

Public Document Pack

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A **special** meeting of the **Council** will be held in the Committee Rooms at East Pallant House East Pallant Chichester West Sussex on **Wednesday 27 September 2017** at **14:00**

MEMBERS: Mrs E Hamilton (Chairman), Mrs N Graves (Vice-Chairman), Mrs C Apel, Mr G Barrett, Mr R Barrow, Mr J Brown, Mr P Budge, Mr J Connor, Mr A Collins, Mr T Dempster, Mr A Dignum, Mrs P Dignum, Mrs J Duncton, Mr M Dunn, Mr J F Elliott, Mr J W Elliott, Mr N Galloway, Mr M Hall, Mrs P Hardwick, Mr R Hayes, Mr G Hicks, Mr L Hixson, Mr F Hobbs, Mrs G Keegan, Mrs J Kilby, Mrs E Lintill, Mr S Lloyd-Williams, Mr L Macey, Mr K Martin, Mr G McAra, Mr S Morley, Caroline Neville, Mr S Oakley, Mr C Page, Mrs P Plant, Mr R Plowman, Mr H Potter, Mrs C Purnell, Mr J Ransley, Mr J Ridd, Mr A Shaxson, Mrs J Tassell, Mrs S Taylor, Mr N Thomas, Mrs P Tull, Mr D Wakeham, Mrs S Westacott and Mr P Wilding

AGENDA SUPPLEMENT

This agenda supplement consists of the four background papers listed in section 12 of the report for agenda item 6

6 **A27 Chichester Bypass Improvement Scheme** (pages 1 to 6)

- (1) Letter from the Secretary of State for Transport to Highways England: 14 March 2017
- (2) Letter from Highways England to Chichester District Council: 14 March 2017
- (3) Letter from Highways England to West Sussex County Council: 11 April 2017
- (4) Notes of meeting held with Highways England: 7 July 2017



**Department
for Transport**

Jim O'Sullivan
Chief Executive
Highways England
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Agenda Item 6

From the Secretary of State
The Rt. Hon. Chris Grayling

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28 Feb 2017

A27 CHICHESTER IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

We have discussed how best to take forward the A27 Chichester improvement scheme. Highways England has quite rightly been taking forward the scheme, as set out in the Road Investment Strategy, to upgrade four junctions along the existing route south of Chichester and undertook a consultation last summer.

I have considered all the representations and understand that this is a controversial scheme. The support and funding contribution by the local authorities are both vital to its successfully delivery. After the withdrawal of support by the local councils for the shortlisted options and significant local campaigns, I am cancelling this scheme.

The delivery of the A27 Arundel Bypass should proceed as planned.

For transparency, I suggest that Highways England publish the findings of the consultation and an Executive Summary of the Scheme Assessment Report for the work undertaken.

I am copying this to the local Members of Parliament and leaders of the local authorities.

Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT



FAO: Jane Polden
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Abi Oluwande
Project Manager
Regional Investment Programme
(South and East)
Highways England
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1 Walnut Tree Close
Guildford GU1 4LZ

14 March 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

A27 Chichester Bypass Improvements

This is to formally advise you that the A27 Chichester bypass scheme which we consulted you on in the summer 2016 has been cancelled by the Secretary of State.

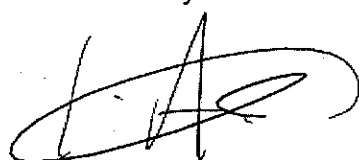
To quote the Secretary of State statement 'The decision was dependent on the support and financial contribution of the local authorities and there was not clear consensus on the way forward'.

Thank you very much for taking the time to engage in the consultation back in the summer. The consultation report is available to view on the Highways England website and the Executive Summary of the Scheme Assessment Report will be published in due course.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/a27-chichester-bypass-improvement-scheme>

We will continue to monitor how the A27 is performing and as important stakeholders in our scheme work we look forward to continued engagement with you and other authorities via the Route Strategy mechanism. This will assist us when considering future schemes on the strategic road network.

Yours faithfully



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Leader, West Sussex County Council
Cabinet Office
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Jim O'Sullivan
Chief Executive
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11 April 2017

Dear Louise,

Thank you for your letter of 28 March. I am pleased that you are working with the community to consider further the options for the A27 at Chichester.

