

Report subject	Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership - Ferndown, Wallisdown & Poole Corridors Programme (DLEP - FWP)
Meeting date	9 September 2020
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>This Cabinet Report has been developed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Note the allocation of £1,552,500 of Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership (DLEP) funding to two schemes within the Bournemouth International Growth (BIG) Programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - £1,050,000 to Ferndown, Wallisdown & Poole Corridors Programme and - £502,500 to Blackwater West Junction (to be used to recredit local contributions already committed), and seek approval to add these into the 2020/21 LTP Capital Programme ii) Note the commitment for BCP Council to deliver complimentary schemes as part of this programme. iii) Seek approval to progress with detailed design and stakeholder engagement for the Wallisdown Road element of the programme.
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership (DLEP) Funding allocation of £1,552,500 and provide approval to add to the 2020/21 LTP Capital Programme. 2. Consider and approve the progression of detailed design and stakeholder engagement for the FWP Corridor Programme - Wallisdown Road scheme in line with the key project aims identified and General Arrangement drawing included in Appendix A.
Reason for recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To add the funding allocation to the 2020/21 LTP Capital Programme and enable its full utilisation within the DLEP Growth Deal funding period (before 31 March 2021)

	<p>2. Addition of £502,500 to the Blackwater West Junction scheme as a result of reallocating DLEP funding across BIG Programme schemes enables the recrediting of already committed local funding contributions, which will result in greater flexibility of spend (local contributions to the BIG programme can be spent beyond the DLEP funding deadline of 31 March 2021).</p> <p>3. To enable the development and progression of the FWP: Wallisdown Road based scheme within the required timescales.</p>
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Andy Hadley, Portfolio Holder Transport & Infrastructure
Corporate Director	Bill Cotton, Corporate Director Regeneration
Report Authors	Tim Forrester, DLEP & LTP Capital Programme Manager, G&I
Wards	Alderney & Bourne Valley; Kinson; Wallisdown & Winton West;
Classification	For Decision

Background

1. The FWP (Ferndown, Wallisdown & Poole) Corridors programme comprises two strategically important traffic routes which pass through BCP Council and Dorset Council's administrative areas - the A348 Ringwood Road and the A3049 Wallisdown Road.
2. The DLEP was awarded Growth Deal funding of £98.5 million by Government. Much of this funding has been focused by the DLEP to projects within the BIG Programme.
3. Priority 9 of the BIG Programme is the A348 corridor. Following discussions with the former Poole & Bournemouth Borough Councils and Dorset County Council, the DLEP provisionally allocated funding for improvements along the A348 Ringwood Road corridor.
4. The scope of the provisional funding allocation was subsequently revised so that a whole corridor approach, which included the A3049 Wallisdown Road, was followed as opposed to specific improvements targeted at individual junctions on the A348 Ringwood Road. This change of approach was jointly agreed by BCP Council, Dorset Council and the DLEP. The funding allocation was also scaled back following agreement on utilising this Growth Deal Funding to support other DLEP schemes.
5. The main problems which have led to this programme of work being developed relate to:
 - Productivity & Planned Local Growth
 - Local Travel Behaviour
 - Highway Network and Resilience
 - Estimated Economic Cost of Congestion in BCP/Dorset

- Cycle Network (missing links)
6. The overarching aims of the FWP Corridors programme, agreed between the council partners (the former BBC, BoP and DCC) and the DLEP are to:
 - a. deliver improvements to bus service levels, journey times and reliability.
 - b. increase the modal share of cycling for travel to work or education journeys on the A348/A3049 corridor.
 - c. increase the proportion of walking journeys made for short trips or multi modal journeys on or around the A348/A3049 corridor.
 - d. deliver accessibility, place and safety improvements to Wallisdown local centre that prioritises people over vehicles; and,
 - e. ensure the effectiveness of the A348/A3049 as a strategic route that delivers safe and improved traffic movement and acts as a key enabler of growth.
 7. A full business case (FBC) for the FWP Corridors programme was developed by BCP Council (as the lead for the FWP Corridors Programme) following an optioneering exercise undertaken by external consultants; modelling of options by Dorset Council to understand their impact on the wider highway network; and, a robust prioritisation exercise to determine priority interventions.
 8. The FBC (approved by DLEP in June 2020) put forward the following three prioritised highway improvement interventions;
 - 1) Cycle/pedestrian improvements along the A3049 Wallisdown Road (between Mountbatten Roundabout and Bryant Rd) – *Wallisdown West*
 - 2) Junction improvements at Ringwood Road / B3061 Sea View Road
 - 3) Cycle/pedestrian improvements along the A348 Ringwood Road (section between Mountbatten Roundabout and Alderney Roundabout)
 9. Since the original FWP Corridor programme was developed the landscape has changed significantly, notably through the award of £79m to the South East Dorset City Region via the Transforming Cities Fund (TCF). The A348 Ringwood Rd corridor is identified as the priority sustainability corridor (S5) within the TCF bid. This aligns directly with the FWP corridor area and therefore means that BCP Council will subsume elements 2 and 3 above into the TCF Programme and deliver them utilising funds from the TCF allocation, Local Transport Programme, or other BCP Council funding streams instead of DLEP Growth Deal funding. While element 1 will be funded primarily by DLEP Growth Deal funding.
 10. Given the TCF funding award and the integration and funding of interventions 2 & 3 into that programme of work, a request was made to DLEP (subsequently approved in June 2020) to reallocate £502,500 of the total funding allocation to FWP Corridor Programme to Blackwater Junction to allow recrediting of already committed local contributions.
 11. Our framework contractor (WSP) have so far been commissioned to engage with stakeholders, develop options and produce general arrangement drawings for intervention 1: Wallisdown Road (see Appendix A). The next steps, subject to

acceptance of the recommendations in this report, are to progress at pace with detailed design, procurement and scheme delivery/construction.

