

FULL COUNCIL

2ND FEBRUARY 2021

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 – 21st December 2020

1.3.1 A45 / Damson Parkway / Terminal Road Junction Improvement

1.3.2 At my decision session in December, I received and approved the commencement of consultation upon proposals for an improvement to the A45 / Damson Parkway / Terminal Road junction.

1.3.3 The need for improvement to this junction was identified in the Solihull Connected Delivery Plan and, having successfully secured development funding from the West Midlands Combined Authority, proposals have now progressed to such a stage that they are ready to be published for public consultation.

1.3.4 The proposed scheme is intended to be a medium-term measure that can be delivered efficiently within publicly adopted highway extents. It will improve existing congestion issues at the junction, whilst forming the basis for a longer term scheme that could be delivered at some point in the future.

1.3.5 Public consultation on the proposals will run for a 4-week period, commencing in the first week of February. At the time of writing, precise start and end dates for the consultation are yet to be finalised. However, a verbal update will be provided at this meeting as necessary.

1.3.6 A number of virtual webinars will be set up to enable direct, interactive engagement with members of the public following the success of using this approach as part of consultation on the Council's Draft Cycling and Walking Strategy. The scheme proposals will be provided on the Council's website and promoted via the Council's various social media channels, with a bespoke survey / questionnaire provided to capture comments. Postal submissions are also welcomed.

1.3.7 Revenue & Capital Monitoring 20/21 as at 30th September 2020

1.3.8 I considered and endorsed the 2020/21 revenue and capital financial monitoring forecast as at 30th September 2020; and considered the Portfolio's progress against the latest 3 year savings targets in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) as at 30th September 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. I'm pleased to confirm that progress continues to be made across the whole UK Central Infrastructure Programme despite the current difficulties.

1.4.2. Cycling and Walking Strategy

1.4.3. In my last update to Full Council, I highlighted that consultation was underway on a Draft Cycling & Walking Strategy, and associated Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). The consultation formally closed on 21 December 2020, with a pleasing number of responses submitted, and positive feedback received regarding the hosting of virtual webinars that enabled direct public engagement.

1.4.4. Consultation responses are currently being analysed, and amendments will be made to the Draft Strategy and LCWIP as appropriate. A summary of the consultation findings will be reported to Full Cabinet at its meeting on 11 March 2021, where final versions of the Strategy and LCWIP will be provided for consideration and recommended adoption.

1.4.5. Connected Autonomous Mobility

1.4.6. The UK Central Low Carbon Future Mobility project is aimed at supporting Solihull residents to more effectively and sustainably move around the Borough in future.

1.4.7. The project has recently been given a boost in that, at the end of December 2020, we learned that the Council's funding bid to Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP), as reported to Full Cabinet in December 2020, was successful. The funding of £250,000 allows for the purchase of a 'state of the art', multi-person zero-carbon Connected Autonomous Vehicle (CAV) for local testing purposes.

1.4.8. The project will enable us to learn more about the vehicle technology and its potential to solve some of the Borough's transport challenges: including potential applications for linking local residents to places of work and transport hubs, such as the HS2 interchange. I will be considering the project in more detail at my next decision session.

1.5 Future Decisions

1.5.1 I will be considering progress made on the investment programme within my portfolio.