

**Open Report on behalf of Paul Coathup, Assistant Director,  
Highways and Transportation**

Report to:	<b>Executive Councillor for Finance and HR</b>
Date:	<b>02 July 2012</b>
Subject:	<b>Lincoln, Whisby Road Improvements</b>
Decision Reference:	<b>02057</b>
Key decision?	<b>Yes</b>

**Summary:**

This paper seeks approval to proceed with the delivery of the Lincoln, Whisby Road Improvements scheme at an estimated cost of £3,200,000 and explains how the scheme will be funded.

**Recommendation(s):**

It is recommended that the Executive Councillor for Finance and HR approves the funding of the Lincoln, Whisby Road Improvements scheme at an estimated cost of £3,200,000 based upon the funding package outline herein.

**Alternatives Considered:**

- Do nothing – the section of Whisby Road that will remain after the completion of the Teal Park Development site is below standard and not fit for purpose. It is narrow and for much of its length there are no footways. It does not provide a safe route for pedestrians and cyclists. The existing junction with Station Road is over capacity.
- Scheme 2 – At the feasibility stage a larger and preferred scheme was examined which further improved the current situation by the provision of a larger junction at Station Road and a wider carriageway enabling right turn lanes into the main development sites. This scheme is not affordable because of its impact on utilities and private land.

**Reasons for Recommendation:**

The Lincoln, Whisby Road Improvements scheme is the final improvement to the highway infrastructure required to support the Teal Park, Energy from Waste (EFW) and other adjoining developments in the south west quadrant of Lincoln and North Hykeham. The improvements to Whisby Road will enable people accessing this part of the city to exercise a choice over their means of transport, encouraging modal shift.

## 1. Background

- 1.1 Whisby Road serves a number of recent key developments in the south-west quadrant of Lincoln City/North Hykeham. These include the commercial developments off Kingsley Road, the new Teal Park Development and the new Energy from Waste site; the latter two are currently under construction.
- 1.2 Improvements are currently being undertaken to the western end of Whisby Road and the A46 bypass, as part of the delivery of the Teal Park development site. However, these improvements are primarily focused upon providing for vehicular traffic using the Lincoln bypass to access the sites.
- 1.3 Significant local traffic and non motorised users are expected to access the developments from the east, travelling along Whisby Road from Doddington Road or Station Road. Whisby Road, which was once a country lane, has become a strategic link to and from this important commercial/industrial area. However, there are a number of problems associated with this highway:-
  - there is significant congestion at the Doddington Road and Station Road junctions
  - the stretch of Whisby Road between Station Road and Teal Park is not to current standards, i.e., it is too narrow for its current purpose
  - Significant lengths of the road do not have a footway or any street lighting.
- 1.4 A scheme has been prepared to satisfy the above issues, which briefly includes:-
  - Improvements to the traffic signals at the Doddington Road junction.
  - A new roundabout at the Station Road/Whisby Road junction.
  - Widening Whisby Road to 7.2 metres.
  - Provision of combined footway/cycleway facilities on both sides of the road.
  - Toucan crossings at key points.
  - Provision of street lighting along the length of the road.
  - Significant utility diversions.
  - The acquisition of land to enable the above.
- 1.5 The scheme has been progressed to a point where there is confidence in the design and the scheme costs, agreement in principle has been reached with all the existing landowners to sell to LCC and the utility companies have indicated the works and costs that they will require.
- 1.6 The total cost of the scheme (including contingencies) is estimated at £3.2m including works, fees, land and utility diversions. Approval is sought to commit this expenditure.

1.7 The scheme will be funded from the following sources:-

• Section 106 agreements	£1,180k
• EfW contribution in respect of the adoption of Paving Way	£700k
• H & T Integrated Transport Block	£540k
• Highways Maintenance Budget	£150k
• Local Sustainable Transport Fund Grant	£630k
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£3.2M</u></b>

1.8 Notes

All of the above funding packages are in place. It is proposed that the Integrated Transport Block will be used to top up or otherwise balance funding requirements. No new capital funding is required from LCC.

1.9 The current programme for the scheme is to invite tenders from the County Councils new Select List Framework for Highways Works in September and to start work on site in February 2013. However, approval is required in advance of the main procurement process to allow for the purchase of the land, accommodation works and the design of utility diversions. The estimated cost of this advance expenditure is £140,000.

1.10 There are no economically viable alternatives to this scheme. Furthermore the proposed works are the minimum necessary to achieve the scheme objectives.

## 2. Conclusion

2.1 The Lincoln Whisby Road Improvements scheme is the final major scheme associated with the Teal Park and Energy from Waste developments, provides these sites and the existing adjacent developments with a much needed improvement. It also addresses long standing concerns of North Hykeham Town Council and the wider community in this area of Greater Lincoln with respect to sustainable transport links to the wider employment opportunities in this location.

2.2 It is recommended that the Executive Councillor (Finance and HR) approve the expenditure of £3.2m and the use of the funding packages detailed above.

### 3. Legal Comments:

The Executive Councillor has the remit to approve the funding of the improvement scheme, provided he has the delegated authority of the Leader.

#### **4. Resource Comments:**

Approval of this report commits the Council to an estimate of £3.2m capital expenditure on the Lincoln, Whisby Road Improvement Scheme. The scheme will be funded from various blocks all within the current capital programme including contributions from the Energy from Waste scheme and utilising £0.630m of external funding from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund Grant recently awarded to the Council.

#### **5. Consultation**

**a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?**

Yes

**b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?**

Yes

**c) Scrutiny Comments**

This has not been considered by a scrutiny committee.

**d) Policy Proofing Actions Required**

N/A

#### **6. Background Papers**

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Les Davies, who can be contacted on 01522 555557.