

FULL COUNCIL

7TH JULY 2020

REPORT OF CABINET MEMBER FOR GROWTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY

1. COUNCIL UPDATE REGARDING THE GROWTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY PORTFOLIO

1.1 Purpose of Report

To advise Members of decisions made through this Portfolio since the last Full Council meeting, to report on progress in delivering the Council's Priorities covered by the Portfolio, to highlight any good news and issues of interest and to emphasise some future decisions.

1.2 Background

This report highlights some of those decisions in my portfolio which have been made, but not all. Members wishing to view all decisions made can find these at:

<http://eservices.solihull.gov.uk/mgInternet/mgListCommittees.aspx?bfc=1>

1.3 Decision Session – 11th March 2020

1.3.1. Update on UK Central Investment Programme

I considered the update of the UKC-IP and approved the next steps as stated in the individual project updates.

1.3.2 Revenue & Capital Monitoring as at 31st December 2019

I endorsed the 2019/20 Revenue and Capital financial monitoring forecast as at 31st December 2019 and noted the Portfolio's progress against the latest 3 years savings targets in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MFTS)

1.4. Council Plan and Priorities

1.4.1. The aim of my portfolio is to enable the Council to achieve the priority of 'securing inclusive economic growth' through the development and delivery of the key infrastructure required to deliver new homes and jobs, between public transport and better movement across the borough. Progress is being made across the whole UK Central infrastructure programme. For members' benefit, I have provided a brief update below on some of the key elements.

1.4.2. I will be considering a more comprehensive programme-wide update at my Decision Session on 14th July. I will be considering any implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on projects across the programme, and will consider proposals on how to move forward with public engagement and consultation where we can in order that we continue to make good progress. I will, of course, report my findings to Full Council in due course.

1.4.3. Roundabout over the Trace

I am pleased to say that we have hit a major milestone in our growth and infrastructure plans. From some of my previous reports to Full Council, Members will be aware of the importance of increasing the capacity of the Roundabout over the Trace, which will serve the Arden Cross site where the HS2 station will be located. HS2's Contractor, LM, commenced works in April on the enhanced bridges that will straddle the HS2 rail line (the Trace) under a Works Order signed by the Council and the Urban Growth Company (UGC) in March. It is expected that the works will be completed in 2022 and will help us achieve our ambitions for UK Central.

1.4.4. A45 Sprint

I have continued to meet with representatives from Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) and Council officers around twice a month to help shape the development and delivery of the A45 Sprint Bus Rapid Transport Service. Since my last report to Full Council on 4th February, TfWM has secured the £55.5m funds for the first phase of delivery. This is another key milestone. The majority of the physical works for phase 1 are outside the borough, with phase 2 seeing more physical work in Solihull.

1.4.5. M42 Junction 6, Development Consent Order

The Planning Inspectorate's formal examination of the proposals for a comprehensive upgrade of this junction by Highways England for the M42 Junction 6 scheme under a Development Consent Order was completed last year. The Planning Inspectorate's recommendation report was submitted to the Secretary of State for Transport in February 2020. I am very pleased that the Secretary of State granted the Development Consent Order on 21 May to allow the scheme to proceed. This is another major achievement for the Council, which has made the case and been pushing for this upgrade for since we launched our UK Central masterplan in 2013. Highways England is currently carrying out some early works with the main works expected to commence in early 2021 and scheduled to be completed by 2023/2024.

1.5. Future Decisions

- 1.5.1.** At my next decision making decision, I will be considering the programme of growth and infrastructure projects falling within my portfolio.