

DECISION-MAKER:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
SUBJECT:	PORTSWOOD BROADWAY UPDATE
DATE OF DECISION:	14 DECEMBER 2023
REPORT OF:	COUNCILLOR KEOGH CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY	
Not Applicable	
BRIEF SUMMARY	
This report provides a summary of the Portswood Broadway Transforming Cities Fund scheme following a second public consultation carried out between August - October 2023.	
RECOMMENDATIONS:	
(i)	That OSMC notes that the Portswood Broadway Transforming Cities Fund scheme consultation has happened, and is used as an opportunity for stakeholders to express their view, concerns and alternatives to the proposal.
(ii)	That OSMC notes that a "You Said / We Did" response is to be provided to the main themes in the consultation results to assist in shaping a recommendation for the scheme.
(iii)	That OSMC notes that a decision on the Portswood Broadway scheme is due at Cabinet in January 2024.
REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS	
1.	To allow the opinions of relevant stakeholders and members of the public to inform the decision making process for the scheme.
2.	Compliance with the Southampton City Council (SCC) Corporate Plan goal - Embed a culture of listening to our residents, community groups, partner organisations and businesses so their voices can shape our actions.
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED	

3.	Not to incorporate the views of the public and stakeholder into the decision making process for the Portswood Broadways scheme. Not recommended as this would not be democratic or in line with the Corporate Plan.
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)	
4.	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>In 2020, Southampton City Region was one of 12 cities that received funding through the Department for Transport's (DfT) Transforming Cities Fund (TCF). This joint bid with Hampshire County Council (HCC) was awarded £57M of DfT funding towards a £68.5M programme to be delivered over four years to March 2024. The remainder of the funding is to come from local match funding contributions from SCC, HCC and partners, including bus operator investment (such as new buses in 2024).</p>
5.	The TCF programme is delivering sustainable transport improvements on corridors linking Southampton City Centre with surrounding towns including the Southampton to Eastleigh Corridor. This aims to better connect Fair Oak and Bishopstoke to Eastleigh, and onwards to Southampton Airport and Southampton City Centre by sustainable transport options. This is to support future sustainable development growth and improve productivity.
6.	The focus for the Eastleigh Corridor is the provision of new cycle facilities, bus priority, better bus stops and access to them, access to the rail stations at Eastleigh, Southampton Airport Parkway, Swaythling and St Denys, improvements to St Denys Road, and providing alternatives such as scooter or cycle hire at a travel hub in Portswood. Projects are being developed and implemented by both SCC and HCC as part of the complete package for the corridor to achieve the aims of TCF.
7.	As part of the strategy for the corridor, improvements to A335 Thomas Lewis Way were implemented with the aim of enhancing the strategic function of the A335 for the movement of through traffic in and out of the city. This additional capacity aims to reduce the demand and need for through traffic using Portswood Road. These works are complete with four junctions upgraded including Thomas Lewis Way/St Denys Road.
8.	<p><u>Portswood Broadway Project</u></p> <p>One of the key TCF projects is enhancements to the Portswood Broadway District Centre section of Portswood Road. This would contribute to the overall aims for the corridor for cycling and buses.</p> <p>This scheme has a budget of £2.9M and includes the following additional objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To regenerate and make the District Centre a more vibrant, competitive economic destination. • Make the District Centre a more attractive and a more enjoyable place to spend time and money. • Provide greening, improve bio-diversity and more space for walking and wheeling within the District Centre. • Improve walking and cycling connectivity to and through the District Centre. • Provide safer crossing opportunities and better bus stops. • Improved bus reliability and journey times via facilities (such as making part of Portswood Broadway bus, cycle & taxi only) and upgraded signal technology in the junctions at either end (St Denys Road and Brookvale Road).

