

**17 September 2012****Agenda Item: 8****REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR , HIGHWAYS****CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS A453 IMPROVEMENT SCHEME****Purpose of the Report**

1. To advise Members of the completion of the Legal Agreement under S274 Highways Act 1980 between the County Council and the Secretary of State for Transport which confirms the £20 million contribution by the County Council towards the cost of the A453 Improvement M1 (J24) to A52 Nottingham.

**Information and Advice**

2. The purpose of the improvement scheme is to address traffic congestion and road safety issues on the existing single carriageway Trunk Road between M1 Junction 24 and A52 Nottingham, a length of 11.5 kilometres. This section of road is one of the most heavily congested routes in the East Midlands at peak times, with a particularly high proportion of Heavy Goods Vehicles. It has a poor safety record when compared with national averages for similar roads.
3. The County Council at its meeting of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011 endorsed the scheme as contained in the Secretary of State's published draft statutory Orders (January 2009) and sought its inclusion in the Trunk Road programme to commence construction before 2015. County Council at the same meeting also endorsed the contribution of £20m to the Department of Transport (DfT) to support the project subject to its approval to commence.
4. During November 2011 the Secretary of State for Transport announced the inclusion of the project into the DfT's pre 2015 programme subject to the outcome of outstanding statutory procedures. Necessary sign off in relation to the public inquiry was complete during March 2012 and the subsequent statutory procedure relating to the necessary Orders was concluded during July 2012.
5. It is anticipated that site clearance will begin during Autumn/Winter 2012 and construction will commence during Spring 2013 with completion scheduled in Summer 2015.
6. The Head of Legal Services advises that the necessary Legal Agreement under S274 Highways Act 1980 has now been concluded between the County Council and the Secretary of State for Transport by which the County Council agree to make a fixed sum

contribution of twenty million pounds (£20m) towards the cost of developing and constructing the A453 widening works.

7. The County Council will make payments totalling £20m towards the project costs accruing from 1st April 2012. The spend profile being £10 million to be paid on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013, £5 million 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 and £5 million on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

8. This report has been compiled having given due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty and after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they have been described in the text of the report

## **RECOMMENDATION**

1. Members note the content of this report.

**ANDREW WARRINGTON**  
**SERVICE DIRECTOR (HIGHWAYS)**

### **Constitutional Comments (SHB 04/09/12)**

9. The Report is for noting only.

### **Financial Comments (PDS 06/09/12)**

10. As part of the Council's financial strategy, contributions from the Insurance Reserve and the 2011/12 year-end savings were made to the Capital Projects Reserve. The intention was to provide resources to support the Council's capital investment priorities, whilst at the same time minimising the need to undertake further borrowing, and the corresponding long-term impact on the revenue budget.
11. The initial proposal was to borrow the £20m in support of the widening of the A453. However, it will now be possible to fund the initial £10m to be paid on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 from the Capital Projects Reserve. The decision on funding the remaining £10m over the following 2 years will be made closer to the time.

### **Background Papers**

12. Investment in Highways Transport Schemes  
Available from Department of Transport:  
<http://www2.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/network/strategic/highwaystransportschemes/>

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

13. All