

# **Warwick District Council Local Plan Examination**

**Matter 7c: Proposed housing site allocations, safeguarded land and direction for growth  
(Edge of Coventry)**

**Supplementary Written Statement by Warwickshire County Council  
A46 Link Road**

**December 2016**



## **1. Purpose of the Statement**

The purpose of this statement is to provide the Local Plan Inspector and those with an interest in relation to Matter 7c with further clarification in relation to a number of specific issues concerning the proposed A46 Link Road.

## **2. To what extent is therefore formal commitment to the road, what form does this take and who has made the commitment?**

To date the proposals for the A46 Link Road have been informally supported by senior officers and members, who have given a mandate to explore the merits of the scheme in supporting and facilitating economic growth within the sub-region. The proposals for Phase 1 of the scheme have been necessarily progressed due to its interface with HS2 construction impacts within the Kenilworth and Stoneleigh area.

The County Council's Cabinet is due to consider a report on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2016 in relation to the overall proposals for the A46 Link Road and a number of specific matters relating to the ongoing work to develop Phase 1 of the scheme. Any formal commitment by CCC is expected to be considered at a later date

## **3. Is the scheme contained in any plans?**

The A46 Link Road proposals pre-date the Warwickshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2026 and the equivalent plan within the West Midlands. The Coventry and Warwickshire LEP's Strategic Economic Plan 2014 and subsequent 2016 refresh both identify the A46 Corridor as one of the seven transport priorities for the sub-region, although the Plan does not specifically refer to the A46 Link Road. The need to upgrade the A46 Stoneleigh junction (i.e. Phase 1 of the A46 Link Road) is highlighted within the 2014 plan and reiterated more generally in the 2016 refresh.

The emerging Midlands Connect Strategy identifies the A46 Link Road as a key project to help improve access to UK Central and the proposed HS2 interchange. It also highlights the potential for the scheme to provide strategic resilience to the M40, M42 and M6 as part of the wider proposals for the Midlands Road Hub.

## **4. Are there any formal funding commitments to the scheme?**

The current position regarding funding in relation to each phase of the scheme is as follows:

Phase 1 of the scheme is currently unfunded. The Department for Transport (DfT) has given in principle support to move Growth Deal #1 funding currently allocated to the A45 Corridor to be used to fund the works required to deliver Phase 1. Warwickshire County Council and Coventry City Council have been asked to provide a full business case for the scheme in order to secure full approval for the Growth Deal #1 funding to be reallocated. This work is underway. It is anticipated that the full business case for the scheme will be submitted to DfT in 2017.

Phase 2 of the scheme is currently unfunded. As part of the Government's recent Autumn Statement, the County Council has received confirmation that its joint bid with Coventry City Council to DfT for Large Local Major Scheme funding for Phase 2 of the A46 Link Road has been successful. The award of £1.25M will allow a full business case to be developed for a new road between the A46 at Stoneleigh and the University of Warwick/Westwood Heath. The full business case for Phase 2 will be assessed by DfT before a decision is taken as to whether to provide further funding towards the scheme.

Phase 3 of the scheme is currently unfunded. As set out in the County Council's previous written statement, this element of the project is at an early stage of development.

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