

# Scrutiny Committee

Date: 30 July 2019

Time: 10:00am

Venue: Edwards Room, County Hall, Norwich

## SUPPLEMENTARY A g e n d a

### 8. Norwich Western Link

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Report by the Executive Director of Community and Environmental Services

**Chris Walton**  
**Head of Democratic Services**  
County Hall  
Martineau Lane  
Norwich  
NR1 2DH

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# Report to Scrutiny Committee

Item No. 8

<b>Report title:</b>	<b>Norwich Western Link</b>
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>30 July 2019</b>
<b>Responsible Cabinet Member:</b>	<b>Cllr Martin Wilby, Cabinet member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport.</b>
<b>Responsible Director:</b>	<b>Tom McCabe, Executive Director of Community and Environmental Services</b>
<b>Is this a key decision?</b>	<b>Yes</b>

## **Executive Summary**

On 15 July 2019 Cabinet received a report which brought together work completed by the County Council on the Norwich Western Link in order to establish the need for a road-based transport solution and to evaluate each of the options developed, following completion of an options appraisal process.

Following the Cabinet's decision on 15 July 2019 the Scrutiny Committee began to consider this process and examine the evidence by which the decision had been made, at an extraordinary meeting on 22 July 2019. A copy of this report is attached at Appendix A. This meeting considered issues around the environmental and financial impact of the NWL however, due to time constraints Members were unable to pursue other areas in depth. The Committee therefore noted the Cabinet report and agreed to continue scrutiny of this issue at its meeting on 30 July 2019.

## **Action required**

The Scrutiny Committee is asked to continue its scrutiny from 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2019 and consider the Cabinet report on the Norwich Western Link and the evidence behind the decision and agree:

- If there are any comments or concerns that they wish to raise with the Cabinet at this stage in the decision-making process
- How the Committee would like to be involved going forward in the process for the Norwich Western Link

## **1. Background and Purpose**

- 1.1. On 15 July 2019 Cabinet received a report which brought together work completed by the County Council on the Norwich Western Link in order to establish the need for a road-based transport solution and to evaluate each of the options developed following completion of an options appraisal process.
- 1.2. Following the Cabinet's decision on 15 July 2019 the Scrutiny Committee considered this process and examined the evidence by which the decision had been made at an extraordinary meeting on 22 July 2019. A copy of this report is attached at Appendix A. This meeting raised issues around the environmental and financial impact of the NWL however, due to time constraints Members were unable to pursue other issues. The Committee therefore agreed to continue scrutiny of this issue at its meeting on 30 July 2019.

## 2. Proposals

On 22 July 2019 the Scrutiny Committee considered the process and examined the evidence by which the decision had been made and agreed that this scrutiny continue at today's meeting.

In order to structure the questioning, it is proposed that the scrutiny considers the Cabinet's decision to agree to a road-based transport intervention and the selection of Option C as the preferred route for the Norwich Western Link focusing on:

- Alternative transport solutions and options considered in the options appraisal process
- Process and evidence considered by Cabinet
- Financial implications of the Cabinet decision
- Environmental considerations
- Economic impact
- Future processes

The Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport has been invited to attend this meeting in order that the Committee can understand the reasons for the Cabinet's decision on 15 July 2019.

## 3. Action required

The Scrutiny Committee is asked to continue with its scrutiny from 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2019 and consider the Cabinet report on the Norwich Western Link and the evidence behind the decision and agree:

- If there are any comments or concerns that they wish to raise with the Cabinet at this stage in the decision-making process
- How the Committee would like to be involved in going forward in the process for the Norwich Western Link

## 4. Background Papers

- [Scrutiny Committee report of 22 July 2019](#)
- [Environment, Transport and Development Committee report 18 October 2018: Norwich Western Link and Consultation Proposal](#)
- [Environment, Transport and Development Committee report 9 November 2018 – Norwich Western Link Options Proposal](#)

### Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper, please get in touch with:

**Officer name:** Karen Haywood

**Tel No.:** 01603 228913

**Email address:** karen.haywood@norfolk.gov.uk

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# Report to Scrutiny Committee

