

Single Member Cabinet Decision

Executive Forward Plan Reference	E3518
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**Midsomer Norton & Westfield walking, wheeling & cycling
(WWC) Links project**

Decision maker/s	Cllr Sarah Warren, Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency and Sustainable Travel
The Issue	<p>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.</p> <p>As part of the governance within Bath & North East Somerset Council (B&NES), there is a requirement for the grant from the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) to be formally accepted by the Council.</p>
Decision Date	19th February 2024
The decision	<p>The Cabinet Member agrees that;</p> <p>the Midsomer Norton & Westfield WWC Links scheme is included as a separate project within the CRSTS programme, following the rebaselining in summer 2023;</p> <p>approval is delegated 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>the capital budget of £180k is approved to develop the Full Business Case (FBC) for the scheme;</p> <p>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>
Rationale for decision	<p>The Midsomer Norton and Westfield WWC Links project was decoupled from the Somer Valley Links (SVL) project for development during the 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</p>

	<p>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>
<p>Financial and budget implications</p>	<p>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> <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>
<p>Issues considered</p>	<p>Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Sustainability; Young People; Equality (age, race, disability, religion/belief, gender, sexual orientation); Human Rights; Corporate; Health & Safety; Impact on Staff; Other Legal Considerations</p>
<p>Consultation undertaken</p>	<p>Ward Councillor; Cabinet colleagues; Parish Council; Town Council; Other B&NES Services; Service Users; Local Residents; Community Interest Groups; Stakeholders/Partners; Other Public Sector Bodies; Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer</p>
<p>How consultation was carried out</p>	<p>These active travel routes were part of the public consultation carried out during summer/autumn 2023 for the SVL project.</p> <p>The area of Bath & North East Somerset lying within the Somer Valley Links scope was engaged through web-based information and in-person events.</p> <p>This is a link to the full SVL engagement report: https://haveyoursaywest.co.uk/index.php?contentid=79</p>
<p>Other options considered</p>	<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>
<p>Declaration of interest by Cabinet Member(s) for decision:</p>	<p>None</p>

Any conflict of interest declared by anyone who is consulted by a Member taking the decision:	N/A
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Name and Signature of Decision Maker/s	Cllr Sarah Warren Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency and Sustainable Travel
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Date of Signature	19 th February 2024
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Subject to Call-in until 5 Working days have elapsed following publication of the decision