



Cabinet decision notice

The following decision(s) were taken by Cabinet at its meeting held on **25 March 2024**. Decisions will (unless called-in) become effective at 5pm on 28 March 2024.

Agenda item no. 7

South East Aylesbury Link Road (SEALR) Phase 1

(a) Decisions

Cabinet received a report on the South East Aylesbury Link Road (SEALR) project, that involved the construction of approximately 1.1 miles of dual carriageway that would join the A413 Wendover Road with the B4443 Lower Road and the Stoke Mandeville Relief Road (SMRR). The project was being delivered as one project but in two phases. SEALR was part of the Aylesbury Orbital Link Road, which was a key infrastructure requirement to support the planned growth of Aylesbury and mitigate the impact of HS2.

The project had secured planning permission and external funding from various sources, including the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF), HS2, and the Department for Transport (DfT). The project had completed early works and started the construction of the roundabout junctions on Wendover Road (A413) and Lower Road (B4443). The main construction works were expected to commence in July 2024 and complete by Summer 2026.

The project costs for SEALR Phase 1 and Phase 2 had increased significantly due to inflation and other factors. The report proposed to address the funding gap by reallocating savings from the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) Aylesbury Grid Reinforcements project and reducing the available HIF funding for the Woodlands development and the Eastern Link Road South. The report also recommended forward funding and underwriting the Department for Transport (DfT) contribution to mitigate the financial and programme risks of any delay in funding approval.

Approval was sought from Cabinet to adjust the capital budgets and release funding for SEALR Phase 1 and SEALR Phase 2. In addition, the report sought the necessary delegations to enable the Corporate Director for Communities and the Corporate Director for Planning Growth and Sustainability, in consultation with the Leader to proceed with the delivery of the main works for SEALR Phase 1.

This would enable the phased delivery of the South East Aylesbury Link Road, within required timeframes to achieve the intended programme and to give effect to the Previous Council Decisions.



As part of their deliberations, Cabinet also considered in confidential session the confidential information and appendices that were part of the agenda.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the following increases in the SEALR budget be APPROVED, as set out in the confidential Appendix B and Appendix D**
 - (a) SEALR Phase 1 from £97,933,819 to £122,715,890.**
 - (b) SEALR Phase 2 from £16,788,869 to £25,225,052**

- (2) That the release of the revised budget for SEALR Phase 2 of £25.2m be APPROVED, as set out in Confidential Appendix B and Appendix D.**

- (3) That the release of the revised budget for SEALR Phase 1 of £122.7m be APPROVED, as set out in Confidential Appendix B and Appendix D, subject to Homes England approval and HS2 Funding Agreements.**

- (4) That the following reductions in the Woodlands/Eastern Link Road South budget be APPROVED, as set out in Confidential Appendix B and subject to Homes England approval:**
 - (a) The permanent reduction of £11,727,127 of the available HIF funding.**
 - (b) The reduction of £13,472,000 of the available HIF funding to forward fund and underwrite SEALR Phase 1, pending the final approval of the business case by the Department for Transport.**

- (5) That the previous decisions to acquire the land, rights, and interests for SEALR Phase 1 be RATIFIED, noting the increased risks set out in Confidential Appendix A and the revised budget in Confidential Appendix B.**

- (6) That authority be delegated to the Corporate Director for Communities and the Corporate Director for Planning, Growth and Sustainability, in consultation with the Leader:**
 - (a) To proceed with the delivery of the main works for SEALR Phase 1, noting the risks set out in the Confidential Appendix B.**
 - (b) To take all necessary steps including to enter into any associated agreements, contracts or licenses required associated with the delivery and funding of SEALR Phase 1.**

(b) Reasons for decisions

To enable the phased delivery of the South East Aylesbury Link Road, within required timeframes and funding provisions, to achieve the intended programme and to give effect to the Previous Council Decisions. It should be noted that:

- The approval of Recommendation 2 continued to give effect to the delegations given by Cabinet on the 4 January 2024.
- Any recoverable funds from Recommendation 4b would be reallocated to the

- Woodlands and Eastern Link Road South budget, subject to a formal decision.
- The approval of Recommendation 4 continued to facilitate the marketing of Woodlands to give effect to the delegations given by Cabinet on the 4 January 2024.

(c) Alternative options considered

Options to address the Funding Gap were detailed at Section 8 of the Cabinet report.

Other Options considered which included information on a number of alternative options considered to deliver SEALR Phase 1 were detailed at Section 9 of the Cabinet report.

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None.

For further information please contact: Ian Hunt on , email democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

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