

Joint Area Committee - North – 22nd July 2009

15. Bartletts Elm Roundabout - Installation of a 5 way roundabout at the junction of A372/B3153 at Field Road/Somerton Road, Huish Episcopi (for information)

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Purpose of the Report

To provide a briefing on the proposed five way roundabout at the junction of the A372/B3153 at Field Road/Somerton Road, Huish Episcopi.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

Background

A five way roundabout at the junction of the A372/B3153 at Field Road/Somerton Road, Huish Episcopi is under development by Somerset County Council (SCC) following the sale of SCC land holding at Bartletts Elm for housing, at which time part of the sale proceeds were allocated towards the project.

There have been strong local representations including from Huish Episcopi Parish Council and Langport Town Council for the construction of a roundabout at this junction.

The design and siting of the roundabout is linked to, but not dependent upon the development of the adjoining land at Barletts Elm, currently the subject of a planning application made by Yarlinton Homes.

This report has been produced jointly by officers from South Somerset District Council and Somerset County Council to update members of the Joint Area Committee on the current position and planned steps to complete the project.

Report

Project lead

Somerset County Council leads the project, with the design, procurement and project supervision undertaken by the Transport Development Group of the Environment Directorate. The Lead Officer of this Project within the Transport Development Group is Martin Hills, Engineering Programme Manager. The Project Sponsor is Patrick Flaherty Head of Physical Regeneration in the Environment Directorate.

Design and feasibility work to date

The design and construction of a new piece of highway infrastructure follows a defined process in three main stages, namely feasibility design, detailed design and construction/adoption by the Highway Authority.

The current position is that the feasibility design has been prepared by SCC and a 'feasibility' stage safety audit has been undertaken. A few issues are currently being concluded to complete this process so that the project can proceed to detailed design. The next step is to complete the detailed design so that working drawings can be prepared and 'detailed design' stage safety audit undertaken, before progressing to the construction stage.

Members may wish to note that the design of the roundabout makes specific allowance to the anticipated development on the land at Bartletts Elm, including a 'fifth arm' leading into the site. Equally, through consultation, the current development (subject to detailed planning permission) has been designed to incorporate access to this fifth arm of the roundabout. However the two projects are not otherwise linked through the planning or highways statutory processes.

The current 'feasibility' design layout of the roundabout is attached at Appendix A.

Project costs

The 'feasibility' design has been costed using standard scheme assessments for projects of this type and at this stage. The initial cost estimate is £350,000 including design fees and other ancillary costs. This is an indicative cost estimate only at this stage.

Funding sources

The following funding sources are confirmed, or allocated in principle subject to final agreements.

- £250,000 contribution from Somerset County Council (from sale receipt of Bartlett Elms). This has been earmarked until 2012, and is held within the corporate capital programme.
- £30,000 towards junction improvements from housing development at Kelways (planning application no 07/03534/FUL) that is currently underway. Payment to be made prior to the first occupation to Somerset County Council as the Highways authority.
- A goodwill contribution of £30,000 from Yarlington Homes. This will **not** be available in the event of Yarlington Homes constructing the mini roundabout as a condition of planning application no 05/02831/FUL.
- £35,000 South Somerset District Council contribution – agreed in principle from the SSDC Area North capital programme, subject to further details of costs and procurement.
- Langport Town Council & Huish Episcopi Parish Council have agreed to contribute the balancing sum currently of £5,000.

Consents and Procurement

It has been confirmed that planning permission is **not** required for SCC to implement the introduction of the roundabout into the highway network.

Consents still required include:

- Surface water drainage discharge
- Alteration to utility services

- Approval to remove trees

There are several options for the procurement of construction of the roundabout. The two main options currently under consideration are:

- Contract let through competitive tender to a Contractor approved by SCC as Highway Authority
- Works issued through the SCC Highways term contract

Procurement option development is planned to be undertaken and concluded through the detailed design phase of the project and will take into account such factors as value for money and delivery timescales.

Risks and constraints

The main risks and constraints at this stage are considered to be:

- Securing all the financial contributions highlighted in the funding sources section of this report
- Securing the consents required for the project to proceed
- Discovery of design/construction difficulties which can not be foreseen at this feasibility stage of project development and result in increased cost and/or delivery timescales
- Competing resource demands with SCC delivery of the Local Transport Plan Integrated Transport programme.
- Constraints emerging from an environmental impact assessment

Project plan and milestones

The table below indicates the main project stages and milestones together with current estimates of the delivery timescales:

Stage / Milestone	Timescale
Completion of feasibility design and safety audit	July 2009
Completion of detailed design and safety audit.	March 2010
Securing funding contributions	March 2010
Securing required consents	March 2010
Procurement, construction and safety audit	Spring/Summer 2010