

DECISION TITLE: Local Funding arrangement for the A14 Huntingdon to Cambridge Improvement Scheme
Councillor Cereste, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Growth, Strategic Planning, Housing, Economic Development and Business Engagement
October 2014
Deadline date: <i>Enter relevant date for action - eg. date for report to another body if appropriate - Cabinet, Council, Government department, etc.</i>

Cabinet portfolio holder: Responsible Director:	Cllr Cereste Leader of the Council and Cabinet member for Growth, Strategic Planning, Housing, Economic Development and Business Engagement Simon Machen Director Growth and Regeneration
Is this a Key Decision?	YES If yes has it been included on the Forward Plan : Yes Unique Key decision Reference from Forward Plan : KEY/14NOV14/02
Is this decision eligible for call-in?	YES
Does this Public report have any annex that contains exempt information?	NO If yes, specify number of exempt annex (eg Annex 1), the reason for exemption and explain the application of the public interest test
Is this a project and if so has it been registered on Verto?	N/A Highways Agency project outside Peterborough City Councils boundaries Verto number:

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S
The Cabinet Member is recommended to: approve the funding contribution of £1.5m to the Highways Agency for the A14 improvement scheme, the payment to take place as equal payments of £60,000 a year for 25 years.

1. SUMMARY OF MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1 The A14 forms part of the strategic road network and the free movement of people and goods is essential to the economy of both the wider region and Peterborough. This report seeks approval of the Cabinet Member to contribute towards the cost of the Highways Agency's £1.5m A14 Huntingdon to Cambridge improvement scheme, as part of the A14 Consortium. The payment would be £60,000 a year for 25 years, with the first payment taking place upon opening of the scheme in 2020, with subsequent payments taking place

on the 30th January thereafter. This would be funded through future Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) income.

2. PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

2.1 This report is for the Cabinet Member to consider exercising delegated authority under paragraph 3.4.3 of Part 3 of the constitution in accordance with the terms of their portfolio at paragraph g(iv).

3. **TIMESCALE** (If this is not a Major Policy item, answer **NO** and delete second line of boxes).

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If Yes, date for relevant Cabinet Meeting	
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4. DETAILS OF DECISION REQUIRED

4.1 Although not within Peterborough's administrative area, the A14 is a critical part of the strategic road network serving our economy. The A14 Consortium, an alliance of local authorities and local enterprise partnerships, has worked closely with Government to secure investment in the A14 between Huntingdon and Cambridge. As part of Government's commitment to funding this important improvement scheme they required a local contribution of £100m as match funding towards the cost of the £1.5bn scheme. Working collaboratively partners have agreed to meet this requirement. The partners are; Cambridgeshire County Council, Fenland District Council, Huntingdonshire District Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambridge City Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council, Suffolk County Council, Peterborough City Council, Norfolk County Council, Essex County Council, Northamptonshire County Council, South East Midlands LEP, New Anglia LEP and Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough LEP.

4.2 The Highways Agency scheme will improve a 21 mile length of the A14 trunk road between Cambridge and Huntingdon. The primary aim of the proposed scheme is to relieve congestion on one of the busiest parts of the strategic road network between the Midlands and East Anglia and in doing so to support both regional and economic growth. Once delivered, road users will benefit from less congestion and more reliable journey times. The improvements will deliver a vital boost to the economy, unlocking local housing developments and providing better transport links for businesses and commuters. The A14 is a critical transport route that supports Peterborough businesses and economy.

4.3 Peterborough City Council has committed to providing funding of £1.5m towards the cost of the scheme. The payment will consist of 25 equal payments of £60,000 to be made in January of each year, with the first payment being made within two months of the opening date for this Main Improvement Scheme (due to be 2020).

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 The future investment into the A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Highway Improvement Scheme was the subject of a discussion at the Council meeting on 9th October 2013 at which time the Leader informed Council that he had pledged to support the scheme through long term investment. This report seeks to formalise that investment through the completion of the Funding Agreement between the Highways Agency and all its partners, as set out above.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

6.1 It is anticipated that Peterborough City Council along with other local authorities and local enterprise partnerships will provide funding towards the improvement scheme which will allow the scheme to begin construction in 2016 and be delivered by 2020.

7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS & ANY RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

7.1 The A14 is a key route through the eastern region and the upgrades proposed to this section of the A14 will have significant growth and economic impacts to the surrounding authorities.

7.2 The upgrading of the A14 will contribute to Peterborough's growth ambitions by removing the travel delays currently associated with travelling on the A14 between Peterborough, Huntingdon and Cambridge.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 The alternative option is for Peterborough City Council to not provide any funding contribution towards the scheme, which would risk the scheme not going ahead.

9. IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The implications are that the Council will be committing to providing £60,000 per annum for a period of 25 years from 2020, although this can be funded through Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) income.

10. DECLARATIONS / CONFLICTS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS GRANTED

None

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None