

Epsom Plan E Highway Improvements Scheme

Member Update Note 6 March 2017

This note provides an update to Members on the current progress and issues on C2C LEP funded town centre improvements works.

A24 Resilience (Epsom Town Centre) Bid

- On 6 January 2017 SCC submitted a Business Case to the [C2C A24 Network Resilience \(Epsom TC\) BusinessCase](#) bidding for a further £2m Local Growth Deal Funding to fund the A24 Network Resilience scheme. Maximizing SCC's Local Contribution of £292k from SCC's Project Horizon Funding to lever in an additional £1.6m to address critical maintenance issues.
- The scheme aims to address drainage and carriageway defects identified at the 'Spread Eagle' junction and other sections of the one-way system, during recent investigations part of the Plan E Highway Improvements scheme which are 'out of scope and budget' of the Plan E Highway Improvements scheme, **but critically needs to be addressed**. These issues include:
 - Surface cracking indicates foundation failure, any new overlay wouldn't last 2 years;
 - Foundations have developed large voids, effectively disintegrated;
 - Waterloo Rd has substandard foundations and is visibly failing;
 - Tar found in core samples (deemed hazardous material and requires disposal (c£160/tonne)
- If these defects are not addressed then any improvements facilitated by the Highway Improvements scheme around the Spread Eagle junction will deteriorate very quickly and will be dependent on available funding for any future reactive maintenance. This is exacerbated by Thames Water suspension of their planned maintenance programme.
- **The Funding decision was originally expected on 16th February 2017 at a C2C LEP Board meeting. This meeting has now been deferred until June \ July 2017. Alternative funding streams including the National Productivity Fund (NPF) are being investigated to act as matched funding until the decision on the Resilience Bid is known.**
- **Given this delay which is outside of SCC's control it is critical that all works at the Spread Eagle junction are delayed until the outcomes of funding sources are known**, this is necessary to ensure that all works can be planned and implemented in the most cost efficient manner to achieve these savings (and to offset any costs which should not be attributed to the Plan E scheme), avoid any abortive works and to minimise disruption to the town centre for pedestrians, drivers and businesses.

Plan E Highway Improvements

Phase A – Bus Stand

- Work on the Bus Stand commenced on the 9th January 2017 as planned.
- **Off peak Traffic Management (TM) working well despite impacts of Southern Rail Strikes etc. Observations are that the works have had little or no highways impacts on the town centre. Monitoring in place to account for Southern Gas works in East Street.**
- Concerns over protection of trees adjacent to Global House due to discovery of low depth (100mm) of tree roots resulted in a further two trees being felled. These trees will be replaced.
- Construction Programme on track to finish end of March/ early April (weather dependent).
- Bus Stand planned to be operational in the summer, may be required for Site Compound for other Phases.

Revised Programme

- Given the carriageway and drainage issues identified at the Spread Eagle, the original programme has been revised based on the premise that it will be easier to plan and manage the disruption to the town centre whilst works at the Spread Eagle take place if South Street is made two-way in advance.
- As such, it is now planned that
 - Phase F - South St – footway and carriageway improvements;
 - Phase E - South Street/ West Street junction and
 - Phase G - Playhouse Junction
- **These Phases will commence in this order following the completion of the Bus Stand, in April \ May subject to Streetworks approvals.**
- **Traffic Orders will be advertised week beginning 27th Feb for these Phases E, F & G.**
- **Detailed planning is ongoing to finalise the construction programme for Phases E, F & G to ensure that the works are undertaken in a safe and efficient manner to minimise impacts on the town centre. Given the sensitive location and lack of suitable diversion routes, and narrow footways and running lanes this activity has turned out to be far more complex and time consuming activity than experienced with other improvement schemes, given other works in and around the town centre, however, it is vital that these issues are fully explored and resolved with all necessary approvals achieved before works begin.**
- **Currently there are still too many unresolved issues to firm up and publicise the programme with certainty at this stage. Once finalised the programme will be shared with all relevant Stakeholders in an appropriate and timely manner.**

Costs

- Current cost estimates have highlighted that the aspiration to complete all phases of the project as it has evolved, cannot be achieved within the approved budget of £3.65m and requires the Resilience Bid or (NPF) to address some of these cost pressures.
- Cost Estimates are continually being updated based on choices of material specifications, to finalise the Construction Phase Planning and ultimately the confirmed Delivery Programme,

which is subject to achieving the required street-works approvals and confirmed methods of working which have a big impact on construction and traffic management costs.

- On-going discussions regarding the outcomes of cost estimates will continue with the Joint Place Team Board and both Borough and County Members to consider impacts to both SCC & EEBC in terms of future operational and maintenance issues and respective budgets.
- Borough and County Members will be updated when confirmed estimates and programme are available to contribute to any changes or de-scope or final decision making.

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