9.	<p>Alongside the main Portswood Broadway project is a complementary works that aim to widen travel choices through a Travel Hub. This is proposed to be located in St Denys Road 'stub' and would enable users access to micromobility (escooters, ebikes), car clubs and EV charging, and localised greening.</p> <p>The objectives of Portswood Travel Hub, budgeted at £0.31m, are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve transport mode options • Increase disabled access and parking • Improve public realm and green spaces.
10.	<p>As part of package of mitigation for the works on Portswood Broadway that might displace traffic, an Active Travel Zone in the Highfield area to the north-west is proposed. This would be developed through co-design with the local community to ensure buy-in and includes the following key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve road safety • Reduce the amount of through route traffic on local roads • Improve air quality • Encourage walking, wheeling and cycling as a mode of transport.
11.	<p><u>Consultation</u></p> <p>To develop the Portswood Broadway scheme the Council undertook a first phase of consultation which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October-November 2020 – online Perceptions Survey to gain people’s experiences / thoughts on the current conditions and aspirations for the Portswood Broadway area. • September-October 2021 - On-street customer survey to gain insights into behaviours of people visiting the Portswood Broadway area. • October / November 2022 – public consultation online and in-person events providing details of proposed schemes for Portswood Broadway. The consultation including drop in events and an online survey to collect feedback.
12.	<p>As part of the October / November 2022 consultation, the Council received a petition, “Say NO to Southampton City Council’s proposals to close part of Portswood Broadway to through traffic”, which received 2,868 respondents.</p>
13.	<p>The item was referred to the Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee for consideration at 2 February 2023 meeting. At this meeting the Committee recommended to the Executive that the next phase of consultation is more neutral, that additional updated traffic information is gathered and presented to the public and consideration is given on how that information is presented. The resolution is attached as Appendix 1.</p>
14.	<p>A second phase of public consultation with the additional requested information was carried out between 22nd August and 1st October 2023. This included an updated website https://transport.southampton.gov.uk/tcf/eastleigh-to-southampton-corridor/portswood-project/, an online survey, letter drop to 16,612 properties, email to stakeholder list gathered from previous consultations and drop in sessions (where information and materials were on display and members of the public were able to ask questions of the project team) during September 2023. These drop-in sessions were held at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portswood Broadway (x2 sessions) • Bashir Ahmed Mosque • With the Highfield Residents Association

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the Outer Avenue Residents Association • University of Southampton. <p>Businesses in and around Portswood Broadway were invited to a “Meet the Leader” event, with the Leader of the Council held in the Leader’s Civic Centre office in September 2023. A follow up business meeting was held in October 2023 at October Books meeting rooms.</p> <p>A special presentation was given to members of the Accessibility Forum online in September 2023.</p>
15.	<p>The additional information and materials provided at the events and available online is attached as Appendix 2, this includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact on local roads • Impact on the local economy • Maintaining access for people with mobility issues and people with disabilities • Phased Implementation of the scheme • Air Quality and Environmental Benefits • Improving Public Transport Services • Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour • A335 Thomas Lewis Way Improvements • Emergency Strategy for A335 Thomas Lewis Way.
16.	<p>The online survey ran concurrent to the public consultation events, created by the Southampton Data Observatory (SCC Insights team) – independent from the Integrated Transport team delivering the project. When closed, the survey received 1,371 responses and the details are currently being analysed.</p> <p>It is important to note that a consultation is not a vote, it is an opportunity for public and stakeholders to express their views, concerns and alternatives to a proposal.</p> <p>The survey asked questions about the where people lived, how, why, when and how often they used Portswood Broadway and how they travel to or through Portswood Broadway. Specific questions were asked about how people felt the impact would be on a range of issues via asking if they felt it would have a positive impact, no impact or negative impact. A copy of the survey questions is attached as Appendix 3.</p>
17.	<p>Following the full analysis of the results, a “You Said / We Did” response will be provided to the main themes to assist in shaping a recommendation for the scheme. The consultation results and analysis will inform the next steps with consideration of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the scheme should proceed or not • If the scheme should be introduced as a trial or straight to permanent construction • If the scheme should be a full time restriction (bus gate or no motor vehicles) or a part time restriction • If the scheme should have community co-design of the final scheme for the Broadway scheme / Active Travel Zone scheme. <p>This work is ongoing and will be reported to the Cabinet Member and Cabinet for approval at the 16 January 2024 Cabinet meeting.</p>
18.	<p><u>Next Steps</u></p> <p>Following the completion of the review by officers the timeline for the project is anticipated to be:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A recommendation to Cabinet on the scheme for January 2024 meeting on the consultation outcomes and if the scheme is to proceed / what form (noting the above potential options). • If a scheme is to proceed, commence work with Community Co-design options in Spring 2024. • Any mitigation measures if required in Summer 2024 • Formal consultation on any required Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) Summer 2024. • Any construction of schemes at Portswood Broadway in Winter 2024/2025.
19.	If a scheme was implemented the impacts would be monitored by SCC and reported back after 1 year and 5 years from completion, and as part of the DfT's National TCF Monitoring & Evaluation programme.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
20.	<p>The value of the Portswood Broadway schemes is £3.21M, the TCF programme is funded by the Department for Transport, SCC match funding from Local Transport Plan Integrated Transport Block grant, and S106 Developer Contributions.</p> <p>It is included in the Council's Capital Programme for 2023/24 and has sufficient funds from the awarded grants to carry out the implementation of any agreed proposals, additional surveys, modelling and impact assessments including post-scheme monitoring & evaluation.</p>
21.	There are no direct revenue implications from the consultation.
<u>Property/Other</u>	
22.	None
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
23.	S.1 Localism Act 2011 together with Road Traffic Regulation and Highways legislation (substantive proposals)
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
24.	An equality impact assessment has been carried out on the substantive proposals in accordance with the public sector equality duty under the Equality Act 2010.
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
25.	There is a risk related to the delivery timeline for the project being delayed with further reviews. Timelines for the project have now been adjusted to allow for the gathering of further analysis and as such the risk has been mitigated. The funding from the DfT stipulates that the funds must be spent by March 2024, and the Council is in negotiations with the DfT to extend the deadline to enable completion of the TCF programme, particularly for Portswood. If a scheme propose was not in line with the TCF programme bid then the funding would need to either be reallocated to other TCF schemes in Southampton that provide a similar or better improvement for buses, or the monies would need to be returned to the DfT.
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	

