

Agenda Item No. 4(e)

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER – HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE**

14 September 2017

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Communities

**HIGHWAY WORKS SECTION 278 AGREEMENT – A61/ BROOMBANK
ROAD JUNCTION IMPROVEMENT FOR PEAK RESORT, THE BRUSHES,
UNSTONE**

(1) **Purpose of Report** To inform the Cabinet member about proposed funding from a developer to carry out a Traffic Signal Improvement Scheme and include this in the 2017-18 Capital Programme for the Economy, Transport and Communities Department.

(2) **Information and Analysis** As part of the planning permission for a major development project known as Peak Resort, the developer, Birchall Properties Limited is obliged to fund or carry out various improvements to the local highway network to mitigate the traffic impacts of its proposals. The site location is shown on the attached plan Appendix HA1.

At the meeting on 31 January 2017, Cabinet approval was sought and obtained to accept a number of financial contributions from the developer to be used by the Council to undertake various highway improvements close to the development, including the improvement of the junction between Broombank Road and Sheepbridge Lane (Minute No. 37/17 refers). In addition, the developer's planning consent includes conditions for it to carry out other highway improvements (including a roundabout at the site access to B6057 Sheffield Road and traffic signals at the junction of the northbound A61 slip roads with Broombank Road).

As explained in the 31 January 2017 report, the developer has also paid the County Council to undertake design work for the A61 slip road signals. This design work has revealed that it would be preferable for the Sheepbridge Lane junction and the A61 slip roads to be signalised as a single, combined junction. The developer has asked whether it would be possible to pay the Council the cost of the A61 slip road signals scheme rather than carrying out the work itself as this will enable the Council to combine the funding with the existing Sheepbridge Lane contribution already in its possession and undertake a single improvement.

In addition, the developer is obliged to construct a foul sewer connection between the development and an existing sewer in Sheepbridge Lane for which the approval is currently being sought from the Water Authority. If this is granted, the developer has asked whether the Council would be prepared to provide a cost estimate to install the sewer where it passes beneath the above junction. If accepted, the sewer works would be undertaken by the Council and paid for separately by the developer.

This package of proposals has possible advantages for the Council as Highway Authority as it would avoid multiple schemes and interruptions to the network, possible damage to the improved junction, as well as securing a single, more efficient control system at the junction.

(3) **Financial Considerations** Based upon tender bids, the developer estimates the A61 slip road signals scheme will cost approximately £60,000. The Council will prepare its own estimates of the value of the scheme for comparison with the developer's tender prices to ensure the agreed contribution for the works meets the Council's requirements. This will then be combined with the existing funding already held by the Council for the Sheepbridge Lane junction to promote a single scheme within the Capital Programme 2017-18.

The Council will provide the developer with a separate budget estimate for the foul sewer works which, if accepted, will also be added to the Capital Programme 2017-18.

(4) **Legal Considerations** Where development-related improvement works lie within the existing publicly maintainable highway, it is a requirement the developer enters into an Agreement under Section 278 of the Highways Act 1980 with the County Council as Highway Authority in order to fund or execute the works on the County's behalf.

Under existing delegated powers, the developer is already in the process of entering into a Section 278 Agreement for the access roundabout on the northern side of the A61 and will be obliged to enter into a further Section 278 Agreement to fund the slip road traffic signals work on the southern side of the A61.

(5) **Social Value Considerations** The proposed highway improvement works will ameliorate the traffic impacts of the proposed development and combining the two junction schemes (and potentially the sewer scheme) into a single project will potentially reduce disruption for road users. The Council will recover its reasonable costs in undertaking the works, reducing the burden upon the public purse.

Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has also been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health and property considerations.

(6) **Key Decision** No.

(7) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(8) **Background Papers** Held on file within the Economy, Transport and Communities Department. Officer contact details - Graham Hill, extension 38647.

(9) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That the Cabinet Member:

9.1 Notes the intention to enter into a Section 278 Agreement for the developer funding of the A61/Broombank Road junction improvement.

9.2 Approves the addition of £60,000 (or such sum as the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Communities considers necessary to cover the cost of the works) to the Economy, Transport and Communities Department 2017-18 Capital Programme.

Mike Ashworth
Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Communities

