
Cabinet
Council

25th August 2020
8th September 2020

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for City Services – Councillor P Hetherton

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Director of Transportation and Highways

Ward(s) affected:

All Wards

Title:

Ring Road - Swanswell Viaduct Refurbishment, Phase 2

Is this a key decision?

Yes – The proposal in this report is a key decision because expenditure is above the £1m threshold and although geographically the site is located within St Michael's Ward, it will have an impact on Ring Road traffic affecting the whole of the City.

Executive Summary:

The Swanswell Viaduct Refurbishment scheme involves the structural refurbishment of substandard elements on the Swanswell Viaduct Junction 1 – 4 of the Coventry Ring Road. Following award of funding from Tranche 1 of the Department for Transport (DfT), Local Highways Maintenance Challenge Funding, Phase 1 of the refurbishment was completed in 2018.

The Council has been successful in securing a further £5.0million through the same fund for Phase 2 of the scheme with a requirement for 2.5% (£250k) contribution from the Council. In total £5.25 million is available to spend on the refurbishment of the structure. DfT conditions require for all funds to be spent by the end of financial year 2020/21.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is asked to recommend that Council:

1. Authorise the Council to accept and add DfT, Local Highways Maintenance Challenge Fund of £5.0million grant for the purposes of refurbishing the Swanswell Viaduct to the Council's 5 Year Capital Programme.

2. Delegate authority to the Director of Transportation and Highways, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for City Services, to agree detailed terms of the transaction and to enter into the relevant legal agreements and associated documents necessary to complete the transaction and appoint the contractor to deliver the works.

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List of Appendices included:

Appendix A – Location Plan

Appendix B – Project Delivery Structure

Background papers:

None

Other useful documents:

None

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

Yes

Report title: Swanswell Viaduct Refurbishment

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 Coventry's Ring Road is the hub of the city's road network, carrying large volumes of traffic. This connectivity is key to the City's economy.
- 1.2 In order to maintain its capacity, the structure has had cyclic inspections and maintenance carried out since its construction in the 1960s and 70s
- 1.3 Phase 1 of the viaduct refurbishment, which was completed in 2018, upgraded a third of the structure. The upgrade included strengthening edge beams, parapets and waterproofing the bridge deck. These works are still required to the remainder of the viaduct.
- 1.4 In June 2020 Central Government announced that the Council's bid for further funding through the Highway Maintenance Challenge Fund had been successful with an award of £5m to be spent in this financial year.
- 1.5 Phase 1 of the scheme delivered upgrading of the main carriageway sections of the Viaduct between Junctions 2 and 3. It is proposed that Phase 2 will include upgrading works between Junction 3 and 4 (including the elevated slip roads to and from Sky Blue Way). (as shown in Appendix A.)
- 1.6 The bridge decks including slip roads need to be waterproofed to prevent deterioration from the use of de-icing salts. Following waterproofing, the road surface will need to be replaced. This will have the benefit of reducing on-going maintenance costs.
- 1.7 The objectives of the scheme are to continue to improve the structure by:
 - Maintaining and upgrading the viaduct structure and carriageway
 - Minimise short and long-term maintenance costs
 - Reduce accident risk

Combining all of these works into one scheme will ensure procurement and implementation is as efficient as possible and traffic disruption is minimised.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 In order to meet the tight delivery timescales imposed by the DfT funding conditions, the design completed within Phase 1 of the scheme will be used.
- 2.2 The design consultant previously appointed for Phase 1 will be commissioned to produce a scope of works in line with the available funding.
- 2.3 It is proposed to procure the works through the Scape Group Public Sector Construction Framework.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 Coventry City Council's Procurement Team has been consulted to determine the most appropriate procurement strategy for delivery of the scheme. Existing framework routes have been identified for all phases to drive efficiency and value for money through well-established supply chains.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 Due to the very challenging DfT deadlines the delivery dates below need to be met.

Key Milestones	Delivery Dates
Commission Design Consultant for scoping exercise.	August 2020
Contractor Appointment	September 2020
Construction Start	November 2020

5. Comments from the Director of Finance and the Director of Law and Governance

5.1 Financial implications

- 5.1.1 Funds for the scheme have been secured via the DfT, Local Highways Maintenance Challenge Fund with a 5% contribution of £250,000 from the Council's approved Capital Highways Maintenance budget.
- 5.1.2 DfT funding conditions require all funds to be spent by end of financial year 2020/21. There is the potential for claw-back should this condition not be met.
- 5.1.3 The overall project costs of £5.25m are based on financial modelling using the following assumptions: -
- Design support and Technical Approval costs including onsite support and project management throughout the life of the scheme costing circa £0.4million.
 - Construction costs undertaken by the Principal Contractor costing circa £4.85million, including contingency of £485k (10%).
- 5.1.4 Revenue costs are not expected on the scheme.

5.2 Legal implications

- 5.2.1 Any works carried out as part of the scheme which exceed EU procurement thresholds will be compliant with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and the Council's Rules for Contracts.
- 5.2.2 As the works are a refurbishment of an existing highway structure, it is expected no planning consents will be required. Aesthetic alterations to the viaduct fascia panels were carried out as part of the Phase 1 works and it is proposed that this feature is continued with the Phase 2 works.

6. Other implications

6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council Plan?

