



## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **CABINET**

**18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2020**

#### **A4119 ELY VALLEY ROAD DUALLING – LLANTRISANT BUSINESS PARK TO COED ELY ROUNDABOUTS**

#### **REPORT OF GROUP DIRECTOR PROSPERITY, DEVELOPMENT AND FRONTLINE SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE LEADER**

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Transportation**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to;
- Update Cabinet on the current progress related to the development and delivery of the major transportation project: A4119 Ely Valley Road Dualling – Llantrisant Business Park to Coed Ely Roundabouts.
  - Obtain delegated authority from Cabinet for the Group Director Prosperity, Development and Frontline Services to submit a planning application on behalf of the Council for the proposed Active Travel bridge at Coed Ely Roundabout.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- 2.1.1 Note the progress made and endorse the next steps in the programme for the project.
- 2.1.2 Give delegated authority to the Group Director Prosperity, Development and Frontline Services to submit a planning application on behalf of the Council for the proposed Active Travel bridge at Coed Ely roundabout.

#### **3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 Details on the benefits of the project are indicated in Cabinet Report of 21<sup>st</sup> June 2018. Please click [here](#).

#### **4.0 BACKGROUND AND UPDATED POSITION**

- 4.1 Preliminary design of the project has been completed and it is now currently at detailed design stage which is due to be complete in Spring 2021.
- 4.2 As part of the continual value engineering of the project, the roundabout servicing the South Wales Fire Service Headquarters has been retained. Originally it was being considered to be removed with a new dedicated entrance to the Headquarters off Sterling Drive on Llantrisant Business Park. However upon investigation, the accommodation works required for the new entrance required extensive engineering works which would have resulted in increasing the cost of the project by a further £2m. The net effect of retaining the roundabout has resulted in potential loss of journey time saving of 5 seconds per vehicle.
- 4.3 At the Coed Ely roundabout, there is an existing desire line for pedestrians and cyclists who currently cross the existing single carriageway. The preliminary design proposals included for the provision of an Active Travel compliant underpass for the safe passage of pedestrians and cyclists. During the detailed design, discussions were held with the Welsh Government who are developing the Coed Ely site north of the roundabout. As part of their planning approval a shared cycle/pedestrian bridge is needed to be provided north of the Coed Ely roundabout to link the development site to Ely Valley Road. The Council has agreed in partnership working with the Welsh Government to provide an Active Travel compliant foot/cycle bridge instead of an underpass at the Coed Ely roundabout which will serve the development site as well as providing an Active Travel route. Welsh Government is working with the Council to address the additional costs.
- 4.4 Representation has been made by the British Horse Society via local AM and MP's for the provision of the proposed bridge to accommodate equestrians, together with Local Members. A survey of users of the existing unofficial crossing at Coed Ely roundabout in April 2019 over a week, indicated the use by 2 equestrians each way on one day only. A report was commissioned from Redstart into the investigation of the proposed Active Travel bridge to accommodate equestrians. The report highlighted a number of safety concerns, lack of current users, no bridleways, increased land take and increased costs, resulting in the recommendation that equestrian users are not accommodated in the proposed bridge. It is proposed to follow the recommendation and only provide an Active Travel bridge for pedestrians and cyclists. A planning application for the proposed bridge will be submitted shortly.
- 4.5 All ecological survey work has been completed and ecological mitigation measures are currently being designed including the provision of 2

number culverts under the carriageway for use by low flying bats, all in accordance with best practice.

- 4.6 Discussions are ongoing with statutory undertakers for their works to be undertaken in advance where possible and these include significant Dwr Cymru Welsh Water works. There will also be a requirement to divert a water pumping main to the Royal Mint which will have to be coordinated as the “downtime” for connections is only 8 hours.
- 4.7 Advance BT works to provide an alternative line to safeguard South Wales Fire Service headquarters communications networks has recently been completed which will minimise risk during construction.
- 4.7 Advance spraying of invasive species ie Japanese Knotweed has recently been undertaken with the prior consent of the private landowners concerned.
- 4.8 All the land for the project and its construction has been identified and discussions have been ongoing between the Council and the private landowners’ agents for the land concerned. To date no parcels of private land have been purchased.
- 4.9 It is anticipated that the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) will be made in November and submitted to the Welsh Government for confirmation. The Council will be required to notify all relevant parties of the making of the CPO and undertake advertisements in the press in accordance with legislation.
- 4.11 It has been identified that a number of private access ways will need to be stopped up to provide the dualling scheme. Alternative access will be provided in lieu of these access ways and a stopping up order will be submitted to the Welsh Ministers for confirmation with the CPO.
- 4.12 Subject to a successful planning application for the bridge, completion of the CPO and all statutory procedures, it is envisaged that the main construction works will commence on site in early Spring 2022.

## **5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment Screening form has been prepared for the purpose of this report. It has been found that a full report is not required. It should be noted in respect of equestrians the issue highlighted in point 4.4.

## **6 CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 Consultation continues with the stakeholders and parties affected by the A4119 dualling proposals and these include the Council's departments, Welsh Government, statutory bodies, statutory undertakers and third parties whose land is required for the proposals.
- 6.2 Consultation with landowners, public, Local Members, etc will be undertaken in respect of the planning application for the proposed Active Travel footbridge.

## **7 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**

- 7.1 The current estimated cost for the project is approximately £16m which is inclusive of risk, additional ecology works, construction, fees, land, etc. As the project progresses through the detailed design stage, the estimated costs will be further refined. Note the Benefits Cost Ratio is 2.6 based on the revised costs. This means that every £1 spent on the project, will generate £2.60 worth of benefits.
- 7.2 A total of £1.3m funding has been received from the Welsh Government between 2017/18 and 2020/21 via the Local Transport Network Fund for the project.
- 7.3 A total of £6.1m funding to date has been committed by the Council via its investment programme.
- 7.4 On 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018 the Cabinet agreed in principle to a £300m investment programme over the next 5 years and included in that was a sum of £65M for Highways and Transportation Infrastructure projects and A4119 dualling project specifically.

## **8 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

- 8.1 The main legislation considered for the proposals detailed in this report are the Acquisition of Land Act 1991, Highways Act 1980 and Town and Country Planning Act 1990

## **9 LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.**

- 9.1 The A4119 Ely Valley Road dualling Coed Ely to Llantrisant Business park roundabouts supports a number of the authorities' own plans, policies and strategies that relate not only to transport, but the wider local agenda. Full details of these can be found in Cabinet Report of 21<sup>st</sup> June 2018. Please click [here](#)

**10 CONCLUSION**

- 10.1 The benefits of the provision of the dualling to this strategic highway has been highlighted in the Cabinet Report of 24<sup>th</sup> July 2018.
- 10.2 The removal of the new dedicated access from Sterling Drive to the South Wales Fire Service and maintenance of the existing access roundabout on the A4119 will alleviate costly mitigation works whilst not affecting the overall performance of the dualling project.
- 10.3 A planning application be submitted for the proposed new Active Travel bridge and not cater for equestrian use.

**Other Information:-**

***Relevant Scrutiny Committee***

**[ARTICLE 6 – OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE](#)**

(Terms of Reference of each of the Scrutiny Committees to assist Officers with selecting the correct Committee.)

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

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