

**HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL****Decision Report**

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment
<b>Date:</b>	11 June 2013
<b>Title:</b>	Public consultation on highway proposals for Newgate Lane and Peel Common, Fareham and Western Access to Gosport
<b>Reference:</b>	4933
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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## **1. Executive Summary**

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to seek approval to a revised public consultation exercise for this summer to cover future schemes for Newgate Lane, Peel Common and a western access to Gosport, and, subject to the outcomes of that process and technical assessments, to propose a plan for future development and delivery of highway schemes within the Gosport peninsula.
- 1.2. In view of its important contribution to addressing current traffic problems and providing early stage infrastructure to access the Solent Enterprise Zone, it is proposed to continue with detailed consultation and work to deliver the section of the B3385 Newgate Lane Scheme between Palmerston Drive and Tanners Lane, in line with the original programme, enabling work to commence early in 2014.
- 1.3. In view of the need to address existing traffic problems in the Stubbington area, the need to provide high quality access in the longer term to the Solent Enterprise Zone, the reliance on road transport to access the western part of the peninsula, and the potentially improved climate for investment in highway schemes, the opportunity has been taken to include within the proposed public consultation initial ideas on how a western access to the Gosport peninsula could be provided, including a possible bypass of Stubbington.
- 1.4. As a result of the above, it is proposed to suspend consultation on detailed options for improvement to Newgate Lane between Tanners Lane and Peel Common junction until the results of the initial consultation, technical work, and more detailed consultation to enable a decision to be made on favoured route options for a western access to Gosport.

- 1.5. As an interim measure, outline options will be investigated for Peel Common junction and for the southern section of Newgate Lane between Tanners Lane and Peel Common junction, and these will be included in the summer consultation. Proposals that are supported will be developed in more detail, and then subjected to a detailed and localised consultation early in 2014.
- 1.6. Via a dedicated website and through local media outlets and social media, information will be provided to local residents and road users on the outcomes of the consultation exercises and future work programmes to take forward the highway proposals.

## **2. Introduction**

- 2.1. A report to the Executive Member for Environment and Transport dated 6 March 2012 established a broad access strategy in response to development proposals at the Solent Enterprise Zone (Daedalus) and wider traffic congestion on the Gosport peninsula. In the short to medium term, this promoted the B3385 Newgate Lane as the link between the Enterprise Zone and both the strategic road network at M27 Junction 11, and the Fareham railway station. Newgate Lane was also promoted as a viable alternative for existing and potential future traffic utilising roads via Stubbington, whilst deferring to the longer term improvements to the western access to Gosport.
- 2.2. In accordance with that decision, officers have developed a traffic capacity enhancement scheme for Newgate Lane, and a funding package is being assembled comprising a successful bid to the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) for a Growing Places Fund loan, Developer contributions from the Enterprise Zone development, and the County Council's own capital resources.
- 2.3. Progress with the scheme was reported to the Executive Member for Environment and Transport on 2 April 2013 when approval was given to progress a public consultation on:
  - a preferred alignment for the northern section of Newgate Lane between Palmerston Drive and Tanners Lane;
  - two preferred alignment options for the section of Newgate Lane between Tanners Lane and Peel Common junction; and
  - improvements to the Peel Common junction.
- 2.4. Preparation work for the consultation exercise has continued with a website and exhibitions planned for July. Subject to the outcome of the public consultation, detailed design and a funding package is being assembled to enable a start of works on the northern section of Newgate Lane early in 2014. This will be the subject of a formal Project Appraisal later this year and will be promoted as a stand-alone scheme for reasons explained below.

- 2.5. The Government has recently introduced powerful incentives to encourage economic growth and support the creation of jobs, and these have helped to create a more favourable climate for investment in major highway infrastructure. This is particularly relevant to the Gosport peninsula where the Solent Enterprise Zone has increased the need to provide good quality transportation links to the strategic transport networks.
- 2.6. For some journeys on the peninsula, for example along the A32 corridor, measures such as the Eclipse Rapid Bus service has been able to provide a realistic alternative to travel on the A32, which itself is physically constrained. However, to the west, the peninsula relies primarily upon road access where there have been long standing proposals for the creation of a western access to the peninsula incorporating a bypass of Stubbington.
- 2.7. However, until the more recent announcements by Government and the creation of the Enterprise Zone, the funding outlook for major road schemes has meant that the County Council could only consider a western access to Gosport as a longer term prospect, post 2026.
- 2.8. Previous work undertaken by the County Council had identified a number of potential routes for a Stubbington Bypass, and these included route options at Peel Common that are very similar to those that have been developed as part of the current Newgate Lane Major Scheme proposal.
- 2.9. In view of these similarities, the need to address existing traffic problems in the Stubbington area, the need to provide high quality access in the longer term to the Solent Enterprise Zone, the reliance on road transport to access this part of the peninsula, and the potentially improved climate for investment in highway schemes, it is suggested that the opportunity be taken to include within the proposed public consultation initial ideas on how a western access to the peninsula could be provided, including a possible bypass of Stubbington.
- 2.10. The purpose of this paper is therefore to seek approval to a revised public consultation exercise for this summer, and, subject to the outcomes of that process, and technical assessments, propose a plan for future development and delivery of highway schemes within the Gosport peninsula.

