

Single Member Cabinet Decision

**Executive  
Forward Plan  
Reference**

**E3518**

## Midsomer Norton and Westfield Walking, Wheeling and Cycling Links (WL)

<b>Decision maker/s</b>	
<b>The Issue</b>	The Midsomer Norton & Westfield Walking, Wheeling & Cycling Links (WWCL) project is part of the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) programme, aiming to deliver interventions supporting modal shift into public transport and active travel (walking, wheeling, and cycling) modes across the region. Specifically, this project will provide high quality walking, wheeling, and cycling links within the Midsomer Norton and Westfield area, providing better and more genuine travel choices, and supporting a decrease in private car dependency for local journeys.
<b>Decision Date</b>	19-Feb-24
<b>The decision</b>	<p>(1) To include the Midsomer Norton &amp; Westfield Walking, Wheeling and Cycling Links scheme as a separate project within the CRSTS programme, following the rebaselining in summer 2023.</p> <p>(2) To delegate authority to the Director of Sustainable Communities, in consultation with the s151 Officer, to formally accept grants from the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority relating to this scheme.</p> <p>(3) To approve the capital budget of £180k to develop the Full Business Case (FBC) for the scheme.</p> <p>(4) To agree that the provisional capital budget for the scheme is £1.25m for delivery/ construction, as reflected in the Council's budget-setting report (February 2024).</p>
<b>Rationale for decision</b>	<p>The Midsomer Norton and Westfield WWC Links project was decoupled from the Somer Valley Links (SVL) project for development during the Outline Business Case stage (OBC). This was confirmed through the CRSTS rebaselining exercise in summer 2023, as a separate project with grant allocation attached.</p> <p>An added advantage of this approach is the potential for more rapid development and delivery, bringing greater travel options to residents in Midsomer Norton and Westfield more quickly than if the scheme remained as part of the wider strategic corridor project.</p>
<b>Financial and budget implications</b>	Funding of £180k has been formally offered to the Council by the West of England to progress the Full Business Case (FBC) and detailed design scheduled during 2024/25. This is funded by £144k of CRSTS grant and a £36k B&NES match, made up of local developer contributions.

	<p>This is to develop proposals to detailed design, provide full costings, VfM assessment and undertake further public consultation on the refined designs. Topographic surveys would need to be undertaken in support of the detailed design process.</p> <p>A further £1.25m is allocated in the CRSTS rebaselining programme for delivery/construction, of which £214k will be met as part of our BANES local match contribution. The remaining grant amount will be drawn down following the approval of the FBC, currently scheduled for February 2025.</p>
<b>Issues considered</b>	<p><b>Delete these red notes: Select from:</b>  <i>Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Sustainability; Human Resources; Property; Young People; Equality (age, race, disability, religion/belief, gender, sexual orientation); Human Rights; Corporate; Health &amp; Safety; Impact on Staff; Other Legal Considerations</i></p>
<b>Consultation undertaken</b>	<p>The area of Bath &amp; North East Somerset lying within the Somer Valley Links scope was engaged through web-based information and in-person events.</p>
<b>How consultation was carried out</b>	<p>Public consultation was carried out in Summer 2023 on the whole Somer Valley Links strategic corridor project; these walking, wheeling and cycling routes were included in that. There will be more engagement in Midsomer Norton and Westfield as part of the project delivery.</p>
<b>Other options considered</b>	<p>The option to retain the project within the Somer Valley Links strategic transport corridor was considered in the rebaselining exercise but this was deemed to risk non-delivery of these routes due to the lack of fit with the strategic corridor objectives.</p> <p>The option for the Council to progress the scheme with capital budget allocations through the Capital programme budget-setting process was considered unaffordable and unviable amongst other Council priorities.</p>
<b>Signatures of Decision Makers</b>	
<b>Date of Signature</b>	

FIELD\_FOR\_CALLIN, This decision is not subject to Call-in and will be implemented immediately

Single Member Cabinet Decision

Executive  
Forward Plan  
Reference

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**FIELD\_TITLE**

<b>Decision maker/s</b>	FIELD_MEMBER
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<b>The Issue</b>	FIELD_ISSUE_SUMMARY
<b>Decision Date</b>	FIELD_DATE_MADE
<b>The decision</b>	FIELD_DECISION_SUMMARY
<b>Rationale for decision</b>	FIELD_DECISION_REASON
<b>Financial and budget implications</b>	FIELD_DECISION_OTHER1
<b>Issues considered</b>	<b>Delete these red notes: Select from:</b> <i>Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Sustainability; Human Resources; Property; Young People; Equality (age, race, disability, religion/belief, gender, sexual orientation); Human Rights; Corporate; Health &amp; Safety; Impact on Staff; Other Legal Considerations</i>
<b>Consultation undertaken</b>	FIELD_CONSULTEES
<b>How consultation was carried out</b>	FIELD_CONSULTATION
<b>Other options considered</b>	FIELD_DECISION_OPTIONS