

## **BRECKLAND COUNCIL**

### **REPORT OF PAUL CLAUSSEN, EXECUTIVE MEMBER OF PLANNING, HEALTH AND HOUSING to the CABINET – 30 NOVEMBER 2010** **(Author: Mark Stokes, Deputy Chief Executive)**

#### **ATTLEBOROUGH TRANSPORT STUDY**

##### **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 This report relates to the need for a transport study as a supporting document for the Attleborough and Snetterton Heath Area Action Plan and requests the release of up to £100,000 for that work.

##### **2. Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Council/Committee:

- 2.1 Approve the development and completion of a transport study.
- 2.2 Release funding up to a value of £100,000 to complete the work.

**Note:** In preparing this report, due regard has been had to equality of opportunity, human rights, prevention of crime and disorder, environmental and risk management considerations as appropriate. Relevant officers have been consulted in relation to any legal, financial or human resources implications and comments received are reflected in the report.

##### **3. Information, Issues and Options**

###### **3.1 Background**

- 3.1.1 This report relates to a transport study which is considered essential to support the emerging Area Action Plan for Attleborough and Snetterton Heath and the consideration of any significant planning applications in that area.

The growth of the Attleborough area, as agreed in the recently adopted Core Strategy and Development Control Policies document, indicates an additional 4,000 dwellings and at least 10 hectares of employment land in the town over the period to 2026.

###### **3.2 Issues**

- 3.2.1 Key to the release of that amount of housing land is a link road which will cross the railway line to serve that development and mitigate traffic impacts on the town centre. The capacity of the existing road network will only allow for very limited growth.
- 3.2.2 An initial transport study was undertaken to satisfy the Inspector at the Examination In Public into the core strategy. He found the strategy sound on the basis of the link road which he agreed was necessary and viable. It was, however, agreed that detailed work is necessary to look at the range of transport factors so that appropriate allocations can be made and a timetable produced for the construction of the road and how development phases can be released in relation to that road construction. This is as agreed by Full Council when it adopted the core strategy.

- 3.2.3 The scope of the Transport Study, which will be agreed in conjunction with Norfolk County Council and the Highways Agency, will be to look in detail at the following transport issues and solutions for Attleborough:
- (i) the town centre road network;
  - (ii) measures to enhance public transport facilities and services;
  - (iii) detailed routing of the link road;
  - (iv) junction capacity and solutions, including internal town roads and strategic junctions on the A11;
  - (v) measures to encourage walking and cycling; and
  - (vi) respond to the Breckland Council Car Park review (2009/10)
- 3.2.4 A similar study is ongoing for Thetford and the management of the study would need to be undertaken through a steering group consisting of representatives from Norfolk County Council (as the local transport authority), Breckland Council and Highways Agency. Specialist inputs would be required from Network Rail, the train operating companies, bus operators, Attleborough Town Council and the development industry.
- 3.2.5 Norfolk County Council has confirmed that it is able to commit £20,000 towards the Study in the financial year 2010/11. The Highways Agency has previously indicated that it may be able to contribute £10,000 to transport strategy work which will address network impacts arising from local growth. Notwithstanding these potential contributions it is recommended that Breckland Council takes the lead role in delivering this Study to ensure outputs are managed to support the planning framework for the town and are delivered in a timely manner under Breckland Council's control.

### 3.3 Options

- 3.3.1 a) To agree the need for the transport study and release up to £100,000 for that work  
b) Not to agree the need for the study

### 3.4 Reasons for Recommendation(s)

- 3.4.1 As stated in the introduction, when adopting the Core Strategy and Development Control Policies Document, this Council required that Attleborough's growth had to relate to the construction of the link road, a point accepted by the Inspector at the EiP into the Core Strategy.

The appropriate way for this issue to be properly assessed is through a detailed transport study, to ensure the range of factors surrounding the impact of the proposed growth can be properly considered. The Council will then be able to produce an appropriate Area Action Plan and fully assess significant planning applications submitted in the Attleborough and Snetterton Heath areas.

## 4. **Risk and Financial Implications**

### 4.1 Risk

The risk of not undertaking the Attleborough Transport Study will be an unsound Area Action Plan which does not adequately respond to the transport issues which the Core Strategy Inspectors have stated must be addressed through the Area Action Plan. Without the study, not only will there be a risk to progress with Area Action Plan but an increased risk of developers proposing transport solutions for which there is limited evidence to disprove the effectiveness of any transport solution proposed.

### 4.2 Financial

Refer to Proforma B.

**5. Legal Implications**

5.1 No legal implications identified.

**6. Other Implications** [*Insert statement or confirm 'none' as appropriate at each sub-paragraph*]

- a) Equalities:
- b) Section 17, Crime & Disorder Act 1998:
- c) Section 40, Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006:
- d) Human Resources:
- e) Human Rights:
- f) Other: [e.g. Children's Act 2004]

**7. Alignment to Council Priorities**

7.1 The following Council priorities are relevant to this report:

- A safe and healthy environment
- A well planned place to live and work

**8. Ward/Community Affected**

8.1 Attleborough and surrounding community.

Background Papers

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Key Decision Status (Executive Decisions only):

Appendices attached to this report: