

Exmouth: Dinan Way Extension

Report of the Director for Climate Change, Environment and Transport

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Cabinet (and confirmation under the provisions of the Council's Constitution) before taking effect.

1) Recommendation

That the Cabinet be asked to:

- (a) approve the scheme layout shown on drawing A10020-52A General Layout (attached to the report at Appendix 1) for tender and construction, subject to legal and land assembly agreements being completed or a compulsory purchase order being confirmed;
- (b) advertise any necessary Traffic Regulation Orders and if no objections received, be made and sealed;
- (c) give delegated authority to the Director of Climate Change, Environment and Transport, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport, to award the construction contract for the Scheme subject to the overall scheme cost being within a cost envelope of £13.025m; and
- (d) give delegated authority to the Director of Climate Change, Environment and Transport, in consultation with the Local Members and Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport, to make minor amendments to the scheme design.

2) Background

Background

Following Cabinet approval in January 2016 (PTE/16/2), progress has been made on the scheme to extend Dinan Way to the A376. Planning permission for the scheme was achieved in 2017 and funding was secured as part of the Levelling Up Fund Tranche 2 Destination Exmouth scheme package. A Compulsory Purchase Order was issued in September 2023 and although one objection was received, it is hoped this can be overcome through continued negotiations with the landowner.

Current Issues

Car volumes within Exmouth and along the A376 are high due to significant commuter flows towards Exeter and the need for people to access leisure, retail and other facilities in the wider Exeter area, including the M5. Dinan Way is the main distributor road around the northern and eastern edge of the town; however, it has only been partially completed and does not connect to the A376 as was originally envisaged. With new development focused

around Dinan Way and on the northern outskirts of the town, this route is becoming increasingly important to support access to the A376 and relieving some of the environmental constraints associated with traffic needing to take alternative, less suitable routes through the town.

While the majority of Dinan Way provides a good quality route for high volumes of traffic, the final connection to the A376 for a large proportion of the population is a weak link along residential streets or single track country lanes such as Summer lane, Wotton Lane, Featherbed Lane and Rivermead Avenue. The access to and from the major commercial area surrounding Liverton Industrial Estate on the east of the town is constrained by inappropriate route options. There are a number of routes which HGVs could use, the majority of which are unsuitable; however the predominant HGV route from the A376 to Salterton Road is via Gipsy Lane / Marlpool Hill / Claremont Grove on a route past the Exmouth Community College – one of the largest secondary schools in Europe.

3) Proposal

In January 2023, it was announced that the Destination Exmouth package, consisting of the Dinan Way extension and improvements around Exmouth Gateway (where the Exe Estuary, rail station and A376 meets in the town centre), were successful in securing £15.7m of Levelling Up Funding. Work is now progressing on developing both parts of the package, with detailed design of the Dinan Way scheme being undertaken.

It is proposed to construct a 6.5m wide carriageway approximately 830m long from the junction of Dinan Way / Hulham Road to the A376 Exmouth Road. A roundabout will form the junction at each end of the road.

A new shared use pedestrian and cycle path along the southern side of the Dinan Way Extension will provide a facility for pedestrians and cyclists from the north east of Exmouth to access the A376, with bus stops provided for future routes and footpaths around the Wotton Valley area.

Provision of the Dinan Way Extension will provide the opportunity to close Summer Lane to through traffic. This will provide an alternative, higher quality route for pedestrians and cyclists and there will be upgrades to walking and cycling routes to better link northern Exmouth to the Exe Estuary Trail via Lower Halsdon Farm with onward connections towards the rail station, town centre and seafront. Summer Lane would continue to provide access to adjacent properties including A La Ronde a National Trust property.

The scheme will have a significant positive impact on transport within Exmouth. It will improve connectivity across the whole town for all modes by removing large volumes of traffic from unsuitable residential roads and narrow country lanes, improving the environment for residents and safety for people by creating new walking and cycling links. The scheme will also provide options for more direct bus routes between the northern side of Exmouth and Exeter, which currently have long journey times due to the circuitous routing. It will help reduce severance within the town and provide better access to business parks and employment areas, boosting the local economy and providing a catalyst for wider regeneration. Finally, it will reduce congestion and improve journey times within the town, reducing carbon emissions from vehicles.

The scheme requires land acquisition and negotiations with affected landowners are ongoing. A Compulsory Purchase Order has been issued and one objection to this was received. The project team and land agent are continuing discussions with the objector with the intention that an agreement may be reached prior to a Public Inquiry.

4) Options

Alternative options were considered as part of previous public consultations but the route has been fixed since 2017 when planning permission was secured. The only alternative is to not deliver the scheme but this would result in the above traffic issues continuing and getting worse with additional development. It would also result in Devon County Council having to give back the funding secured to deliver the scheme.

5) Consultations

A public consultation was held in June 2015 and despite this being several years ago, the scheme has been paused while funding was secured. A statutory consultation was also held as part of the planning application process.

There are many stakeholders involved in the scheme and all have been consulted throughout the process. These include East Devon District Council, Exmouth Town Council, Lypstone Parish Council, landowners, National Trust, Historic England, Stagecoach and members of the public.

