

Bath & North East Somerset Council

DECISION MAKER:	Cllr Paul Myers Cabinet Member for Economic & Community Regeneration And Cllr Charles Gerrish Cabinet Member for Finance & Efficiency	
DECISION DATE:	On or after 28th April 2018 (for single Member decision)	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 3058
TITLE:	Bath & Somer Valley Enterprise Zone : Provisional Capital Item	
WARD:	Midsomer Norton North : Midsomer Norton Redfield : Paulton : Farmborough and High Littleton	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: None		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 Improvements to the A362 are required to facilitate access to the Somer Valley Enterprise Zone (EZ) site at Old Mills. The Council has been successful in securing funding from WECA for the development of a Business Case for the A362 corridor from the A37 to the EZ site. It is proposed to use the Council's capital funding to match with the WECA funding to enable a comprehensive Business Case, including EZ site access to be prepared.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet Members for Economic & Community Regeneration and Finance & Efficiency are asked:

- 2.1 To approve the provisional capital item for the Bath & Somer Valley Enterprise Zone, which is included in the Council's capital programme, to enable a comprehensive Business Case to be prepared for improvements to the A362 including EZ site access.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 3.1 The provisional capital item for the Somer Valley EZ totals £220K, of which £100K is corporate supported borrowing; £100K is grant funded, and £20K is Planning Section 106 monies.
- 3.2 Full business case and subsequent funding bids will be developed as part of this capital approval.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

- 4.1 The Secretary of State has the power to declare an area to be an Enterprise Zone and offer the Local Enterprise Partnership and the Relevant Local Authority the right to set up and operate the Enterprise Zone.
- 4.2 The A362 improvement scheme supports the Council's duty under the Traffic Management Act 2004 to keep traffic flowing and is included in the emerging Transport Strategy for the Somer Valley.
- 4.3 The project will support the Council's Corporate Strategy 2016 - 2020 by promoting a Strong Economy & Growth enabling the delivery of jobs and improvements to transport.
- 4.4 The project will also support the following Community Strategy outcomes :
 - Improving our local economy
 - Improving our local transport
 - Improving our local environment

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 The Council has been granted EZ status for the Somer Valley focussed on the allocated employment site at Old Mills. It is proposed to use the EZ status to create a new 13.5ha strategic employment site which could provide up to 54,000sqm of new employment floorspace; 1,700 direct new jobs and an annual GVA uplift of £122m for the area.
- 5.2 This supports the strategic objectives of the Council's Core Strategy & Place Making Plan that "the southern part of the District will become more self-reliant, facilitated by economic-led revitalisation" and that "Somer Valley Enterprise Zone (EZ) will prioritize the establishment of a new strategic employment location for the area".
- 5.3 To bring forward the EZ site will require investment in off-site & on-site highways infrastructure. The Council has been successful in securing funding from WECA to develop a Business Case for improvements to the A362 between the site and the A37. It is proposed to match the Council's capital funding with the WECA funding to allow a Business case for a comprehensive road improvement & EZ access scheme to be developed.

- 5.4 It is intended the scheme will incorporate an upgrade for the A37/A362 junction, road widening and re-alignment to facilitate EZ access and remove single lane pinch-points, walking & cycling provision and the creation a safe route to school linking Farrington Gurney & Midsomer Norton.
- 5.5 The Business Case will be used as the basis for bids to WECA / LEP for funding to carry out the works.

6 RATIONALE

- 6.1 Including the provisional capital item in the Council's capital programme will allow a comprehensive Business Case to be developed for the A362 improvements necessary to access the EZ site and provide the basis for funding bids to WECA / LEP.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 7.1 None.

8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The Somer Valley Forum has been consulted on the Enterprise Zone development and the need for associated highway improvements. The need to bring forward the EZ development and improve the A362 has local support.
- 8.2 Local ward Members and Town & Parish Councils representatives will be consulted / informed during scheme development through the EZ Key Stakeholder Group.
- 8.3 The Council's Monitoring and S151 officers have had opportunity to review and input into this report.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 9.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

Contact person	<i>John Cox : 01225 477294</i>
Background papers	<i>Funding boost for Somer Valley Enterprise Zone at Old Mills</i> http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/latestnews/funding-boost-somer-valley-enterprise-zone-old-mills
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