

FULL COUNCIL

8TH DECEMBER 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 – 22nd October 2020

1.3.1. Draft Solihull Cycling & Walking Strategy and Draft Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan

At my decision session in October, I received an updated Draft Cycling & Walking Strategy and associated Infrastructure Plan for consideration, and approved the commencement of consultation upon both.

The Strategy and Infrastructure Plan has been further developed since initial consultation earlier this year. It has taken account of comments received during that consultation, recent changes in Government guidance/standards, as well as learning as a result of the implementation of active travel measures in response to Covid-19 recovery.

The consultation commenced on 9th November, and will run until 21st December. The Draft Strategy and Infrastructure Plan have been made available on the Council's website, and promoted via the Council's various social media channels. A dedicated email address has been set up (cyclingandwalking@solihull.gov.uk) to receive comments, with submissions via post also welcomed.

A series of virtual webinars have been set up to enable direct, interactive engagement with members of the public (in the understanding that face-to-face meetings are not currently possible). At the time of writing, only the first webinar has taken place, but it proved very successful with a healthy number of attendees and productive discussion throughout.

1.3.2 Revenue & Capital Monitoring 20/21 as at 31st July 2020

1.3.3. I considered and endorsed the 2020/21 revenue and capital financial monitoring forecast as at 31st July 2020 and considered the Portfolio's progress against the latest 3 year savings targets in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) as at 31st July 2020.

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, as highlighted by the material I approved at my last Decision Session and the paper I will consider at my next one.

In my last update to Full Council I highlighted that, on 17 September, the Council commenced a second round of public engagement relating to the development of plans for significant improvement to Solihull Railway Station. The principal method of engagement was through the publishing of a video, which provided feedback on responses received during initial engagement, and raised awareness of progress made in the on-going development of the Station project.

To date, the video has been viewed an encouraging 1,687 times and has prompted the submission of 15 emails. The feedback provided by all submissions will be considered in the further development of the improved station design, which I anticipate being consulted upon early next year.

1.4.2 A452 and A34

Work continues in developing scheme options for an improvement to the A452 Chester Road corridor, in the vicinity of Chelmunds Cross Village Centre. Scheme design and traffic modelling processes are under way, with consultation likely in 2021.

Similarly, we are making progress on developing scheme options for a range of improvements to the A34 corridor. The challenges are different in this corridor and scheme design and traffic modelling work is helping us look at how we might address them. Consultation on proposals is anticipated to be mid-2021.

1.5. Future Decisions

1.5.1. A45 / Damson Parkway Junction Improvements

At my Decision Session in December, I will receive a report that will set out outline proposals for an improvement scheme to the A45 / Damson Parkway / Terminal Road junction.

The proposal follows design development and traffic modelling processes that have been applied in developing a scheme that will provide much needed highway capacity at a location that suffers congestion at various times across the day, as well as making appropriate provision for pedestrians and cyclists to cross both the A45 and Damson Parkway at-grade.

I understand that the report I consider will seek approval to publicly consult upon the proposed scheme in early 2021.