The delivery of the scheme will prolong the life of the Swanswell Viaduct as an integral part of the city's highway network. Non-delivery of the scheme may result in future maintenance costs being borne by the Council's Highway Maintenance budget causing a burden in future years.

Further deterioration of the structure could result in a closure or having lane closures or weight restrictions applied between Junctions 1- and 4, causing significant congestion across the city.

Highway maintenance is of fundamental importance to achieving the integrated transport agenda.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

To mitigate the risks associated with this project, a comprehensive governance structure has been put in place to ensure correct procedures are followed and that the programme is maintained. (shown in appendix B).

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

Though the majority of the scheme is funded with external funds, a small contribution is required from existing highway maintenance budgets, therefore there will be a small impact on the maintenance funds for other structures in the city. This is being managed by the highway team and does not present any significant concern.

6.4 Equalities / EIA

Delivery of these works will assist the Council in its role as the Highway Authority to maintain the public highways on behalf of all Coventry residents and visitors.

The City Council will work with all suppliers and their supply chains to ensure that all works are carried out in line with industry best practise and that all environmental standards and legislation is adhered to.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment

Undertaking this scheme will contribute to the Council's responsibility for maintaining Coventry's road network which will in turn contribute to achieving environmental targets as well-maintained roads improve the efficiency of traffic flow and therefore reduce environmental impact through reduction of emissions.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

Improvements to the highway network will benefit all users and promote the city to partner organisations and further development.

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Transportation and Highways

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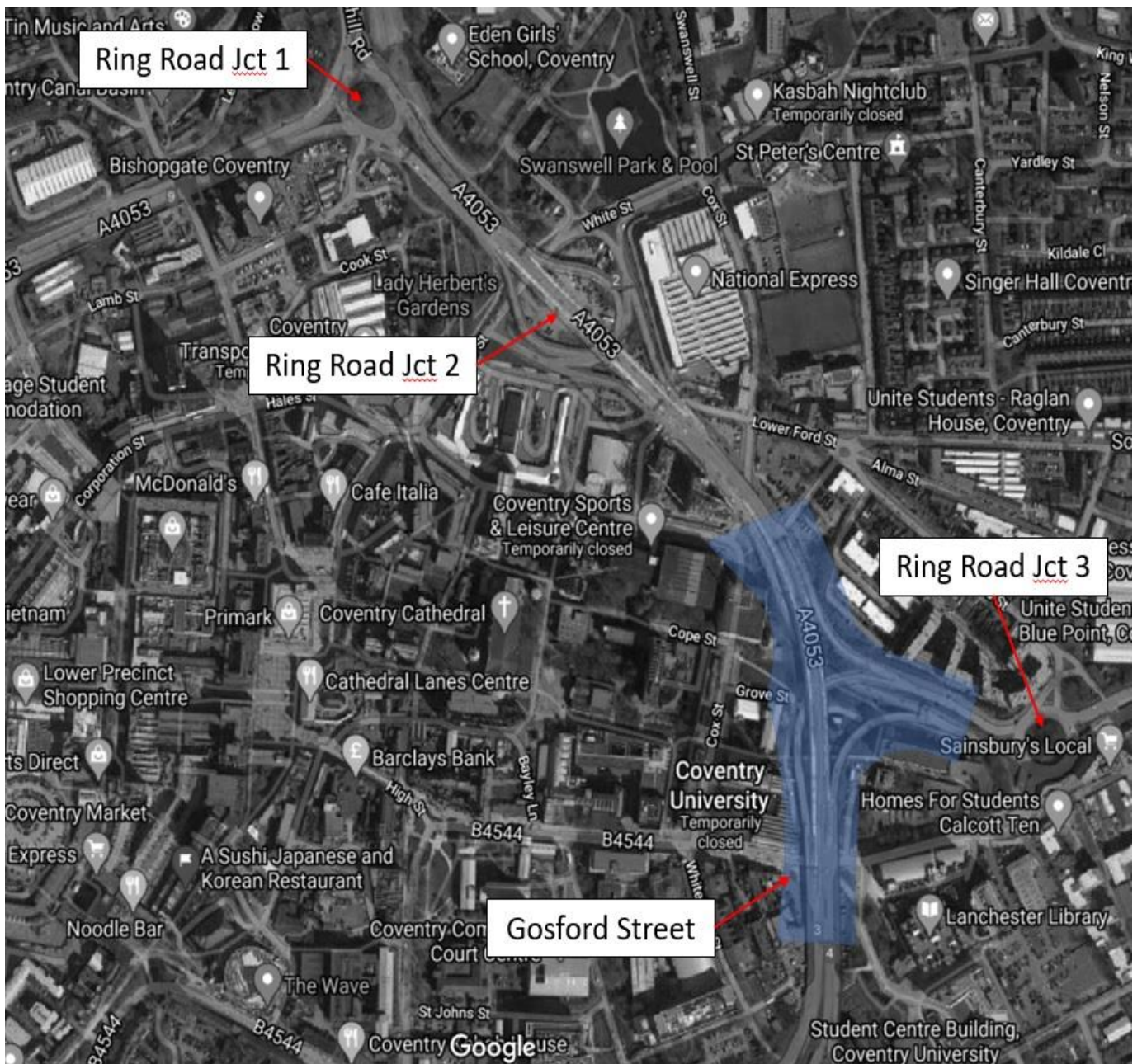
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Appendix A – Location Plan



Appendix B – Project Delivery Structure

