

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 16 May 2019

Report of the Executive Director for Growth, Environment and Transport

Part I

Electoral Divisions affected:
Fylde West; Cleveleys South
and Carleton, Poulton le Fylde

Proposed A585 Windy Harbour to Skippool Improvement Scheme - Local Impact Report

(Appendices 'A' and 'B' refer)

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Executive Summary

Highways England has made an application to the Planning Inspectorate for a Development Consent Order for the improvement of the A585 between Skippool and Windy Harbour near Poulton le Fylde. The improvement scheme would comprise of a 4.8km bypass to the south of the existing A585 along Mains Lane. Under section 60 of the Planning Act 2008, the county council as Local Planning Authority, is invited to prepare a written Local Impact Report giving details of the likely impact of the proposed development on the local area. In determining the application for a Development Consent Order, the Secretary of State has to have regard to the Local Impact Report and it is therefore an important document to aid in the consideration of the project.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to:

- (i) Approve the Local Impact Report attached at Appendix 'A' to this report for submission to the Planning Inspectorate as representing the county council's views as Local Planning Authority on the policy implications and local environmental impacts of the project.
- (ii) Delegate authority to the Head of Planning and Environment to reply to any formal written questions from the Examining Authority.

Background and Advice

This report relates to a proposal by Highways England for an improvement scheme to the A585 trunk road between Skippool and Windy Harbour near Poulton le Fylde. The improvement scheme would comprise a bypass 4.8km in length to the south of the existing A585 Mains Lane.

The Planning Act 2008 introduced new planning procedures for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects whereby such projects are examined by the Planning Inspectorate rather than subject to planning applications to the Local Planning Authority. Highway related development is a nationally significant infrastructure project where the development is for the construction of a new road and where the Secretary of State is the highway authority for that road. As the A585 is a trunk road where the Secretary of State is the highway authority, the proposed development is a nationally significant infrastructure project.

The procedures set out in the Planning Act 2008 for the determination of Development Order Consent applications for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects are very different from those relating to normal planning applications. In particular, it is the role of the applicant to undertake consultations on their proposed development prior to submitting the application to the Planning Inspectorate. Under various provisions of the Planning Act 2008, the county council as Local Planning Authority has previously been requested to comment on a report detailing the results of the consultation.

Following completion of the consultation stage, the application for Development Order Consent for the project was accepted by the Planning Inspectorate on 26th November 2018. Having accepted the application, the Planning Inspectorate has set out how the project will be examined including the timing of any hearings and inviting the Local Planning Authorities for the area to submit Local Impact Reports. A Local Impact Report is a written report setting out details of the likely impact of the proposed development on the local area. The Planning Inspectorate has advised that any Local Impact Report for the proposal should be submitted by 17th May 2019. It is often the case that the Planning Inspectorate will issue further written questions either prior to, or once the Local Impact Report has been submitted. The timescale to respond to such questions is very short and it is recommended that authority to respond to such questions is delegated to the Head of Planning and Environment.

The content of a Local Impact Report is for a local authority to determine but the Planning Inspectorate has advised that the following topics should normally be included:-

- Site description and surroundings / location
- Details of the proposal
- Relevant planning history
- Relevant Development Plan Policy
- Local area characteristics such as urban and landscape qualities and nature conservation sites including designated sites
- Local transport patterns and issues
- Site and area constraints

- Socio economic and community matters
- Consideration of the impact of the development in respect of the above matters
- Development Consent Order Obligations and their impact on the local authority area

In determining an application for any Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project, the Secretary of State must have regard to any Local Impact Report that has been submitted by a Local Planning Authority. The Local Impact Report should be used by local authorities as the means by which their existing body of local knowledge and evidence on local issues can be fully and robustly reported to the Inspectorate to aid in their decision making.

The proposed Local Impact Report for the proposed A585 Improvement scheme is attached as Appendix 'A' to this report. A location map is attached at Appendix 'B' to this report.

Consultations

Consultations have been undertaken with various teams within the county council on this development including transport policy, highways, estates and legal. Their comments have been incorporated into the local impact report. In addition, Lancashire Archaeological Advisory Services were consulted with regards to impacts on the historic environment.

The various representations that have been made direct to the Planning Inspectorate by the Borough Council's, Natural England, Environment Agency and local residents were also accessed via the Planning Inspectorate website to gain an understanding of the other views that have been expressed on this proposal.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

The main risk that is associated with this report relates to where the county council fails to produce a Local Impact Report within the required timescale. The Local Impact Report is an important document in assisting the Planning Inspectorate to understand the local environmental impacts of the proposed development and the county council's interests in terms of transport planning, local highway authority and landowner of parts of the proposed road scheme. Therefore it is important that a sufficiently comprehensive Local Impact Report is produced with the timescale stipulated by the Planning Inspectorate to allow a balanced judgement to be made on the environmental impacts of this development. Ensuring that the Planning Inspectorate is in receipt of the Local Impact Report will ensure that such risks are minimised to acceptable levels.

Financial

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Legal

There are no significant legal implications for the county council arising from this development.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A