The surveys and feasibility designs for Phase 2 are well advanced. Phase 2 has been included as an option in the Phase 1 contract so that a procurement exercise will not need to be repeated.

## 8.0 Recommendations

For Information

Future Meeting if applicable: As necessary but none planned at present	Date: TBA
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## Appendices

Appendix A	Phase 1 – Scheme Plan – Drawing no. 0323-PH1-PE-001 Rev 0
Appendix B	Phase 2 – Scheme Plan – Drawing no. 0323-PH2-PE-001 Rev 0
Appendix C	Phase 1 – Proposed closure of Barton Hill Drive and diversion route – Drawing No 00963/BHD/DIV/001