

## **REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **A614 / A6097 MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT SCHEME**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. This report highlights the Government's intention to award £18m of funding to support major infrastructure improvement schemes on the A614 / A6097 from Lowdham Roundabout up to Ollerton Roundabout.

#### **Information**

2. The Place strategy, presented to Policy Committee January 2018, highlighted the importance of growth to Nottinghamshire and identified a number of key corridors, including the A614/A6097, for future investment to support the growth agenda. This Committee also, more recently (September), approved funding to enable the design work on such major transport improvements to be enhanced ready for any bidding opportunities.
3. Nottinghamshire County Council has been working with Midlands Connect to identify some early priority schemes for approval from the Department of Transport (DfT), linked to their Major Road Network (MRN) proposals. The A614 has been recognised as a corridor of growth and development both by the County Council and Midlands Connect.
4. The DfT recently consulted on designating a Major Route Network (MRN) to support the existing Strategic Route Network (as operated by Highways England). Additional funding opportunities are to be available to enhance the capacity of this MRN, potentially from 2021.
5. However, in advance of formal approval of the MRN, the Government opened the opportunity for significant schemes to be put forward. Working with Midlands Connect, a submission was made for investment in improvements along the A614/A6097. The Secretary of State for Transport, Chris Grayling MP announced at the Conservative Party Conference that £18m of DfT investment was being allocated to our A614 scheme.
6. The scheme consists of a series of 6 Junction improvements along the A614 / A6097 corridor designed to increase traffic capacity to enable both future residential and employment traffic to be accommodated and reduce journey time delays to support wider economic growth. The proposed schemes of improvement will provide additional traffic lanes and in some case different forms of junction with increased traffic carrying capacity. These will be designed to restore the operating conditions so that the junctions operate within capacity and peak period queues and delays are removed.

7. The proposed junction improvements would need to be phased rather than having a common start date. A Preliminary Design for the improvement of the A614/A616/A6075 Ollerton roundabout junction is completed whilst other designs are on-going. An Outline Business Case for the Ollerton roundabout junction is nearing completion. A sketch scheme design and broad economic case assessment has been produced for the A6097 / A612 Lowdham roundabout improvement. Detailed design of junction improvement schemes are still to be undertaken and statutory processes to be attended to i.e. where third party land take would be necessary. The biggest challenge to delivery will be land acquisition i.e. where third party land is required, this will be acquired by negotiation, wherever possible. Statutory CPO procedures are to be run in parallel to land negotiations to minimise delivery timeframes. Detailed design will focus on delivering improvements within the confines of the existing public highway wherever possible.
8. The A614/A6097 corridor passes through Bassetlaw, Newark and Sherwood, Gedling and Rushcliffe. A number of committed and allocated development sites are located along and adjoining this corridor. The Council's Place Strategy document identifies the location of the major development sites. One of the key sites is the proposed redevelopment of the Thoresby Colliery (adjacent to the A614/A616/A6075 Ollerton roundabout) which is earmarked for 850 new houses and 250,000 sq. ft. of new employment. The promoter of the Thoresby Colliery development site at Edwinstowe (Harworth Group Plc) has identified a potential S106 contribution of £1.198m (subject to planning permission). NCC will need to make a financial investment towards this package of junction improvements to accord with external funding conditions. The improvement of the 6 junctions will enable the major development sites to come forward in the short term.
9. The removal of peak period traffic congestion at key intersections on the A6097/ A614 corridor will bring very significant journey time benefits to commuters and business operators alike. The value of the journey time savings are forecast to be very significant, for example the journey time savings forecast at the A614/A616/A6075 Ollerton Roundabout improvement alone are valued at over £27.5m (at discounted 2010 market prices).
10. Further details of the announcement will follow from the Department with updates provided to Policy Committee and Communities and Place Committee when they become available.

### **Other Options Considered**

11. The 'do nothing option' was discounted, as good infrastructure is one of Nottinghamshire County Council's priorities by making "Nottinghamshire a great place to start and grow your business". The County Council is committed to promoting improvement to our transport and technology infrastructure to make Nottinghamshire a great place to invest and do business. The Council has for a long time said that more investment in transport and infrastructure in the East Midlands could have a transformative impact on the economy and quality of life for the people who live here.

### **Reason for Recommendations**

12. The major infrastructure programme is vital to the economic prosperity of the County and work needs to commence at pace to build upon the excellent progress made to date. Any expenditure will not be abortive as it is reasonable to anticipate further funding opportunities and Policy Committee's approval to commissioning work now, will better place the team to bid for these and secure funding.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

13. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **Financial Implications**

14. The cost of the proposed work will be dependent on further discussions with the DfT but initial allocations were approved at the previous September Committee.

### **Implications for Service Users**

15. From the outset, the Council has been determined to get the best deal on infrastructure for the whole of Nottinghamshire, our communities and our businesses in terms of better connectivity and a share of economic benefits. There is a huge wealth of experience and potential, the Council can be the driving force in growing a regional economy, and ensuring Nottinghamshire remains a well-connected County for the benefit of all.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

16. It is recommended that:

- a. Policy Committee acknowledge the announcement of the MRN investment in the A614 and further develop the scheme
- b. Delegate responsibility to Corporate Director Place to engage in dialogue with the Department for Transport and Midlands Connect.

**COUNCILLOR MRS KAY CUTTS MBE**  
**Leader of the County Council**

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### **Constitutional Comments**

17. Policy Committee is the appropriate committee to consider the content of this report.

### **Financial Comments**

15. The financial implications are set out in the report.

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

- None

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

- Rushcliffe
- Gedling
- Newark and Sherwood