

## UPDATE ON CRESSEX AREA AND WESTHORPE JUNCTION

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### ***What is the Commission being asked to do?***

To note the Update

### **Executive Summary**

This report transport updates on issues affecting Cressex and Westhorpe junction.

### **Background and Issues**

The Regeneration Delivery Task and Finish Group made a number of recommendations in November 2016 that were accepted by Cabinet including in relation to transport issues affecting Cressex and Westhorpe junction (**see appendix A**).

#### *Cressex*

Funding has been allocated for several transport improvement schemes in the Cressex area, and officers have been working with the relevant agencies to bring forward improvement schemes. These are based on previous strategy development work, notably the Southern Quadrant Transport Strategy. Details and an update on the programme are given at **appendix B**.

#### *Westhorpe Interchange Marlow*

In parallel scheme assessment and design work is being carried out with Buckinghamshire County Council and BTVLEP for Westhorpe Junction as part of a bid for funds from the Highways England (HE) Growth and Housing Fund. The aim of the scheme is to improve access and egress to Globe Park and ease congestion on the north bound off slip of the A404 at Westhorpe. A plan of the three main junctions is included at **appendix C**. Options being considered include:

- The scope for signalisation of the main roundabout and the access to Globe Park
- Creating dedicated access from A4040 northbound off slip directly into Globe Park
- The scope for access/egress improvements at Parkway, possibly including restrictions (eg for HGV's) to ease traffic conditions.

Officers have provided information for an HE decision deadline of March 2017, however this has passed and we currently await an update. To date the scheme has received in-principle support from Highways England, with strong indications that the bid will be successful.

### **Conclusions/ Recommendations**

Schemes are currently being developed and progressed toward implementation, working with relevant stakeholders as appropriate, and consistent with the

recommendations that have been accepted by Cabinet. Members are invited to note this update.

### **Corporate and Financial Implications**

The District Council continues to play an important role in setting and supporting priorities, both through officer time and allocation of CIL funding.

#### *Cressex*

The 2014 local growth funding package agreed by the Bucks and Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership May 2016 was largely focused on High Wycombe town centre but included. £1.29m for Cressex. CIL funding makes up almost 40% of the overall funding package.

Separately £500,000 CIL funding has been allocated in 2017/18. This was originally envisaged as match funding for a Local Growth Funding bid but has been allocated notwithstanding that this bid was unsuccessful.

#### *Westhorpe Interchange Marlow*

The overall scheme budget is £1.5m with match funding of £500,000 identified by WDC (CIL) and BCC (S.106).

### **Next Steps**

The programme for the delivery of the 2014 local growth funded schemes is set out in **appendix B**, with public consultation on schemes due later this year.

The programme for schemes to be delivered with the £500,000 CIL funding is being developed in cooperation with businesses located at Cressex. WDC are working with Buckinghamshire County Council and local business to identify and appraise possible initiatives which could address the issues identified by the unsuccessful Local Growth Fund bid.

An update from Highways England is awaited regarding their programme, which is expected to include public consultation.

### **Background Papers**

None.