

Note of a meeting between Highways England, West Sussex CC and the MP for Chichester held at Millbank, London on 24 October 2017 at 12 noon

Present

Highways England: Jim O'Sullivan, Chief Executive, Chris Welby-Everard, Regional Delivery Director, Paul Benham, Regional Sponsor

WSCC: Louise Goldsmith, Leader, Bob Lanzer, Cabinet Member, Highways and Infrastructure, Lee Harris, Executive Director, EIE

MP for Chichester: Gillian Keegan

Introductions

JO'S explained that CWE leads on delivery of Highways England schemes in the South East and PB leads on the development of new schemes in the South East. Going forward PB will be the key interface with WSCC for the development of a RIS2 programme.

RIS 1 A27 schemes in West Sussex

The status of the RIS1 West Sussex schemes was noted. LG congratulated Highways England on the way the consultation had been conducted in respect of Arundel with important lessons learned from the Chichester experience in 2016.

On Worthing/Lancing and Arundel, J'OS reported that HE were considering the consultation feedback and were in discussions with the Secretary of State on the next steps. In particular there was some further work being undertaken on the Worthing/Lancing option. Announcements were likely in the New Year.

RIS 2

PB explained that HE were in the research phase for the development of the RIS2 programme and the focus at this time was on strategic issues rather than individual schemes. In the case of the A27 Chichester there was a need, by end of March 2018, to confirm the strategic outcomes to be achieved rather than detailed scheme designs.

If the A27 Chichester were to be included in RIS2 then the design and options appraisal process would follow. PB/CWE acknowledged that this would need to be improved from the RIS1 work with, for example, greater consideration given to improving local traffic flows as well as strategic traffic flows and more effective community engagement.

J'OS confirmed that the key consideration for any scheme at Chichester was value for money. He advised that the RIS1 scheme with a benefits cost ratio (BCR) of 2.5 and a cost of around £250m was likely to remain valid in RIS2.

The potential for A27 northern by pass options were discussed, including the recent release of information through an FOI. JO'S commented that there had been robust debate within HE about the northern options and these were ultimately discounted because of

- The Development Consent requirements
- BCR arising from the economic modelling
- The RIS1 budget/affordability.

LG outlined the proposed work programme of the Building a Better A27 (BABA27) community group, including appointing an independent consultant. JO'S welcomed this development as a good opportunity to work together and to engage with the community to try to find an acceptable scheme. He agreed that HE team would work with the BABA27 by commenting on the consultant's brief and that they would work with the consultant once appointed where appropriate.

Short term improvements to the A27 Chichester

It was acknowledged that if the A27 were to be included in the RIS2 programme it would be some years before a scheme was approved and underway – most likely 2023. This was because most of the “RIS1 for RIS2” scheme expenditure would take place in the early RIS2 period. This meant that most new RIS2 schemes would commence towards the latter part of the programme.

In the meantime, LG was keen for HE to undertake interim improvements. The following were discussed.

- JO'S reported that work was underway to explore the provision of variable information signage on the A27.
- LG reported that the community were keen for HE to consider providing traffic lights on the Fishbourne roundabout to improve traffic flows. JO'S commented that if the traffic modelling provided evidence to support signals then this is something that could be taken forward.
- LG reported that some street lights on the A27 at Fishbourne were not working. JO'S agreed to look into this and get back to LG

JO'S agreed that, if invited, HE would attend a meeting of the BABA27 group to listen to the community and to set out the HE criteria for funding an A27 scheme at Chichester.

The meeting ended at 1.00pm