

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET – 10TH JULY 2007

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES

THURSTASTON CROSSROADS ROUNDABOUT SCHEME – PROPOSED FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS (WEST KIRBY & THURSTASTON WARD)

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Cabinet of the proposed funding arrangements for the scheme. It is proposed that the scheme will be funded from the Local Transport Plan Capital Programme and this report seeks Cabinet endorsement that the scheme will be given priority in the allocation of future years' LTP Capital funding.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Plans showing the proposed roundabout scheme were submitted to Cabinet on 30th June 2004. Cabinet resolved to approve the layout and authorise the commencement of negotiations to acquire any land outside the highway boundary including if necessary the use of compulsory purchase powers under Section 239 of the Highways Act 1980. Minute 20 refers.

2.2 Subsequently the scheme was submitted to the Planning Committee of 25th August 2005 where planning approval was granted on condition that construction commence no later than 25th August 2008.

2.3 On your agenda for this meeting the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Services has also prepared a report outlining progress on land acquisition issues and requesting approval to acquire three areas of land for the scheme.

3.0 PROPOSALS

3.1 At present offers of compensation for land purchase are being considered by the landowners and negotiations are taking place in regards to accommodation works. Cost estimates have been received from the public utilities companies for their pipe and cable diversion works.

3.2 The scheme is included in the Merseyside Local Transport Plan (LTP) and there is funding available from the LTP to be spent during this financial year 2007/2008. It is proposed that these funds are used to purchase the land required for the scheme, construct the accommodation works as agreed with the landowners and have the public utility companies carry out their pipe and cable diversions prior to commencing highway construction works in summer 2008. The estimated cost of these advanced works during 2007/8 is £280,000.

3.3 It is proposed that the main works costing approximately £426,000 will be carried out from summer 2008 until summer 2009 and will be funded from the LTP Capital Programme over two financial years 2008/9 and 2009/10. However, at this stage the level of our LTP Capital allocation for future years is not guaranteed and Cabinet is requested to give its endorsement that the scheme will be given priority when deciding and approving future years' LTP Capital Programmes. It is important to note that significant expenditure is to be committed during this financial year on advanced works and this endorsement is requested to mitigate against any risk of the scheme not coming to fruition and the possibility of substantial abortive expenditure.

4.0 FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

4.1 An allocation of £280,000 from the LTP Capital Programme has been approved for advanced works during 2007/8 and it is proposed that the remaining £426,000 for the main works will be set aside from this Programme over two years 2008/9 and 2009/10.

4.2 In the event that funding via the LTP process is reduced then Cabinet may have to approve an LTP Capital Programme that provides less funding in other LTP priority areas to ensure this scheme is delivered.

4.3 Existing staff resources will be used in the remaining detailed design and the supervision of the scheme.

4.4 Future maintenance costs of the scheme will be met from the Highway Maintenance revenue budget.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Due to the geometry of the existing crossroads junction and the width of the carriageways, it is very difficult for pedestrians and cyclists to cross the A540 at this location. This roundabout scheme includes traffic islands and would reduce severance for these road users.

6.0 PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The planning permission for the scheme will expire on the 25th August 2008.

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no implications under this heading.

8.0 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no specific human rights implications arising directly from this report.

9.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The completed project will contribute to all of the LTP shared priorities of:

- Air quality
- Road safety
- Accessibility
- Congestion

10.0 ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT

10.1 No background papers have been used in the preparation of this report.

11.0 LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS

11.1 This report has implications for the West Kirby and Thurstaston Ward.

12.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

That support for the scheme be re-affirmed and the scheme be given priority when deciding and approving the LTP Capital Programmes for 2008/9 and 2009/10.

DAVID GREEN, DIRECTOR
TECHNICAL SERVICES