



DECISION OF COUNCILLOR ELFAN AP REES

THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING, HIGHWAYS, ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING.

WITH ADVICE FROM
THE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT

DECISION NO 15/16 DE 247

**SUBJECT: Expression of Interest to the Growth & Housing Fund in respect of a
congestion relief scheme at Junction 21 (Queensway Junctions)**

Background:

In 2015 NSC applied to Highways England for 50% funding for the Northbound On-slip Merge Scheme at J21 under the Growth & Housing Fund. Highways England are now seeking further schemes that might be eligible for this fund. Against the funding criteria Officers have considered which schemes could make a viable bid and have concluded that a congestion relief scheme at the junction of B3440 and Queensway, W-s-M could be submitted.

This decision notice confirms the Executive Member's instruction to submit an Expression of Interest to the Growth & Housing Fund for 50% funding subject to retrospective confirmation from the Executive that the council's funding contribution will be met.

Detail

Assessment of the scheme against the funding criteria;

- For works on the Strategic Road Network (M5 and its junctions). *Congestion arising from this junction in the pm tails back into J21 impeding free-flow within the junction.*
- Local contribution of 50% non-public funding. *Local contribution can be met from S106 contributions arising from Weston Villages.*
- Must demonstrate that the scheme releases houses &/or jobs. *Because congestion arising from this junction is impeding J21, W-s-M is a less desirable place to live or run a business or work.*
- Demonstrate this funding is needed (there is a funding gap). *Because of strategic transport infrastructure being provided by developers (such as the Cross Airfield Link) and because of the viability of the developments we can demonstrate a short fall in S106 contributions.*

- Proposal is reasonably advanced. *The scheme has been developed to the point where we have a preferred scheme, cost estimate and benefit/cost ratio.*
- Demonstrate the scheme can be delivered by end of March 2021. *We expect to be able to implement the scheme in 18/19.*
- Expression of Interest to be submitted by 31st March 2016.

Forward funding. The scheme cost estimate is £2m. £1m would be funded from Weston Villages S106 contributions. £1m would be sought from the Growth & Housing Fund.

The scheme implementation year is 18/19. However, the S106 contributions are not anticipated until about 2023 – 2025 depending on the rate of build out at Weston Villages. Therefore the Executive, with the advice of the S151 Officer, will be asked to forward fund from its own resources or from the Revolving Infrastructure Fund until the S106 funding is received.

The Executive’s approval will be sought at the next available meeting which will be after the Expression of Interest has been submitted. Therefore the Expression of Interest is being submitted subject to Executive approval.

Funding source	2017/18	2018/19	Totals
North Somerset Council	100,000	900,000	1,000,000
Growth & Housing Fund		1,000,000	1,000,000
Scheme Total			2,000,000

Risk. With the Authority being asked to forward fund upon the expectation that appropriate S106 funding will come forward in due course, it should be noted that all S106 contributions secured in relation Weston Villages are subject to future viability assessments that may reduce contributions.

DECISION: That officers, in association with Highways England, submit an Expression of Interest to the Growth & Housing Fund in respect of a congestion relief scheme at the Queensway Junctions with confirmation that North Somerset Council will contribute up to £1,000,000 to the scheme, to be forward funded initially, and ultimately funded using S106 receipts and that the submission is subject to Executive approval in due course.

Reasons:

Congestion emanating from the Queensway Junctions is tailing back into Junction 21 in the PM peak and inducing congestion within J21. This congestion makes Weston-super-Mare a less desirable town to live, work or set up a business.

Submission of the Expression of Interest could, in due course, attract an additional £1m investment in transport infrastructure improvements.

Other Alternatives Considered:

Officers have undertaken an assessment of potential schemes against the criteria of the Fund. Consideration was given to potential schemes at J19 (Portishead), J20 (Clevedon) and other schemes at J21 (W-s-M). No other schemes met the criteria of the Fund and therefore are not considered viable submissions.

Risk Assessment:

At this stage the council is required to make an Expression of Interest. Failure to proceed to the next funding round is a risk. However, submission of the EoI has no capital cost to the council.

Forward funding the project in advance of the S106 receipt leaves a risk that the S106 receipt does not materialise. However, this should be considered against the advantages of attracting additional funding.

Financial Implications:

The commitment of £1,000,000 of NSC resources or from the Revolving Infrastructure Fund in advance of the S106 receipts potentially levers in £1,000,000 of external resources.

Implications for Future Years:

Other than the funding arrangements discussed above there are no future year capital or maintenance costs associated with this proposal.

Signed..... The Executive Member for Strategic Planning,
Highways, Economic Development and Housing

Dated.....

Confirmation of Advice Given

Signed.....Section 151 Officer

Dated.....

Signed.....Director Development & Environment

Date.....