12. Delivery of intervention 1 compliments the other ongoing/scheduled works along the Wallisdown Road (A3049) Corridor and will make a significant contribution to link works ongoing at the eastern/central sections of the corridor (Boundary Roundabout, Wallisdown Crossroads) along to Mountbatten Roundabout where it will connect with TCF Sustainable Corridor S5 (A348 Ringwood Rd).

Options Appraisal

13. i) Approve the recommendations set out in this report to enable progression of the scheme.
ii) Reject the recommendations of this report, return funding back to the DLEP and put element 1 on hold.

Summary of financial implications

14. Total approved DLEP funding allocation of £1,552,500 towards BIG Programme delivery. This contribution needs to be fully spent by 31 March 2021.

- £502,500 allocated to Blackwater Jct from FWP Corridor Programme
- £1,050,000 remaining funding allocation for FWP Corridor Programme

15. The total DLEP funding allocation for the FWP (A348/A3049) Corridor project is £1,050,000. This contribution needs to be fully utilised by 31 March 2021 to help deliver the stated priority intervention:

1. Cycle/pedestrian improvements along the A3049 Wallisdown Road,

Any further funding requirements to complete this element will be met by BCP Council (estimated costs to be clarified once detailed design and procurement exercise has been completed Sept/Oct 2020) If required, this would be met by allocation of future funding from the Local Transport Plan.

16. As part of the commitment to this corridor programme BCP Council has agreed to fund and deliver the remaining two prioritised interventions:

2. Ringwood Road / B3061 Sea View Road

3. Cycle/pedestrian improvements along the A348 Ringwood Road

These two projects will be funded and delivered as part of the TCF Programme for Sustainability Corridor S5 by 31 March 2023, (with estimated costs to be confirmed once detailed design and procurement exercise has been completed).

17. Within 'Remedies and Termination' Section 17.2 (Pg 20) of the DLEP Grant Agreement there are several clauses that have both financial and legal implications (list below covers those of particular note):

- *DORSET LEP may, in its sole discretion, acting reasonably, terminate this Agreement and stop payment of the Funding or reclaim payments already made if:*
 - *DORSET LEP reasonably considers that the Applicant has not made satisfactory progress with the Project or is carrying it out in a negligent manner or has failed to complete the Project in the Funding Period*
 - *The Applicant fails to complete the Project for any reason*

- *At the discretion of DORSET LEP any part of the Funding shall be repaid which has either been misused in breach of this Agreement, or if the Applicant fails to provide adequate evidence of the application of the Funding in compliance with the terms set out in this Agreement.*
- *DORSET LEP may terminate this Agreement with immediate effect by serving a written notice on the Applicant if they have failed to remedy any breach of this Agreement within 30 days of being served with a notice pointing out the breach and requiring its rectification.*

Summary of legal implications

18. BCP Council have signed Grant Agreements with the DLEP to secure and utilise £1.55M Growth Deal funding by 31 March 2021, with a commitment to deliver:
 - a. Blackwater West Junction improvements (completed May 2020)
 - b. the three prioritised FWP Corridors programme interventions identified, within the agreed timescales.
19. Please also note legal implications of standard DLEP Grant Agreement clauses highlighted in 15 above.

Summary of human resources implications

20. The project is being led by BCP Councils' Sustainable Design Manager (G&I) with scheme development being provided via a commission of the BCP Council framework contractor - WSP.

Summary of sustainability impact

21. i) All three interventions listed aim to promote sustainable travel and/or minimise congestion and thereby would contribute positively to the environment and compliment the aims of the 'Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan'.

ii) The environmental impact of constructing the individual schemes varies dependent on the scale and environment within which the schemes are to be delivered. Schemes will be designed and delivered to minimise the impact on the environment both during and post construction.

Summary of public health implications

22. All three interventions to be delivered aim to promote sustainable/active travel and/or minimise congestion and as such aim to deliver improvements to air quality and increase levels of activity

Summary of equality implications

23. Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) screening will take place with full EQIAs for the individual schemes completed should a need be identified during screening.

Summary of risk assessment

24. i) Separate risk assessments and risk registers will be produced for elements 1 and 2/3 (combined as part of TCF corridor S5).

- ii) Risks associated to timescale restrictions for utilisation of the DLEP Growth Deal funding by 31 March 2021 with specific regard to - completion of detailed design, procurement, mobilisation and commencement of construction.
- iii) Ongoing impacts of Covid-19 on resource availability to develop and deliver the programme of activity.

Appendices

1. Appendix A – General Arrangement drawings for ‘Cycle/pedestrian improvements along the A3049 Wallisdown Road (between Mountbatten Rbt and Bryant Rd)’