### **3. The Newgate Lane Proposals**

- 3.1. Preliminary proposals have been developed for the major improvement scheme for the B3385 Newgate Lane between and including the junctions with Palmerston Drive at the northern end and Peel Common roundabout to the south. As identified in the delivery plan referred to in the report of 2 April 2013, it had been proposed to deliver the work in the following three phases:
  - Newgate Lane Palmerston Drive to Tanners Lane;
  - Newgate Lane Tanners Lane to Peel Common Junction; and

- Peel Common Junction.

However, in view of the revised proposals for public consultation it is necessary to review these proposals, and the impacts of that review for each section of the scheme is described below.

### **Newgate Lane - Palmerston Drive to Tanners Lane**

- 3.2. Delivery of the major scheme has been proposed to commence with the northern section between Palmerston Drive and Tanners Lane early in 2014. This is deliverable by the County Council as the works are on existing highway, with the exception of accommodation works at HMS Collingwood. No formal consents or planning permission are required, and it is considered that the current traffic levels and constraints to existing businesses in the area, as well as the need to provide high quality access to the Enterprise Zone at an early stage, provide a compelling case to implement this scheme. It is therefore proposed that these works are included in the public consultation exercise for detailed consideration to inform the final stages of design and enable these phases to be delivered as a stand alone scheme for Newgate Lane, starting early next year.

### **Newgate Lane - Tanners Lane to Peel Common Junction**

- 3.3. Two options have been developed for the section between Tanners Lane and Peel Common. Option A proposes a new alignment adjacent to the existing road that would be retained as a service road for residential properties on Newgate Lane. Option B proposes a new alignment to the east with the existing road retained to serve local accesses. Both routes are subject to land acquisition and planning permission, and therefore had been provisionally programmed for delivery in 2016.
- 3.4. As has been noted above, both options are common to potential routes for a western access to Gosport including a bypass of Stubbington, and rather than consult on these options as part of the Newgate Lane scheme, it is more appropriate in the circumstances described at 2.9 above to consider their potential to form part of a western access to Gosport. It is therefore proposed to defer detailed consultation on these options until after a decision has been made on the favoured route options for a western access to Gosport including Stubbington Bypass. Naturally, if there is public support for a Stubbington Bypass that includes either of these routes then, subject to technical assessment and approvals, they can be promoted and will complement the northern Newgate Lane scheme, and will also make provision for a future Stubbington Bypass.
- 3.5. Pending further development of the proposals for the Gosport Western Access, interim improvements to this section of Newgate Lane utilising the existing highway are being investigated to provide short term safety, amenity and capacity relief to existing conditions. Any measures identified will be included in outline in the summer consultation exercise.

## Peel Common Junction

- 3.6. Planned improvements to Peel Common junction include the provision of traffic signals and revised pedestrian and cycle facilities. It was anticipated that these could form a second phase of work, provisionally deliverable in 2015. The proposals developed depend in part upon the realignment of the southern section of Newgate Lane as described above. It is therefore not possible at present to pursue this scheme until there is certainty over future proposals for this section of Newgate Lane. It is possible that some improvement could be achievable utilising the existing alignment of Newgate Lane. However, this will need to be the subject of further technical work to establish whether traffic and safety benefits and value for money can be delivered.
- 3.7. It is proposed that outline options are investigated for an interim scheme at Peel Common junction, to be included as part of the summer consultation. This would help inform technical work on scheme option development. Once details have been prepared, and once the outcome of an initial consultation on routes for a Stubbington bypass is known, it is proposed that they are subject to a detailed and localised consultation with the local residents and road users most directly affected.

## 4. Western Access to Gosport Proposals

- 4.1. Earlier work undertaken by the County Council identified three principal route corridors with sub options for a bypass around Stubbington, including;
- The Red Route – improving the B3334 Gosport Road between Peel Common roundabout, and taking access via a new road junction on Gosport Road to the east of Stubbington, and traversing north and west to link via a new road junction into the B3334 Titchfield Road to the north of Stubbington;
  - The Blue Route – taking access from the B3385 Newgate Lane to the north of the Peel Common Wastewater Treatment Plant, and traversing west to the south-western corner of the HMS Collingwood site before turning north along its western boundary, and then turning west towards a new road junction at the B3334 Titchfield Road north of Stubbington. This option includes two improvement options for Newgate Lane that are broadly similar to the options A and B proposed for the southern section of Newgate Lane and referred to above; and
  - The Green Route – improving the existing Longfield Avenue from its junction with Newgate Lane westwards to a point near the north-western corner of the HMS Collingwood site, where the route departs from the existing highway on the south side of Longfield Avenue towards a new junction with the B3334 Titchfield Road north of Stubbington.

