

REPORT TITLE: PROGRESS ON THE WINCHESTER TOWN AREA TRAFFIC
AND MOVEMENT STUDY

12TH SEPTEMBER 2018

REPORT OF CORPORATE HEAD OF REGULATORY

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WARD(S): CITY WARDS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide an up-date on the progress on the City of Winchester Movement Strategy and to outline the timetable for further work leading to adoption of a strategy in early 2019.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the Town Forum notes the contents of the report.

IMPLICATIONS:

1 COUNCIL STRATEGY OUTCOME

- 1.1 The development of a Movement Strategy for the city supports the Council Strategy (Improving the quality of the District's environment).

2 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 The City Council has committed £200k to help fund the development of the Strategy. Additional resources will need to be identified in due course to implement the high level options in the Strategy but having a Strategy in place will assist the County and City Councils in seeking external funding from various sources.

3 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 None.

4 WORKFORCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None

5 PROPERTY AND ASSET IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None.

6 CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

- 6.1 The Strategy has been subject to extensive consultation already including an open public consultation undertaken in late 2017 which attracted more than 1300 responses, a phone survey of Winchester residents, stakeholder workshops, and member seminar. Further consultation on a draft Strategy is planned in the autumn and will be preceded by a member briefing. There will also be drop in sessions organised for parish councils and other interest groups.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 The Movement Strategy is intended to improve the way the Winchester works in transport terms which will provide opportunity potentially for a range of environmental benefits such as the city's public realm and air quality.

8 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSEMENT

- 8.1 To be determined.

8.2 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.3 None.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk	Mitigation	Opportunities
<i>Property N/A</i>		
<i>Community Support Lack of communication/consultation could undermine credibility of/support for the Strategy</i>	Undertake full consultation with the public, stakeholders and other interest groups.	
<i>Timescales Delay in developing the strategy could undermine public confidence in the project and lead to the loss of potential funding opportunities.</i>	Careful project planning and management to ensure the Strategy is delivered in an appropriate timescale.	
<i>Project capacity Lack of staff/financial resources could delay the development of the Strategy.</i>	Careful project management will ensure that the Strategy is delivered making best use of available resources and remains within agreed budgets. If necessary, identify where additional resources will be required and manage the programme accordingly.	
<i>Financial / VfM None</i>		
<i>Legal None</i>		
<i>Innovation Lack of ambition or willingness to consider creative or high tech options could limit the benefits delivered by the Strategy.</i>	Allow the opportunity for bold and innovative thinking and options to be proposed within the scope of the project drawing on public and stakeholder consultation feedback.	
<i>Reputation See Community Support, timescales, project capacity and innovation above that could potentially harm the Council's reputation with the public and stakeholders.</i>	As above.	
<i>Other</i>		

10 SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

- 10.1 In 2017 the City and County Councils agreed to work together to produce a Strategy for the city looking ahead at the next 20 or more years which is intended to identify high level options to improve movement in and around Winchester.
- 10.2 Since that time considerable work has been undertaken in the form of a consultation with the public, stakeholders and other interest groups. Furthermore, both councils have been gathering a wide range of data and other information to gain a better understanding of how transport currently operates in the city.
- 10.3 In late 2017 an open consultation was launched seeking views on travel and transport constraints within Winchester, and how these might be addressed to improve movement throughout the city. Three key themes were identified; achieving the right balance between different types of traffic, supporting growth and economic vibrancy, improving air quality. Whilst these were generally well supported other priorities were also highlighted and these are being considered in relation to defining and setting priorities in a draft Strategy. The consultation attracted over 1300 responses.
- 10.4 Additional feedback was provided by a phone survey of Winchester residents, member seminar in February this year and by a series of stakeholder workshops. The last stakeholder event in July was useful in developing preferred scenarios which can be modelled and tested in order to understand the feasibility of the proposed high level options identified from the feedback received to date and the evidence base. Stakeholders were asked to assess options in relation to their affordability, acceptability and how actionable they are. This has helped to refine priorities which can then be taken forward to the next phase of the project.
- 10.5 What is clear from the evidence and feedback gathered is the overarching objective of the Strategy should be to reduce city centre traffic which will bring wider benefits and opportunities so the challenge is identifying the best ways to do this. To this end it is possible to model a combination of various scenarios which can be grouped into three themes; public transport such as expanding park and ride (number of spaces and location), demand management which could include changes to parking provision generally and highways which would involve making physical changes on the ground such as alterations to the one-way system for example.
- 10.6 Having carefully considered the evidence base and information provided from the engagement process the next stage in developing a draft strategy is to begin modelling scenarios. Hampshire County Council's officers are working closely with their consultant, Atkins, to complete this work. It will involve using both a local micro-simulation model built specifically for the city centre as part of the project and Hampshire's own Sub-Regional Traffic Model. This will enable us to explore and understand how certain changes would effect

movement in and around Winchester and this is an iterative process which will take a number of weeks.

- 10.7 Once the modelling has finished a draft strategy will be prepared which will identify proposed high level options to improve how Winchester performs in relation to all forms of transport and this in turn should provide wider opportunities to enhance the city including its public realm.
- 10.8 Once the modelling is finished a draft strategy with proposed high level options will be produced and open consultation will be held in the autumn. A briefing for members beforehand will be provided and officers are also planning to organise a drop in session for parish councils and other interest groups.
- 10.9 The consultation on the draft Strategy will enable a final opportunity for interested parties to comment and there will be the opportunity to make changes to the document before it is finalised.
- 10.10 It is envisaged that a final version of the Strategy will be adopted by both councils early in 2019.

11 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 11.1 The City and County Councils were under no obligation to produce a Movement Strategy for Winchester. However it was considered opportune to develop a strategy at this point in time to address the transport issues facing the city as a means to identify high level options to enhance the environment of Winchester which enable both authorities to work together to pursue funding for infrastructure improvements.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:-

Previous Committee Reports:-

N/A

Other Background Documents:-

None

APPENDICES:

None.