

Single Member Cabinet Decision

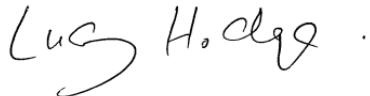
**Executive
Forward Plan
Reference**

E3663

Scholars Way Eastern Construction - Acceptance of Grant Offer Letter for Construction

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| Decision maker/s | Cllr Lucy Hodge, Cabinet Member for Sustainable Transport Delivery |
| The Issue | <p>1.1 The Scholars Way project forms part of the City Regional Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) Programme, a package of funding provided by the Department for Transport and administered by the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority.</p> <p>1.2 This project aims to provide a series of active travel improvements to be delivered by B&NES in the 2022-2027 funding period. The route comprises of an eastern and western section, proposing to link the University of Bath, Combe Down & St Martins School, via Mulberry Park</p> <p>1.3 The Scholars Way 'Final Business Case' was approved by the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) on 15 August 2025. B&NES have funding approved to deliver the Western section of the route and are now ready to progress with the Eastern section of the project.</p> |
| Decision Date | 26th January 2026 |
| The decision | <p>The Cabinet Member agrees that:</p> <p>B&NES should accept the funding provided by the MCA, and approve the spend of £2.984m</p> <p>Delegate approval to the Executive Director of Sustainable Communities, in consultation with the S151 officer, to accept the Grant Offer Letter (GOL) from the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority when it is received.</p> |
| Rationale for decision | <p>Objectives achieved as part of the project include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deliver priority infrastructure in B&NES for pedestrians, cyclists and other non-motorised users• Improve safety within the south of the city, particularly for vulnerable users, by enhancing accessibility and reducing the potential for conflict between walking, wheeling, cycling, public transport, and private vehicles• Positively contribute to a reduction in transport-related |

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| | <p>emissions, and an improvement in air quality within the city centre, helping Bath to achieve net-zero carbon by 2030</p> |
| Financial and budget implications | <p>This report seeks approval of £2.984m for construction delivery of the Eastern section of Scholars Way, all fully funded by CRSTS grant.</p> <p>Total scheme value for the Scholars Way scheme is £6.1m, made up of £750k for feasibility to FBC, £2.37m for construction delivery of the Western section and £2.984m for construction delivery of the Eastern section.</p> <p>Total scheme funding of £6.1m comprises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) £3.493m CRSTS funding b) £2.090 BANES match funding c) £0.5m other WECA grant (TCF / IF) <p>The grant funding identified for this stage of the project has been calculated with input from officers at the MCA and B&NES. This figure will cover internal staff costs, consultancy support, construction costs, and contingency.</p> <p>This report now seeks approval to proceed with the capital project and accept the Grant Offer Letter, once received from WECA.</p> |
| Issues considered | Social Inclusion; Sustainability; Equality (age, race, disability, religion/belief, gender, sexual orientation) |
| Consultation undertaken | Ward Councillor; Cabinet colleagues; Local Residents; Community Interest Groups; Stakeholders/Partners; Other Public Sector Bodies; Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer |
| How consultation was carried out | <p>Consultation has been undertaken with both ward members at a project level, and with cabinet members, via Transport Members Board.</p> <p>Senior officers have been engaged throughout the process, via Scholars Way Project Board, CRSTS Programme Board, Transport Steering Group, and Capital Strategy Group. This has included specific engagement with the S151 officer and the Executive Director of Sustainable Communities with regards to the recommendations in this report and the delegated authority sought within.</p> <p>A full public consultation exercise was undertaken in July-August 2022. This included in-person events and online materials, to gather views on the scheme. 59% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the concept of the scheme. The MCA published the consultation report in full, please see here: https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/wp-</p> |

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| | <p>content/uploads/2025/06/BNES-Walking-and-Cycle-Scheme-Consultation-Feedback-Report.1.1-008_Redacted.pdf</p> <p>This Single Member Decision is shared with B&NES Cllr Lucy Hodge, Executive Director Sophie Broadfield, s151 Mike Wring, and Monitoring Officer Michael Hewitt</p> |
| Other options considered | <p>The alternative option is to wait until a Grant Offer Letter is received in full from the MCA. This 12 week process, in addition to the call in period following the decision, will conclude in November 2025. Following this, a six week mobilisation period will be needed before works can start on site.</p> <p>This will further delay the construction start date until later in 2026, and would further impact traffic mitigation measures planned for all other schemes due to begin construction in 2026.</p> <p>The final option is not to proceed. However, with allocated funding and a political commitment to deliver the scheme, it is agreed that this scheme should be progressed within the current timeframes outlined by the MCA for delivery.</p> |
| Declaration of interest by Cabinet Member(s) for decision: | None. |
| Any conflict of interest declared by anyone who is consulted by a Member taking the decision: | |
| Name and Signature of Decision Maker/s |  Councillor Lucy Hodge Cabinet Member for Sustainable Transport Delivery Bath and North East Somerset Council |
| Date of Signature | 26 January 2026 |
| Subject to Call-in until 5 Working days have elapsed following publication of the decision | |