4.2. It is proposed that these potential route options, together with any other emerging route options are included as initial ideas within the forthcoming summer consultation. This will help to inform and guide the detailed traffic, engineering, environmental, and cost assessments that will need to be completed before a more comprehensive public consultation can take place to enable a future decision to be made about a preferred route for a western access to Gosport. As described above, this work will also establish whether a future western access to Gosport integrates directly or indirectly with the proposals that were developed for the southern section of Newgate Lane and Peel Common roundabout. In the event that favoured route options for the Western Access to Gosport incorporate either of the two options proposed for the southern section of Newgate Lane, then these could be brought forward as an early phase of implementation to provide a bypass of the community at Peel Common.

## **5. Public consultation**

5.1. In view of these revisions, a programme of public consultation is set out below to encompass issues of wider access to the Gosport peninsula, including proposals for Newgate Lane as well as initial ideas for a future western access to Gosport:

### **Summer Consultation (July 2013)**

- detailed consultation on the Northern section of Newgate Lane between Palmerston Drive and Tanners Lane;
- outline consultation on measures at Peel Common junction;
- outline consultation on interim measures along Newgate Lane (Tanners Lane to Peel Common junction); and
- initial consultation on route options for a western access to Gosport, incorporating a Stubbington Bypass.

5.2. It is proposed that the consultation will cover the peninsula and will take the following form:

- manned exhibitions at communities directly affected by existing and possible future traffic levels and the highway proposals (Peel Common, Stubbington, Lee on the Solent and south west Fareham – a total of 6/7 days are planned including some evenings and a Saturday);
- static (unmanned) exhibitions at Fareham Library and the Gosport Discovery Centre. These are expected to be in place for about a week at each location;
- website and announcements via local media outlets and social media; and

- a questionnaire will be available via all outlets to assist members of the public in providing comments.

### **Early 2014 Consultation and Feedback**

- detailed and localised consultation on proposals at Peel Common Junction and Newgate Lane between Tanners Lane and Peel Common junction (details to be confirmed); and
- peninsula wide feedback via website, social media, and local media outlets on the outcome of the initial consultation on route options for a western access to Gosport, incorporating a Stubbington Bypass.

### **Later Phases of Consultation**

- comprehensive consultation on route options for a western access to Gosport, based upon initial public feedback and thorough technical assessment to determine the feasibility of options and, if appropriate, a preferred option. The timing of this consultation is uncertain at this time because the scope of environmental and other assessment work has yet to be determined.

## **6. Recommendations**

6.1. That approval be given to continue to develop a standalone highway scheme for the northern section of Newgate Lane with a view to works commencing early in 2014.

6.2. That approval be given to the proposals:

- to undertake a public consultation exercise this summer as described in this report, providing information on: the detailed proposals for implementation of a scheme on Newgate Lane between Palmerston Drive and Tanners Lane; on outline proposals for interim measures at Peel Common junction, and on Newgate Lane between Tanners Lane and Peel Common junction; and on initial ideas for route options for a western access to Gosport; and
- to continue to inform local residents and road users on the proposals as they develop, including feedback on the early consultation on western access to Gosport; detailed, localised consultation on measures at Peel Common; and detailed consultation on options for a western access to Gosport, once the necessary technical work has been undertaken.

**CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:****Links to the Corporate Strategy**

<b>Hampshire safer and more secure for all:</b>	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>Maximising well-being:</b>	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>Enhancing our quality of place:</b>	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

**Other Significant Links**

<b>Links to previous Member decisions:</b>		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
Executive Member for Environment and Transport Newgate Lane Fareham, Major Improvement Scheme – Proposed Alignment Options	4783	2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2013
Executive Member for Environment and Transport Daedalus Transport Proposals	3760	6th March 2012

**Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents**

**The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)**

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

## **IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:**

### **1. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

- 1.1 The proposals in this report have been developed with due regard to the requirements of the Equality Act 2010, including the Public Sector Equality Duty and the Council's equality objectives. The website contains a summary [assessment of the impacts](#) on Developing Hampshire's highway network and transport systems.
- 1.2 It is considered that the issues covered by this report will not have impacts requiring further specific actions by the Council above those already established in its existing policies and working procedures.

### **2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:**

- 2.1. It is considered that the decision will have no impact on crime and disorder.

### **3. Climate Change:**

- 3.1. How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

The need to limit the impact upon climate change will be a priority consideration in developing a standalone northern section of Newgate Lane.

Consultation events associated with these recommendations will be pursued at locations chosen to limit travel and minimise carbon emissions.

- 3.2. How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

The development of a standalone northern section of Newgate Lane would include consideration of how best to adapt to a changing climate in the area covered by the proposals.