



Title: Western Corridor Improvements – Update on Proposals

Wards Affected: Goodrington with Roselands

To: Transport Working Party **On:** 12th December 2013

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1. Key points and Summary

- 1.1 The improvement of the Torbay Ring Road, known as the 'Western Corridor' forms part of the Council's Local Transport Plan and has been the subject of recent funding bids.
- 1.2 The Council has recently been successful in obtaining some funding and officers are now progressing the scheme further. Some works will be carried out in 2013/14 but the majority of works will be carried out in 2014/15. Further applications are being submitted for Local Transport Board (LTB) funding.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 The improvement of the 'Western Corridor' forms part of the current 'Local Transport Plan', which has been approved by Full Council. Officers have been actively exploring potential funding opportunities from the Department for Transport (Dft) and submitting applications.
- 2.2 The Working Party is advised that an application for the 'Western Corridor' submitted under the Dft's 'Pinch Points' funding programme for the removal of traffic bottlenecks has been successful after the third round of announcements. This has resulted in the Dft providing £1.05m to fund sections of the scheme, provided that Torbay Council can provide a minimum of 30% of matched funding. The funding is provided for the 2013/14 and 2014/15 financial years.
- 2.3 The purpose of this briefing note is to advise members on the extent of the works, which can be undertaken with this funding and the likely timescales.
- 2.4 Prior to this announcement, officers have already completed the widening of the northbound section of the A3022 Brixham Road between Yalberton Road and Borough Road, prior to the 2013 summer season. This improvement now ensures that there are two continuous northbound lanes from Yalberton Road to just north of the Tweenaway Cross junction. The costs of this work can be included as part of the Council's matched funding for the 'Pinch Points' funding award.

- 2.5 The remaining matched funding, approved from the Council's current Capital allocation, along with the funding from the Dft will be sufficient to complete another significant section of the scheme on Brixham Road between the new junction with Roselands Drive and the junction with Goodrington Road/Long Road, to provide two lanes in both directions.
- 2.6 A detailed design is now being progressed for this scheme for which the main body of the works are scheduled to commence in the autumn of 2014. There will however be some preliminary works including Surveys, trial holes, utility investigations, and service diversions, which are likely to commence in early 2014. There is also a likelihood that some advanced widening work may take place in the vicinity of the former 'Nortel' site prior to the 2014 summer season to ensure scheme completion by March 2015. The location of the proposed scheme, along with the location of the completed section is included in **Appendix 1**. It should be noted that the plans do not show a proposed highway alignment at this stage as this requires further design work. All of the widening works will however be implemented within existing highway land and therefore no land acquisition is required. Spatial Planning have also advised that planning consent is not required for this section of the scheme.
- 2.7 Once a final layout has been prepared for this section, then this will be presented to the Working Party for information/comment at a future meeting.
- 2.8 Members will also be aware that a further funding application for the remaining sections of the 'Western Corridor' Improvements is currently being considered by the 'Local Transport Board' (LTB) and officers remain hopeful that a positive outcome will be announced for this later in 2014 for commencement of works from April 2015. Preparatory works are continuing on the sections of the route concerned at the present time in order that the scheme is in a position to satisfy the requirements of the LTB. Officers from Strategic Transportation are leading on the application and will keep the Working Party advised of the progress in due course.

Sue Cheriton
Executive Head – Residents & Visitor services

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Plan showing the location of the completed and proposed works for the 'Pinch Points' funded section of the Western Corridor.

Documents available in members' rooms

None

Background Papers:

Local Transport Plan

Application for Pinch Points funding to Dft