Item No. 5

<b>Report title:</b>	<b>Norwich Western Link</b>
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>22 July 2019</b>
<b>Responsible Cabinet Member:</b>	<b>Cllr Martin Wilby, Cabinet member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport.</b>
<b>Responsible Director:</b>	<b>Tom McCabe, Executive Director of Community and Environmental Services</b>
<b>Is this a key decision?</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<p><b>Executive Summary</b></p> <p>On 15 July 2019 Cabinet will receive a report which brings together all the work completed by the County Council on the Norwich Western Link in order to establish the need for a road-based transport solution and to evaluate each of the options developed following completion of an options appraisal process.</p> <p>The Scrutiny Committee Chair and Vice Chair have agreed that following the Cabinet's decision on 15 July they would like the Scrutiny Committee to consider this process and to examine the evidence by which the decision has been made.</p> <p><b>Action required</b></p> <p>The Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the Cabinet report on the Norwich Western Link and the evidence behind the decision and agree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If there are any comments or concerns that they wish to raise with the Cabinet at this stage in the decision-making process</li> <li>• How the Committee would like to be involved going forward in the process for the Norwich Western Link</li> </ul>	

## 2. Background and Purpose

- 2.1. The Norwich Western Link (NWL) is one of the County Council's three priority infrastructure schemes and is in the Norfolk Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2017-2027. On 15 July 2019 Cabinet will receive a report bringing together all the work completed by the Council to establish the need for a road-based transport solution and to evaluate each of the options developed following completion of an options appraisal process. A timeline outlining the County Council's decision-making process to date is attached [here](#).
- 2.2. Cabinet will consider not only the consultation responses but also further environmental assessment work, costing of options, transport modelling, related value for money, land and property impacts, as well as other growth plans and planned projects, including the significant proposals to dual the A47 between Easton and North Tuddenham.

2.3. A copy of the Cabinet's report of 15 July 2019 can be found [here](#). Cabinet have been recommended:

- To submit the Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) to DfT via Transport East as part of their Regional Evidence Base by the end of July 2019.
- That a road-based transport intervention is the most appropriate solution to address the identified transport issues affecting the area and to select Option C as the preferred route for the Norwich Western Link in order for the Council to make a Preferred Route Announcement (PRA).
- To bring forward project development spend to FY2019/20 in order to maintain the project delivery programme.

## **2. Proposals**

At the time of writing the Cabinet has not yet made a decision on the above recommendations. However, the Scrutiny Committee Chair and Vice Chair have agreed that once Cabinet has considered the attached report on 15 July they would like the Scrutiny Committee to consider the process and examine the evidence by which the decision has been made

The Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport has been invited to attend this meeting in order that the Committee can understand the reasons for the Cabinet's decision on 15 July 2019.

## **3. Impact of the Proposal**

This meeting is for Scrutiny Committee to consider and determine whether they wish to pass on any comments to Cabinet with regard to the attached report, having examined the evidence by which the decision has been taken. Scrutiny Committee can highlight any areas for concern or comments that they wish to feed into the decision-making process at this stage.

## **4. Evidence and Reasons for Decision**

The Scrutiny Committee has the power to review or scrutinise any decisions made which are the responsibility of the Executive, including decisions made taken directly by the Executive itself.

## **5. Alternative Options**

There are no alternative options for the Scrutiny Committee to consider.

## **6. Financial Implications**

None

## **7. Resource Implications**

**Staff:**

Refer to Cabinet report

**Property:**

Refer to Cabinet report

**IT:**

Refer to Cabinet report

## 8. Other Implications

### **Legal Implications:**

Refer to Cabinet report

### **Human Rights implications**

Refer to Cabinet report

### **Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) (this must be included)**

Refer to Cabinet report

### **Health and Safety implications** (where appropriate)

Refer to Cabinet report

### **Sustainability implications** (where appropriate)

Refer to Cabinet report

### **Any other implications**

## 9. Risk Implications/Assessment

Refer to Cabinet report

## 10. Select Committee comments

This report has not been considered by a Select Committee.

## 11. Action required

The Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the Cabinet report on the Norwich Western Link, and the evidence behind the decision made, and agree:

- If there are any comments or concerns that they wish to raise with the Cabinet at this stage in the decision-making process
- How the Committee would like to be involved in going forward in the process for the Norwich Western Link

## 12. Background Papers

- [Cabinet report of 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019](#)
- [Timeline of the County Council's decision-making process.](#)
- [Cabinet minutes of meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019](#)

## Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper, please get in touch with:

**Officer name:** Karen Haywood

**Tel No.:** 01603 228913

**Email address:** karen.haywood@norfolk.gov.uk