

**CABINET– 15<sup>th</sup> JULY 2014****ZOUCH BRIDGE REPLACEMENT - COMPULSORY PURCHASE  
ORDER FOR LAND REQUIRED FOR REPLACEMENT BRIDGE****REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT****PART A****Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for pursuing a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) for land required for the scheme in parallel with the current land negotiations to enable the replacement of Zouch Bridge over the River Soar between Hathern Parish and Normanton upon Soar Parish. The CPO would only be completed in the event of failure of the land negotiations.

**Recommendations**

2. It is recommended that
  - (a) A Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) be made for the land required for the replacement Zouch bridge and that the Order should be made principally pursuant to Sections 239 and 241 of the Highways Act 1980;
  - (b) In the event of negotiations with the landowners proving unsuccessful, approval be given to proceeding with a CPO to acquire the land needed for the construction of the replacement bridge;
  - (c) The Director of Corporate Resources, in consultation with the County Solicitor, be authorised to determine the detailed terms of the CPO and agree any necessary compensation and/or accommodation works that are in his opinion necessary to implement the scheme;
  - (d) Authority is delegated to the County Solicitor, in consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member for Highways and Transportation, to take any other action in his opinion necessary to progress the Order.

**Reason for Recommendations**

3. The existing bridge continues to deteriorate and, in the medium term, is likely to require a weight restriction and, ultimately, closure. This could have an impact on the effectiveness of the County Council's road network, increase journey times / costs and affect the delivery of its strategic transport objectives in this area. The CPO, if required, will help enable the scheme to progress as planned.

4. The preferred location for the replacement bridge is a location slightly to the south of the existing bridge, as this removes the need for the substantial traffic diversions, which would be necessary if the replacement bridge were to be constructed on the same line as the current structure.

#### **Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)**

5. An early decision is required to allow sufficient time for the Order to be developed and published in accordance with the scheme programme.

#### **Policy Framework and Previous Decisions**

6. The County Council at its meeting in February 2014 approved the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), which included capital funding for the reconstruction of the Zouch Bridge.
7. The Director of Corporate Resources has been in negotiations with the landowners to acquire any necessary interests in land needed to construct, or for purposes ancillary or incidental to the provision of the replacement bridge.
8. The Director of Corporate Resources has delegated powers to take all necessary steps to complete the purchase of land following the making of a CPO.

#### **Resource Implications**

9. The estimated total cost of the scheme is £3.0M including land at out-turn prices. The scheme development and construction costs are funded as part of the Capital Programme.
10. Negotiations to purchase the required land are currently taking place with the landowners. Further resources will be necessary to progress the CPO process.
11. The Director of Corporate Resources has been consulted on the contents of this report.

#### **Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure**

Mrs M. E. Newton CC

#### **Officers to Contact**

Karen Notman Tel: (0116) 305 2304 Email: [karen.notman@leics.gov.uk](mailto:karen.notman@leics.gov.uk)  
Environment and Transport Department

Chris Waterfield Tel: (0116) 305 7167 Email: [chris.waterfield@leics.gov.uk](mailto:chris.waterfield@leics.gov.uk)  
Environment and Transport Department

**PART B****Background**

12. At its meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2014, the County Council approved the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014/5 to 2017/18 (MTFS), which included provision for the replacement of Zouch Bridge, which carries the A6006 over the River Soar between Hathern Parish and Normanton upon Soar Parish.
13. The new bridge will require additional land to be purchased to facilitate its construction. The Director of Corporate Resources has previously been authorised to enter into negotiations with the land owner to acquire any necessary interests in land needed to construct, or for purposes ancillary or incidental to the provision of the replacement bridge.
14. The Local Transport Plan (LTP3), which was approved by the County Council in March 2011, sets out its approach to managing the network, including providing improved journey time reliability for the movement of materials, goods and people and promoting and supporting the efficient and safe movement of freight.

**Equal Opportunities Implications**

15. The scheme will ensure accessibility for vulnerable users and those with disabilities.

**Environmental Impact**

16. The completed scheme will eliminate the need for the substantial diversion route which would be necessary in the event of any future weight restriction/closure of the bridge and will therefore contribute to the continued management of the network and will maintain journey times which would otherwise be impacted by the traffic diversion.

**Background Papers**

Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014/15 to 2017/18

[http://cexmodgov1/Published/C00000134/M00003961/AI00037151/\\$5aBudgetReportoftheCabinet.docx.pdf](http://cexmodgov1/Published/C00000134/M00003961/AI00037151/$5aBudgetReportoftheCabinet.docx.pdf)

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