

Report to: Lead Member for Transport and Environment

Date of meeting: 22 April 2020

By: Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

Title: Eastbourne Town Centre Movement & Access Package – Phase 2

Purpose: To seek approval to publish the public consultation report for Eastbourne Town Centre Movement & Access Package – Phase 2 and progress the scheme through detailed design and construction.

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Lead Member is recommended to

- 1) Approve the publication of the Eastbourne Town Centre Movement & Access Package – Phase 2 public consultation report; and
 - 2) Approve Eastbourne Town Centre Movement & Access Package – Phase 2 entering detailed design and construction stages as set out within the 2020/21 Capital Programme of Transport Improvements.
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1 Background Information

1.1 In 2014 East Sussex County Council secured £6m of Local Growth Fund monies from the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) towards an Eastbourne Town Centre Movement and Access Package. An additional £2m of LGF monies was reallocated to the package bringing the total available to £8m. This was formally approved on 17 November 2017 by the SELEP Accountability board and endorsed by the Lead Member SMED on 23 January 2018.

1.2 £5m of the Eastbourne Town Centre Movement and Access Package has already been allocated towards the delivery of the Eastbourne Town Centre Improvement Scheme (Phase 1). This scheme focussed on improvements for pedestrians and buses on the section of Terminus Road between Station Road and Bankers Corner, Cornfield Road and Gildredge Road, and supported the investment made in extending the 'The Beacon' (formerly Arndale) shopping centre. The scheme was completed in January 2020.

1.3 In February 2019 and following the submission and approval of a business case to the SELEP's Accountability Board, the remaining £3m for Phase 2 of the Eastbourne Town Centre Movement & Access Package was allocated towards the section of Terminus Road between 'Bankers Corner' and Langney Road.

2 Supporting Information

Eastbourne Town Centre Movement and Access Package Phase 2 - Scheme details

2.1 Phase 2 of the Eastbourne Town Centre Movement & Access Package builds upon Phase 1, supporting local economic development and creating greater priority and accessibility for pedestrians and sustainable transport users in the Town Centre. The scheme seeks to:

- upgrade the existing Terminus Road pedestrianised area known locally as ‘Bankers Corner’ (junction of Terminus Road with Cornfield Road) through to the junction with Langney Road;
- introduce a new pedestrianisation section of Terminus Road, resulting in the removal of the current one-way traffic movement from Bolton Road, through a short section of Terminus Road and into Langney Road. This would necessitate introducing a two-way traffic configuration at the lower ends of both Bolton Road and Langney Road; and
- create a new pedestrianised civic space outside Marks and Spencer that continues the character, vibrancy and palette of materials used in the Phase 1 - Eastbourne Town Centre Improvement Scheme.

2.2 A plan showing the extent of Phase 2 and the proposed layout is shown at Appendix 1. The objectives of the scheme are to improve pedestrian safety and accessibility, help the vitality of the town centre retail environment, modernise the public realm and promote health and sustainable travel.

Public Consultation: Approach and Outcomes

2.3 Throughout 2018 and 2019 East Sussex County Council and Eastbourne Borough Council carried out extensive citizen-led engagement with key stakeholders from a wide variety of business, transport, sustainable travel, youth participation and disability involvement groups in Eastbourne Town Centre. This engagement helped to inform not only the high-level concept designs for Phase 2, but also a wider masterplan of prioritised options for future movement and access schemes within the Town Centre.

2.4 Between 12 November and 10 December 2019, East Sussex County Council and Eastbourne Borough Council carried out a public consultation on the proposals for Phase 2. Over the course of the consultation period, three staffed exhibitions, stakeholder workshops and briefings were held to seek the views of the public, businesses and key stakeholders.

2.5 The public consultation asked for feedback on the Phase 2 scheme objectives, key aspects of the proposals, and how the proposed pedestrianised civic space could be used. All the consultation material, including the questionnaire, was also available online on the East Sussex consultation hub.

2.6 The outcomes of the consultation are set out in the Eastbourne Town Centre Movement & Access Package Consultation Report at Appendix 2. Overall, public and stakeholder feedback was in favour of the proposals, with 63% of consultation respondents supporting or strongly supporting the Phase 2 proposals. Most respondents felt that the plans would achieve the scheme objectives and were positive about how they would improve the Town Centre. Common concerns centred on provision for cyclists, access to disabled parking (Blue Badge) bays, construction timescales and legacy issues arising from the newly completed Phase 1 – Eastbourne Town Centre Improvement Scheme.

2.7 All feedback received during the public consultation period has been evaluated with responses provided within the consultation report.

Parking Surveys

2.8 In April 2019 and December 2019/January 2020, a series of parking surveys were carried out over the full length of both Bolton Road and Langney Road to understand current levels of demand for ‘Pay & Display’, Disabled (Blue Badge), Loading and Taxi parking bays. The surveys were undertaken at 30-minute intervals between the hours of 08:00-20:00 (including Saturdays).

2.9 The results of the technical survey data have demonstrated varying levels of vehicle occupancy across both roads with an average of between 49% and 73% of current parking spaces being occupied during the surveyed hours. The surveys also demonstrated a strong

demand for both Disabled (Blue Badge) and 'Pay & Display' parking. The most appropriate mix and distribution of the remaining parking provision in both Bolton Road and Langney Road will need to be considered by both Eastbourne Borough Council and East Sussex County Council during the detailed design stage.

Scheme Programme and Governance

2.10 The scheme is programmed for detailed design in the 2020/21 Capital Programme of Transport Improvements approved by the Lead Member for Transport and Environment at the decision-making meeting on 16 March 2020. In addition, the traffic regulation order advertisement and early contractor involvement processes are also programmed to be undertaken during 2020/21. In line with SELEP Local Growth Fund delivery timescales, construction on Phase 2 is programmed to commence in spring 2021.

2.11 Subject to approval being given to progress to detailed design and construction stages, provision has also been made within the programme for further engagement with key stakeholder groups as the scheme moves into the detailed design stage.

2.12 The governance for the Design and Build stages of Phase 2 will be overseen by an internal Project Board with risks and issues, such as those arising from current COVID-19 circumstances, managed accordingly.

3 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 Phase 2 of the Eastbourne Town Centre Movement and Access Package focuses on the section of Terminus Road between Bankers Corner and Langney Road. The scheme, funded using £3m of Local Growth Fund monies approved by the SELEP's Accountability Board in February 2019, will build on the recent investment made in Phase 1 which has improved the environment for pedestrians and public transport users in the northern section of Terminus Road, Cornfield Road and Gildredge Road.

3.2 Following a public consultation in November and December 2019, there was overall support for the Phase 2 proposals, with most respondents feeling that the plans would achieve the scheme objectives and improve the town centre environment. All feedback received during the Phase 2 public consultation has been evaluated and it is recommended that the consultation report at Appendix 2 is published on the East Sussex County Council and Eastbourne Borough Council Consultation Hubs.

3.3 In light of the public and stakeholder support for the Phase 2 proposals, it is also recommended that the scheme is progressed to detailed design and then construction, which will meet SELEP Local Growth Fund delivery timescales, is programmed to commence in spring 2021.

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LOCAL MEMBERS

Councillors Belsey, Elkin, Rodohan, Shuttleworth, Swansborough, Taylor, Tutt, Ungar, Wallis

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Section 10 - [SELEP Summary of decisions Accountability Board 15.02.19](#)