26.	<p>The Council's Local Transport Plan (LTP4) - Connected Southampton 2040, sets out a vision for transport to make Southampton a modern, liveable and sustainable place to live, work and visit by investing in better and more innovative transport.</p> <p>The TCF Programme and Portswood Broadway project support this and the LTP has objectives of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'A System for Everyone, making Southampton an attractive and liveable place to improve the people's quality of life, so that everyone is safe, and has inclusive access to transport regardless of their circumstances.' • A Connected City, with fast, efficient transport options available that effectively and reliably connect people with the places they want to go. As part of that, the Southampton Mass Transit System (STMS) has been identified that will be a high-quality system comprising of various types of public transport – including bus and future other mass transit schemes.
27.	<p>The Council's Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), which sets out the ambition for buses in Southampton, has listed ambitions for buses as an attractive choice where the bus network is built on reliability, carbon-neutral, integration, value for money, inclusivity & partnership.</p> <p>The TCF Programme and Portswood Broadway project support this and specific ambitions within the BSIP, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambition 2 – Buses are an attractive alternative – fast, reliable and attractive – providing bus priority helps to improve attractiveness of buses, growing patronage, speed up journeys and foster further service enhancements and vehicle investment. • Ambition 6 - The City and District Centres as hubs within the network served by buses to support their sustainable growth. • Ambition 9 – development of the integrated SMTS with future aspirations for Mass Rapid Transit on the corridor.
28.	<p>The Council's Cycle Strategy Cycling Southampton 2017-2027 sets out how Southampton can become a true cycling city, with the identification of the Southampton Cycle Network (SCN). The SCN has a series of corridors for cycling improvements including SCN6 on Portswood Road to Eastleigh.</p>

KEY DECISION?	Yes
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	Portswood Ward
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	February 2023 OSMC recommendations
2.	Additional information gathered for consultation
3	Online consultation survey
Documents In Members' Rooms	
1.	None
Equality Impact Assessment	

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out?		Yes
Data Protection Impact Assessment		
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out?		Yes
Other Background Documents		
Other Background documents available for inspection at:		
Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)	
1.	None	