6) Strategic Plan

The scheme is well aligned with a range of the Strategic Plan priorities by supporting economic recovery and helping communities be safe, resilient and connected. The table below summarises how the proposals would impact achievement of relevant Strategic Plan actions.

Strategic Plan Priority	Strategic Plan Action	Alignment
Respond to the Climate Emergency	Prioritise sustainable travel and transport	+2 (moderate positive)
	Encourage sustainable lifestyles	+1 (slight positive)
Invest in Devon's Economic Recovery	Secure Investment in transport infrastructure	+3 (large positive)
	Develop the Skills Hub	+2 (moderate positive)
	Maintain and, where necessary, improve our highway network and improve sustainable transport options	+3 (large positive)

Help Communities to be Safe, Connected and Resilient	Enable a range of transport options, including public transport	+2 (moderate positive)
Improve Health and Wellbeing	Give people greater opportunities for walking and cycling to increase their physical activity	+2 (moderate positive)

7) Financial Considerations

The estimated overall cost of Dinan Way is £13.025m. Levelling Up Round 2 (LUF2) has allocated £15.766m to fund this scheme and Exmouth Gateway, with local contributions from Devon County Council, East Devon District Council and Exmouth Town Council totalling £1.752m. The Devon County Council internal borrowing contribution was agreed at the May 2022 Cabinet (PTE/22/19), as part of the Levelling up Submission approval.

The estimated expenditure profile is as follows:

Funding	2022/23 actual £k	2023/24 Projected £k	2024/25 Projected £k	2025/26 Projected £k	Total £k
LUF2	46	560	11,117	0	11,723
DCC Contribution	0	0	0	800	800
External Contributions	0	0	0	502	502
Total	46	560	11,117	1,302	13,025

The current capital programme includes this funding but the financial year profiles will be updated as part of the Medium Term Capital Programme.

8) Legal Considerations

The Lawful implications of the recommendations have been considered and taken into account in the preparation of this report.

Traffic regulation orders for the scheme will be advertised in accordance with The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 and any comments submitted will be considered in line with the legislation and council's procedures before any final decision is made. Following public advertisement of the TROs the relevant HATOC will, if required, consider the representations made and if it has concerns refer it to the Cabinet for final determination.

A compulsory purchase order was submitted to the Department for Transport in September 2023. The objection period for this Order ended on the 4th October 2023, with one objection received.

It is intended that land negotiations will continue with all landowners, including the objector. In the event that the objection is not withdrawn, then the matter will be referred to a Public Inquiry prior to determination by the Department for Transport.

9) Environmental Impact Considerations (Including Climate Change, Sustainability and Socio-economic)

The delivery of the Dinan Way Extension will reduce delays and congestion on unsuitable roads, improving air quality in the area. The improvements to walking and cycling routes in the area will encourage a modal shift towards more sustainable modes which will further reduce carbon emissions. This supports the objectives of the Devon Carbon Plan as well as the Devon Strategic Plan.

10) Equality Considerations

Where relevant, in coming to a decision the Equality Act 2010 Public Sector Equality Duty requires decision makers to give due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct;
- advance equality by encouraging participation, removing disadvantage, taking account of disabilities and meeting people's needs; and
- foster good relations between people by tackling prejudice and promoting understanding

in relation to the protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership (for employment), pregnancy and maternity, race/ethnicity, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation).

A decision maker may also consider other relevant factors such as caring responsibilities, rural isolation or socio-economic disadvantage.

In progressing this particular scheme / proposal, an Impact Assessment has been prepared which has been circulated separately to Cabinet Members and also is available on the Council's website at <https://www.devon.gov.uk/impact/dinan-way-exmouth/>

Members will need to consider the Impact Assessment for the purposes of this item / meeting.

11) Risk Management Considerations

This proposal has been assessed and all necessary safeguards or action have been taken to safeguard the Council's position.

The scheme is subject to the normal engineering risks. A quantified risk assessment has been undertaken and these risk costs have been included in the scheme cost estimate.

There has been an objection received to the Compulsory Purchase Order which could delay construction of the scheme. If the objection is not withdrawn, then a Public Inquiry will

be held by the Department for Transport. Landowner negotiations are ongoing, with the intentions that an agreement may be reached by negotiation prior to a Public Inquiry. Following either withdrawal of the objection, or an Inquiry, the Department for Transport will make a decision on whether to confirm the Compulsory Purchase Order.

12) Summary

Securing Levelling Up Funding for Exmouth was a significant step towards making transformational transport improvements to the town. A key part of this is the delivery of the Dinan Way Extension which will provide a link between the existing section of Dinan Way and the A376. This will improve connectivity for people living and working in the northern and eastern parts of Exmouth with the rest of Devon and remove large volumes of traffic from unsuitable residential roads and country lanes. It will also improve walking and cycling connectivity in the area through improved links to the Exe Estuary Trail. The scheme has been through detailed design and though land acquisition is ongoing, approval is sought to go to tender when appropriate.

Meg Booth

Director of Climate Change, Environment and Transport

Electoral Divisions: Exmouth

Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport: Councillor Andrea Davis

Local Government Act 1972: List of background papers

Background Paper: General Arrangement Plan

Date: December 2016

File Reference: A10020/52

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Exmouth Dinan Way Extension – Final

Appendix 1 to CET/23/101

