

AGENDA SUPPLEMENT (1)

Meeting: South West Wiltshire Area Board

Place: Wilton Community Centre, West Street, Wilton, SP2 0DG

Date: Wednesday 28 February 2024

Time: 6.30 pm

The Agenda for the above meeting was published on **20 February 2024**. Additional documents are now available and are attached to this Agenda Supplement.

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Matthew Hitch of Democratic Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, direct line 01225 718059 or email matthew.hitch@wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications on direct lines (01225)713114/713115.

This Agenda and all the documents referred to within it are available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

5 **Information Items (Pages 1 - 2)**

8 **National Highways A360 Closure (Pages 3 - 4)**

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 26 February 2024

Area Board Briefing Note

Service:	Leisure Communities and Culture
Date prepared:	21 February 2024
Further enquiries to:	Tamzin Earley Arts and Funding Manager
Direct contact:	Tamzin.earley@wiltshire.gov.uk

Wiltshire Council is creating a 2024-2030 Cultural Strategy, which is in part funded by Arts Council England, to place culture and creativity at the heart of Wiltshire's economic and social future.

Culture is a way to reconnect people with the places they live, providing a sense of belonging and contributes to health and wellbeing and connects people with their communities. It stimulates growth, provides employment, and supports enterprise, making cities, towns and villages vibrant places where people want to live, work, and raise a family. The 2024-30 Culture Strategy for Wiltshire will aim to place culture and creativity at the heart of Wiltshire's economic and social future, and this can only be achieved through a distinctive vision and plan created with the broadest possible range of views. Therefore, they are engaging with a range of stakeholders to help shape the strategy and want to hear from you. They would be grateful for members of the public to complete their survey by the 24 March 2024.

You can find more information and link to the survey at <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/news/have-your-say-on-wiltshires-emerging-cultural-strategy>

A303 Stonehenge

Briefing Note

Background

The scheme is being promoted by National Highways with the support of Heritage England, the National Trust, and Wiltshire Council. The Secretary of State (SoS) for Transport has approved the Development Consent Order (DCO) for the scheme, and as the outstanding legal issues are being resolved a start on site is expected this summer.

The scheme

The A303 Stonehenge upgrade comprises eight miles of dual carriageway between Amesbury and Berwick Down, a tunnel at least two miles long underneath the World Heritage Site, a new bypass to the north of the village of Winterbourne Stoke with a viaduct over the River Till valley, a new flyover over and junction with the A345 (Countess Roundabout) , and a new junction with the A360 (Longbarrow Roundabout) located further to the west away from the boundary of the World Heritage Site.

Construction is expected to take about 5 years and cost in the region of £2 billion.

Early stages of the work include extensive archaeological surveys, construction of site compound, alterations to side roads and the laying of an electricity supply from Wilton to the site along the A360. These advance works are likely to start shortly.

Wiltshire Council Involvement in the Approvals and Consultations

The DCO and associated agreements contain various requirements for National Highways to obtain approval from the Council, or to consult the council, on specific aspects of the scheme. These include archaeology, ecology, landscape, noise and air quality, groundwater, and drainage considerations as well as matters in connection with the council's road network affected by the scheme. The Council, along with other key stakeholders, will also be involved in the development of the detailed design of the scheme.

The programme for approvals by the Council includes a consultation process on 27 documents, with the council also being consulted on a further 19 documents for approval by the SoS. The timescale for responding to the consultations is defined in the DCO and there is only a period of two or three weeks to respond to each depending on the stage.

The documents to be reviewed or approved are complex with numerous cross references and are of a very specialist nature. The council has identified suitably qualified and experienced staff for this task, with many of them having experience of the examination of the DCO and who have helped shape the current requirements.

The council officers will also be liaising with National Highways and their contractors regarding other aspects of the scheme, especially in connection with the local roads being changed in connection with the scheme, and the section of the former trunk

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road through Winterbourne Stoke which will become the responsibility of this council when the scheme is completed.

The council's Highway Network Management team are working with National Highways regarding the scheme, and especially regarding the works to be carried out by SSEN to provide the power supply for the tunnelling machines, which will require the temporary closures of the A360 with appropriate diversion routes and traffic management.

The Council's officers will continue to have regular meetings with the National Highways team and their consultants to continue the joint working and ongoing liaison on this important infrastructure scheme and its many aspects. This will include how collectively we can maximise the opportunities and benefits for Wiltshire and its residents during the construction and operation of this scheme, and involvement in the various community, member and specialist liaison groups being established by National Highways to deliver the project.

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