

TEST VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S URGENT DECISION (pursuant to paragraph (2) of Delegations to the Chief Executive)

SUBJECT

Construction of a shared footway/cycleway at Stockbridge

DECISION

That the Council let a contract for the construction of 820 metres of shared use footway/cycleway at Stockbridge in a scheme costing £121,000, subject to the receipt of funding from Sustrans

REASON FOR URGENCY

The Council has recently been approached by Sustrans regarding the possibility of funding for the construction of a shared use footway/cycleway at Stockbridge. The Sustrans funding would be subject to the works being completed by 31 March 2012. An urgent decision is therefore required in order to comply with Sustrans timescale. No alternative funding is available for this scheme for the foreseeable future.

The sum of money involved is not included in the budget for 2011/12 and would therefore need Council approval. There is insufficient time for this to be taken through the Cabinet and Council process if the works are to be completed by 31st March 2012.

BACKGROUND

The provision of a cycle route between Andover and Romsey has been an objective of the Council for a number of years and is included in the Council's Cycle Strategy. The route also forms part of the National Cycle Network Route 246. The majority of the route is off road or on minor country roads. However there are a number of sections where the route is on main roads. The Council has in the past funded works at Timsbury to construct a shared use footway/cycleway on the highway verge. There are plans to construct an off road route between Timsbury and Romsey using developer and or grant funding.

This leaves two sections between Andover and Romsey where the route is currently on the carriageway of the A3057. These are at Stockbridge and Fullerton. The Fullerton section is less than 100 metres long. It is planned to relocate this section "off road" with the assistance of an adjacent landowner and developer contributions.

The section at Stockbridge is on the A3057 and A30 linking the Test Way north and south of the town. The proposal here is to construct 820 metres of shared use footway/cycleway to link the Test Way north of Stockbridge with existing

footway/cycleway at the A30/A3057 roundabout east end of Stockbridge High Street. A plan of the route is at Appendix A. Stockbridge Town Council have been consulted and support the proposal. There is insufficient developer contributions to fund the construction of the footway/cycleway at Stockbridge. Due to the length of footway/cycleway required it is unlikely that there will be sufficient developer funding available for the foreseeable future.

A draft scheme has been developed for implementation as and when funding becomes available. A submission had previously been made to Sustrans for funding under their Links to School programme. This original submission was unsuccessful. Sustrans have now indicated that, due to other scheme in the programme not being progressed, there may be funding available if the Council were able to spend the funds this financial year. Confirmation of the availability of Sustrans funding is expected within the next week.

In order to complete the works by 31 March 2012, the contract requires letting by 16 December, enabling the contractor to start in January 2012. The works have been tendered, subject to confirmation of Sustrans funding, using Hampshire County Council's Highway Improvement Works Framework 1. The project cost including design and supervision costs is £121,000. The successful contractor has confirmed that they are able to complete the works by 31 March 2012 provided they start in early January.

Unfortunately the Sustrans funding is not guaranteed and we are still awaiting confirmation. However in view of the tight timescale we need to be in a position to progress the works without delay should the funding be made available. This is the final year of the Sustrans Links to School programme. This stream of funding will therefore not be available in the future.

DECISION

Head of Finance's Signature *W. Fullbrook* Date: *8/12/11*
Head of L & D's Signature *S. Spary* Date: *8.12.11*
CE Signature: *J. C. [unclear]* Date: *7.12.11*
Leader's Signature: *[unclear]* Date: *9.12.11*
Reported to Committee on Date:

DISTRIBUTION

1. Chief Executive
2. Head of Finance
3. Head of Legal and Democratic Services
4. Head of Administration (original for report to Committee)

BACKGROUND PAPER: