EDT Committee

Item No.

Report title:	Member Working Group – Wensum Valley Link Road
Date of meeting:	29 January 2016
Responsible Chief Officer:	Tom McCabe – Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services

Strategic impact

Working Groups enable a small group of Members to develop a more in-depth knowledge in a particular subject area and to focus on that subject area in a way that Committees would not have the time to be able to do so. As such, they have a useful purpose in assisting committees in the decision making process.

Executive summary

In November 2014, the Committee agreed to establish a Member Working Group for the Wensum Valley Link Road, to commence after a positive decision on the Development Consent Order for the Norwich Northern Distributor Road (NDR).

The first meeting of the Group was held on 6 January 2016. Given the amount of time that has passed since the Group was originally established by the Committee, the Working Group Members thought it would be appropriate for the Committee to review the Membership of this Group. In particular whether there would be any benefit in extending the Membership to include some Members representing Divisions in the Wensum Valley area.

Recommendations:

To review the Membership for the NDR Working Group.

1. Background

1.1. At the November 2014 meeting, the Committee agreed to establish a number of Member Working Groups. This included a Group for the Wensum Valley Link Road to link the end of the NDR at the A1067 to the A47 Trunk Road, for which the Committee agreed the following terms of reference:-

To develop a more in-depth knowledge of the issues and opportunities surrounding the implementation of the Wensum Valley Link.

The Working Group will be advisory and will:-

- review and consider options for a Wensum Valley crossing;
- review and consider the position in relation to the A47, in particular in light of any announcement about the A47 in the Government's Autumn Statement;
- consider potential funding sources from Government (or other sources) to develop or deliver options.

The remit of the Working Group is separate to any work on the existing NDR scheme, which is currently going through its own public examination and is subject to a decision by the Secretary of State.

1.2. It was also agreed that the Working Group would only commence after a positive decision on the Development Consent Order for the NDR.

2. Membership

2.1. The Committee appointed the following Members to the Group:-

Mr B Borrett Dr A Boswell Mr B Bremner Mr S Clancy Mr T East

The Committee also agreed that the Working Group would choose the Chair.

As it has been some time since the Committee originally established the Working Group, the Members felt that it would be appropriate for the Committee to review the Membership of this Group. In particular whether there would be any benefit in extending the Membership to include some Members representing Divisions in the Wensum Valley area.

3. Meeting

- 3.1. An initial meeting of the Working Group was held on 6 January 2016. The Group selected Mr T East to Chair the Group and discussed the following:-
 - Introductions and governance
 - Committee reporting arrangements
 - Update of current position of NDR and A47 improvements
 - Objectives/Constraints (implications of the SAC designation)
 - Key Stakeholders and engagement
 - Next stages of work
 - Funding
 - Programme

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1. There are no financial implications arising from this report. Any implications, financial or otherwise, relating to the remit of this Working Group will be considered by the Group and recommendations made to this Committee, as needed.
- 5. Issues, risks and innovation
- 5.1. None

Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper or want to see copies of any assessments, eg equality impact assessment, please get in touch with:

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