I note your comments on the consultation process and I would reiterate that all the deliverable options were included in the final consultation document.

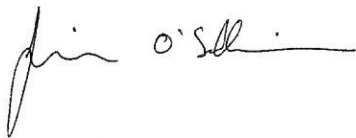
Within the current RIS (ending in 2020) the southern route, or some variation thereof, remains the only deliverable option.

I seriously doubt that a northern route is deliverable for a number of reasons including government policy on national parks.

I would be happy to meet after the upcoming elections. The funding for the A27 remains within the RIS and I would wish to be certain that all variants of our current scheme are unacceptable before the funding was used for some other purpose. Also we should discuss our plans for other parts of the A27 and their benefits and impact on West Sussex.

I will be in contact in early May to arrange a date and location for a discussion. If you have other matters you would add to the agenda please let me know.

Yours sincerely,



Jim O'Sullivan
Chief Executive

**West Sussex County Council, Chichester District Council - Meeting with
Highways England – Friday 7th July 2017 at 12.15pm**

The following attendees were present at a meeting between West Sussex County Council (WSCC), Chichester District Council (CDC) and Highways England (HE):

Louise Goldsmith, Leader, West Sussex County Council
Nathan Elvery, Chief Executive, West Sussex County Council
Bob Lanzer, Cabinet Member for Highways & Infrastructure, West Sussex County Council
Lee Harris, Executive Director, Economy, Infrastructure & Environment
Tony Dignum, Leader, Chichester District Council
Diane Shepherd, Chief Executive, Chichester District Council
Jim O'Sullivan, Chief Executive, Highways England
David Haimes, Regional Investment Programme Director, Highways England.

JO'S gave a brief background as to the current Highways England position with regards to the A27 Chichester Scheme. He confirmed that the funding allocated for an online option was still with Highways England and that an online solution southern route would be the preferred option.

JO's explained that Highways England were about to publish their delivery plan with a table of schemes for RIS1 – currently, this scheme has been removed and will not be listed and its formal status is that it is cancelled. However, the money is still available and J'OS stated that Highways England still sees the A27 as an important road end to end.

It was agreed that the purpose of the meeting was to clarify the funding position following the cancellation letter from the Secretary of State and to see if there is a way to reinstate a scheme for Chichester. JO'S reminded the Councils that due to the consultation alterations, the scheme was already a year behind. In his opinion, the funding would only be available until the end of September 2017 as the scheme needed to be on site by March 2020. It was unlikely that RIS2 could accommodate a scheme of this size and a radically new scheme would not be ready for RIS3 in any event. RIS2 (2020-25) was broadly committed and RIS3 (2025-30), WSCC could submit a bid.

Update on Community Action Group - To provide updates on work to date.

WSCC explained that there had been a positive move in bringing the community together and a business group would be taking place on 12th July. LG confirmed that she felt the current Option 2 would not be supported by the community in its current form.

LG and TD pressed JO'S on the exclusion of the northern options and whether these could be reinstated. JO'S explained that the Government's policy direction is for online options and therefore, offline options are being discouraged. He also confirmed that currently a northern route is not an option Highways England would be able to pursue quickly and in any event would be a RIS3 scheme at the earliest.

Chichester District Council stressed their concerns regarding local issues and proposed planning growth in the area, whereby the existing roads were not fit for purpose i.e. Portfield, Stockbridge, Manhood peninsular.

Conclusion

WSCC and CDC reminded JO'S of key community concerns e.g. with some of the flyovers and these issues needed to be addressed. It was felt that feedback from the community and business workshops would be valuable to find a way forward. Community engagement must continue, however it was important after the business workshop for both groups to come together to hear the detail about on-line options and that an off-line scheme could be delayed until 2030, and there would be a strong likelihood of the necessity to consider this as a "flagship" national scheme, which drives greater controls and more competition for funds.

It was agreed that WSCC and CDC would write to JO'S outlining the feedback from the community and businesses to date for a response. It was also noted that there would be a need for a meeting of the key community and business stakeholders to report back on the content of this meeting.

The meeting concluded at 1.15pm