

FORDER VALLEY INTERCHANGE

Executive Decision Briefing Note January 2018



SCHEME DETAILS

The Forder Valley Interchange (FVI) scheme will increase capacity on Forder Valley Road and roundabout and allow traffic to flow more smoothly, relieving congestion and queueing which currently extends back onto the roundabout circulatory and down the A38 westbound off-slip.

The scheme will deliver:

- Extension of the substandard northbound merge
- Additional lane southbound
- Additional lane on the southbound approach to Forder Valley Interchange
- Additional lane on the circulatory, between Delamere Road and Longbridge Road
- Improved walking and cycling facilities

An existing bottleneck caused by a sub-standard merge at Forder Valley Interchange causes queueing and delay along Forder Valley Road and onto the A38 trunk road. This congestion deters drivers from using this route and therefore places additional strain at Manadon junction.

The scheme is critical to improving the connectivity between the new homes and jobs planned in both the east and north of the city and the delivery of the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan.

The scheme is included within the Council's Priority List for Northern Corridor Transport Schemes.

SCHEME OBJECTIVES

- To reduce congestion by providing additional network capacity for all users, thereby improving access to Derriford from the east and improving journey times on the A386 corridor.
- To encourage use of sustainable travel modes by providing an off-road cycling and pedestrian link between Forder Valley Interchange and Derriford, linking to existing or other proposed facilities.
- Improve accessibility to employment, education and leisure facilities in the Derriford area.
- Reduce the negative impacts of transport on the environment and public health.

BENEFITS OF THE SCHEME

The extension of the northbound merge will provide greater capacity, improve traffic flow and prevent queues extending back through the interchange and onto the A38 trunk road network. The increase in capacity on the southbound approach to the interchange will allow more vehicles to cross the stop line with each phase of the traffic lights which will also allow more green time to be allocated to the circulatory in addition to the increase in capacity on the circulatory itself. Modelling work demonstrates the most improved network performance occurs with this option in place, showing the quickest travel times per vehicle and the shortest queues.

The scheme seeks to optimise the existing transport network and provide additional capacity to improve journey times and reliability whilst freeing up capacity to unlock development to the north and east of the city. It provides extra added value to the Forder Valley Link Road scheme, improving a new, alternative link to the north of the city and relieving pressure on the A38, particularly at Manadon.

The scheme supports large-scale growth in the north (4,171 new homes, 9,000 new jobs, new district centre, 100,180sq.m employment floor space) and east (5,500 new homes) of the city by improving connectivity with the trunk and local road network. Two pinch points at Manadon and Forder Valley will be substantially eased.

The planned investment in targeted infrastructure projects can play its part in stimulating growth and encourage further investment. This scheme in addition to other major transport improvements planned and undertaken in the area will enable major development proposals to be delivered in the north and east of the city.

FUNDING

The total capital cost to deliver the Forder Valley Interchange scheme is estimated to be £8.833m.

Funding of £5 million from the Department of Transport's National Productivity Investment Fund is being provided on the basis that the Council and/or third parties will provide the remaining match funding. Therefore the remaining £3.833 million required for the project will be funded from the Community Infrastructure Levy.

DELIVERY TIMESCALE

The scheme is anticipated to commence construction in Autumn 2018 and will take approximately 6-9 months. The Department for Transport funding is being provided on the basis that the funds are spent by March 2020.

STAKEHOLDER SUPPORT

The scheme is included within the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan, which has been through a full consultation process. Early public consultation was undertaken on the scheme in October 2016 alongside Forder Valley Link Road ('Forder Valley Transport Improvements'). Letters of support for the scheme have been received from the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership, the Seaton Neighbourhood Developer and local MPs.

RECOMMENDED DECISION

It is recommended that the Leader of the Council:

- Approves the Business Case
- Allocates £8,833,000 for the project within the Capital Programme (with £5,000,000 funded by the Department for Transport's National Productivity Investment Fund and £3,833,000 funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy)
- Delegates authorisation of the procurement process to Anthony Payne, Strategic Director for Place
- Delegates the award of the contract to Anthony Payne, Strategic Director for Place