

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 12
20 NOVEMBER 2017	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Simon Machen - Corporate Director Growth and Regeneration	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Hiller - Cabinet Member for Growth, Planning, Housing and Economic Development	
Contact Officer(s):	Charlotte Palmer, Group Manager - Transport and Environment	Tel. 453538

JUNCTION 18 (RHUBARB BRIDGE) CROSS PARTY WORKING GROUP PROPOSAL

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM: Corporate Director of Growth and Regeneration	Deadline date: N/A
<p>It is recommended that Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agree to form a Cross Party Working Group to consider: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Whether it is technically and financially feasible to reassign the proportion of the overall budget allocated to demolish the footbridges to instead make significant repairs to the bridge at Junction 18 (Rhubarb Bridge) b. Examine the long term solutions for a replacement bridge at Junction 18 (Rhubarb Bridge) and determine the preferred option to recommend to Cabinet. 2. Approve the proposed Terms of Reference for the Cross Party Working Group for Junction 18 (Rhubarb Bridge). 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet following the Council meeting held on 11 October 2017. At that meeting Council resolved that it noted the petition (debate 'Lack of Public Engagement and Consultation on LTP4') and referred it for further consideration to the Cabinet with a recommendation that they set up a Cross Party Working Group to examine fully costed options for the improvement of Junction 18 (Rhubarb Bridge) and consider the comments made by the petitioner and Members of this Council, the purpose of which would be to ensure that priority was given to pedestrians and cyclists in line with the transport user hierarchy in the fourth Local Transport Plan.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to ask Cabinet to agree to form a Cross Party Working Group to consider whether it is technically and financially feasible to reassign the proportion of the overall budget allocated to demolish the footbridges to instead make significant repairs to the footbridge at Junction 18 (Rhubarb Bridge); to examine long term solutions for a replacement footbridge and determine the preferred option to recommend to Cabinet; and to approve the terms of reference for the group.
- 2.2 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.2.3, *'To take a leading role in promoting the economic, environmental and social well-being of the area.'*

3. **TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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4. **BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

4.1 Junction 18 is a fully signalised key interchange within the parkway network which provides access to the city centre via the A15 Bourges Boulevard, the north of Peterborough via the A15 Lincoln Road and the A47. Approximately 60,000 vehicles use the junction daily, 1,260 pedestrians and 540 cyclists. The junction includes six bridges which provide elevated access over the circulatory carriageway of Junction 18 and access beneath the A47 Soke Parkway via an underpass. The bridges were constructed in the 1970s as part of the New Town infrastructure.

4.2 The Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4), which was considered by Scrutiny Committee and subsequently adopted by Council in January 2016, identifies Junction 18 as a scheme to be delivered within the period of the plan (2016-21). The proposed package of work that has been developed as a result of this and as part of Executive Decision AUG17/CMDN/30 would:

- Increase capacity and reduce congestion. The capacity improvements would include widening on the north and east segments of the circulatory carriageway of the roundabout and on the westbound off-slip from the A47 and northbound A15 approaches. In addition, the exits onto the westbound A47 on-slip and A15 north would also be widened.
- The signals would be upgraded to run on a sophisticated system that would allow them to react on a real-time basis to varying levels of traffic from vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists including provision to cater for extreme traffic events.

4.3 This scheme which is included in the fourth Local Transport Plan and the Council's capital programme originally involved removal of the pedestrian and cycle bridges at this junction and their replacement with at-grade crossings. However, as a result of public concern the Council committed in its 'Response report to call-in on an Executive Decision - Approval for Junction 18 (Rhubarb Bridge) Highway Works - AUG17/CMDN/30' to explore a temporary option, which is to assess the technical and financial feasibility of re-assigning the proportion of the overall budget allocated to demolish the footbridges to instead make significant repairs to the bridges as capital investment. The scheme has been put on hold whilst this assessment is undertaken and we expect to have the outcome of the assessment in the new year.

4.4 Following a petition (Debate 'Lack of Public Engagement and Consultation on LTP4') presented to Council on 11 October 2017 it was resolved that Council noted the petition and referred it for further consideration to the Cabinet with a recommendation that they set up a Cross Party Working Group to examine fully costed options and that would consider the comments made by the petitioner and Members of this Council, the purpose of which would be to ensure that priority is given to pedestrians and cyclists in line with the transport user hierarchy in the fourth Local Transport Plan.

4.5 In addition, the Combined Authority were notified in October that their bid to the Department for Transport as part of the National Productivity Investment Fund (NPIF) for capacity improvement works at Junction 18 was successful. This bid was for an investment of £3.85m in 2018/19 with a match fund requirement from the Council of £1.65m. It is yet to be determined how the Combined Authority will pass this funding on to the Council. It will be a decision for the Council, as part of the budget setting process, to determine if this contribution can increase the overall level of funding available for the scheme or enables the Council to reduce its overall capital borrowing liability.

4.6 This paper sets out the proposed Terms of Reference (Appendix A) for the Cross Party Working Group which will determine the different options available and make a recommendation to

Cabinet.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 If Cabinet agree to establish a Cross Party Working Group; Group Leaders will be consulted on who their Group Representative will be. The nominated Group Representatives will be responsible for informing their respective groups in relation to the options for Junction 18 (Rhubarb Bridge) and the subsequent recommendation to Cabinet.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

- 6.1 It is anticipated that that cross party consideration will be given to all options prior to the working group recommending back to Cabinet. This will ensure the most appropriate action is taken with wider Member contribution.

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 This recommendation is made in line with the resolution taken by Council on 11 October 2017.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 The alternative options is to do nothing and progress with the Junction 18 (Rhubarb Bridge) Highways Improvement scheme that has already been designed or not deliver any highway improvement works at this location. Both of these options have been rejected as they will directly contradict commitments made by Council. Not carrying out an improvement scheme would lead to a significant increase in congestion at this junction associated with the growth of the city and increasing revenue repair costs for the existing network of bridges given their physical condition. One option being explored is to use capital funding to make significant repairs to the bridge.

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 9.1 There are no direct financial implications arising as a direct result of this report.

Legal Implications

- 9.2 There are no direct legal implications arising as a direct result of this report.

Equalities Implications

- 9.3 There are no direct equalities implications arising as a direct result of this report.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 10.1 The resolution made at Full Council on 11 October 2017 can be viewed here:
<http://democracy.peterborough.gov.uk/documents/g3971/Decisions%2011th-Oct-2017%2019.00%20Council.pdf?T=2>

The National Productivity Investment Fund bid can be viewed here:

<https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/upload/www.peterborough.gov.uk/residents/transport-and-streets/J18Application.pdf?inline=true>

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 Appendix A - Draft Terms of Reference, Cross Party Working Group: Junction 18 (Rhubarb Bridge)

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