



## LEAD MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT

**DECISIONS** to be made by the Lead Member for Transport and Environment,  
Councillor Claire Dowling

**MONDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 2023 AT 10.00 AM**

**COMMITTEE ROOM, COUNTY HALL, LEWES**

### **AGENDA**

1. Decisions made by the Lead Cabinet Member on 16 January 2023 (*Pages 3 - 6*)
2. Disclosure of Interests  
Disclosure by all Members present of personal interests in matters on the agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the Members regard the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct.
3. Urgent items  
Notification of any items which the Lead Member considers urgent and proposes to take at the appropriate part of the agenda.
4. Memorandum of Understanding between East Sussex County Council and South Downs National Park Authority - potential improvements to local transport infrastructure in and around the Seven Sisters Country Park and Exceat Bridge (*Pages 7 - 8*)  
Report by the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport
5. Any urgent items previously notified under agenda item 3

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3 February 2023

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## LEAD MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT

DECISIONS made by the Lead Member for Transport and Environment, Councillor Claire Dowling, on 16 January 2023 at Committee Room, County Hall, Lewes

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Councillor Roy Galley spoke on item 4 (see minute 52)

Councillors Nuala Geary, Ian Hollidge and Carl Maynard spoke on item 6 (see minute 54)

### 48. DECISIONS MADE BY THE LEAD CABINET MEMBER ON 19 DECEMBER 2022

48.1 The Lead Member approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 19 December 2022.

### 49. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

49.1 There were none.

### 50. URGENT ITEMS

50.1 There were none.

### 51. REPORTS

51.1 Reports referred to in the minutes below are contained in the minute book.

52. PETITION: TO CREATE A 30MPH ZONE WITH SAFE ROAD CROSSINGS ON THE A272 AT PILTDOWN

52.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport together with a letter from Fletching Parish Council.

52.2 Ms Amanda Abraham, the Lead Petitioner for the petition calling on the County Council to create a 30mph zone with safe road crossings on the A272 at Piltdown spoke to highlight safety concerns for pedestrians crossing the road and school children who catch the bus from bus stops on the A272.

DECISIONS

52.3 The Lead Member RESOLVED to advise the petitioners that:

(1) The A272 at Piltdown does not meet the criteria for a 30mph speed limit as set out in speed limit policy PS05/02;

(2) A scheme to introduce walk and cycle ways and safe crossing solutions does not meet the benchmark score for consideration within a future Capital Programme; and

(3) The petitioners may wish to contact Fletching Parish Council to determine their interest in a community funded scheme to improve pedestrian and cycling facilities in Piltdown.

REASONS

52.4 The A272 between the white village gateways at Piltdown does not meet the criteria for a 30mph speed limit and the existing 40mph and 50mph speed limits are the most appropriate for the road environment.

52.5 Sites are identified where at least four personal injury crashes have occurred in the latest three-years within a 25-metre radius in urban areas and a 50-metre radius in rural areas. The latest crash record does not identify any location on the A272 at Piltdown that meets these criteria. Previous assessments of the rural A and B-class road network have not identified the A272 at Piltdown as being a priority for further investigation.

52.6 Appropriate improvements could be considered should an alternative source of funding become available or an application through Community Match is successful.

52.7 It was noted that Fletching Parish Council has agreed to undertake the feasibility study at a cost of £500 required prior to a Community Match application.

53. PETITION: TRAFFIC CALMING OR SPEED REDUCTION SCHEME IN THE NORTHAMPTON WAY/NORFOLK DRIVE/KENT ROAD AND LINCOLN CLOSE AREA OF ST LEONARDS ON SEA

53.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport, together with written representation from the Local Member, Councillor Phil Scott, outlining the Local Member's and Lead Petitioner's views on the report.

## DECISIONS

53.2 The Lead Member RESOLVED to advise the petitioners that:

(1) A potential scheme to implement a traffic calming or speed reduction scheme in and around Kent Road has been assessed through the approved High Level Sift process and is not a priority for the County Council at the present time; and

(2) Petitioners may wish to consider taking a potential scheme forward through Community Match. A Feasibility Study (at a cost of £500) and speed data (at a cost of £422 per site) would be required prior to a Community Match application.

## REASONS

53.3 A scheme to implement traffic calming or speed reduction measures in the Kent Road area of St Leonards is not presently a priority for funding from the County Council's budget.

53.4 Appropriate improvements could be considered should an alternative source of income become available or an application through Community Match is successful.

## 54. LONDON ROAD CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS - PHASE 2 - BUCKHURST PLACE

54.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport together with written questions from Councillor Paul Redstone which were answered in the meeting.

## DECISIONS

54.2 The Lead Member RESOLVED to:

(1) Note the comments of the local consultation and subsequent discussions with Rother District Council regarding the inter-relationship between the Town Hall Square proposals and the District Council's Town Hall campus redevelopment proposals; and;

(2) Approve that Option A – removal of the Town Hall Square gyratory and creation of a priority junction between London Road and Buckhurst Place - to be taken forward to detailed design and construction as part of the 2023/24 Capital Programme for Local Transport Improvements

## REASONS

54.3 The London Road corridor scheme forms part of the wider Hastings Bexhill Movement and Access Package and seeks to improve the pedestrian environment, including the public realm, and traffic management in this part of Bexhill. The scheme would be delivered using Local Growth Fund monies, as well as £300,000 Community Infrastructure Levy funding from Rother District Council.

54.4 Whilst the removal of the gyratory received a mixed response during the public consultation, it will deliver an attractive public realm that will provide a safe space for people to meet, encouraging people to come into the town more often and spend more time there.

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**Report to:** Lead Member for Transport and Environment

**Date of meeting:** 13 February 2023

**By:** Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

**Title:** Memorandum of Understanding between East Sussex County Council and South Downs National Park Authority – potential improvements to local transport infrastructure in and around the Seven Sisters Country Park and Exceat Bridge

**Purpose:** To seek approval for the County Council to agree a Memorandum of Understanding with the South Downs National Park Authority setting out how both authorities will work to develop and deliver potential local transport improvement projects in and around the Seven Sisters Country Park that complement the Exceat Bridge replacement scheme

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**RECOMMENDATION:** The Lead Member is recommended to:

- 1) approve that the County Council enters a Memorandum of Understanding with the South Downs National Park Authority; and
  - 2) delegate authority to the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport to negotiate and agree the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding.
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## 1. Background Information

1.1. The Exceat Bridge replacement scheme seeks to replace the current one-way bridge over the River Cuckmere east of Seaford with a new, two-lane bridge to improve traffic flow, reduce congestion and make it easier for people to cross the road.

1.2. The replacement bridge requires planning permission from the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) as it will be built partly outside of the existing highway boundary. The planning application was considered at the SDNPA planning committee on 8 December 2022 and the SDNPA resolved to grant planning permission subject to conditions and completion of a planning agreement under section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

1.3. During discussions with the National Park Authority about the planning application they identified several additional improvements to the area adjacent to the bridge and causeway that were not within scope of the bridge replacement project but could be progressed by agreement. Therefore, both authorities agreed to work together on potential future projects to improve the local transport infrastructure in and around the new bridge to further support the planning application.

## 2. Supporting Information

2.1. To support this arrangement, a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two authorities has been developed. The MoU is not a legally binding document, but a way of recording the two authorities' intentions to work together on potential future projects.

2.2. The draft MoU sets out that, subject to the availability of the funding, both authorities will work together to deliver the following identified projects, if viable, within 7 years of the MoU being in place:

- Improvement of Non-motorised user (NMU) – walking and cycling - connections between the Seven Sisters Country Park Visitor Centre and the Country Park;
- Improvement of NMU connections between the Seven Sisters Country Park Visitor Centre and the eastern extent of the realigned Exceat Bridge at the Cuckmere Inn;

- Bus Stop Improvements on A259 at Seven Sisters Country Park;

2.3. The aim of these future improvement projects is to collectively improve NMU safety and user experience, through the exploration of potential options to improve NMU provisions on the A259 in the area between the access to the Cuckmere Inn and access to the Seven Sisters Country Park Visitor Centre.

2.4. In developing these projects, the first and highest priority will be highway safety and East Sussex County Council's obligations as the Highway Authority for East Sussex, but the design evolution of future projects will consider the following:

- National Park Purposes and Duty;
- South Downs National Park Partnership Management Plan 2020-2025;
- Roads in the South Downs.

### **3 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations**

3.1 During discussions on the Exceat Bridge replacement scheme the National Park Authority identified a number of additional local transport improvements around the Bridge and Seven Sisters Country Park area which were not included in the scope of the bridge replacement project.

3.2 Therefore both parties agreed in principle, subject to approval, they would enter into a Memorandum of Understanding setting out how they intend to work together to attempt to bring forward these additional transport improvements. These schemes will be subject to the availability of funding and developed within 7 years of entering into the MoU.

3.3 Lead Member is therefore recommended to approve that the County Council enter an MoU with the South Downs National Park Authority and that authority is delegated to the Director of Communities, Economy to agree the final terms.

#### **RUPERT CLUBB**

Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

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#### **LOCAL MEMBERS**

Cllr Stephen Shing

Cllr Sam Adeniji

Cllr Carolyn Lambert

#### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None