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REPORT

Cllr Brown Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES TO THE A303 STONEHENGE IMPROVEMENT – HIGHWAYS AGENCY CONSULTATION

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide Cabinet Members with the opportunity to comment upon Objectors' Alternatives to the Highways Agency's proposal for the A303 Stonehenge Improvement.

2.0 Consultation Process

- 2.1 In June last year the Highways Agency published draft orders and an Environmental Statement in support of its proposals for the A303 Stonehenge Improvement. In response to the draft orders the Highways Agency received a number of objections, some of which made alternative proposals. So that local residents, statutory consultees and other interested parties could be provided with the opportunity to comment upon these further proposals the Highways Agency published all the routes for public comment.
- 2.2 Six alternative routes, referenced AR1 to AR6 were published in local newspapers on the 29th and 30th January 2004. Three further routes, referenced AR7 to AR9 were published in local newspapers on 26th and 27th February 2004.
- 2.3 On 22 January 2004 the Highways Agency wrote to the District Council, as a statutory consultee seeking a view on Objectors' Alternative AR4, also known as the "Parker Route" Alternative. The Highways Agency provided the District Council with a detailed assessment of the proposal, prepared by its' consultants, in liaison with the objector. This matter was considered by the District Council Cabinet at the meeting on 3 March 2004 when it was resolved that:

Resolved: that in the light of the concerns expressed by Northern Area Committee and highlighted at section 5.3 of the report, and notwithstanding the West Area Committee's views, the Council submit to the Secretary of State for Transport a counter objection to the Objectors' Alternative Route AR4 (The Parker Route)

This response was duly forwarded to the Highway Agency and the Inspector at the Public Inquiry hearing evidence on the A303 Stonehenge Improvement.

- 2.4 On 8th March 2004, the District Council was further consulted by the Highways Agency on the remainder of the Objectors' Alternative proposals (AR1 to AR3 and AR5 to AR9). The consultation letter was accompanied by a brief description of each proposal and these are included at Appendix A to this report. Further details in the form of a scheme layout plan have been provided for each alternative and these are available for examination in the Members Room.

3.0 Conclusions & Recommendations

- 3.1 The Highways Agency has not carried out a detailed assessment of Objectors' Alternatives AR1 to

AR3 and AR5 to AR9 (unlike the situation with AR4) and therefore Members cannot be provided with a detailed briefing on the alternative proposals.

3.2 The Cabinet is asked to consider the Objectors' Alternatives so that any comments can be forwarded to the Public Inquiry Inspector who is currently considering the matter of the A303 Stonehenge Improvement.

3.3 It is therefore recommended that:

Upon consideration of the attached Objectors' Alternative Route descriptions, the Cabinet provides the District Council's comments to the Highways Agency and the A303 Stonehenge Improvement, Public Inquiry Inspector.

Background Papers

Letter dated 3rd March 2004 from Highways Agency consultants and accompanying reports.

Implications

None

Council Core Values

This report supports the core values listed below:

- Open, Willing Partner
- Protecting the Environment

Wards Affected

Amesbury, Bulford, Durrington, Shrewton, Wilsford- cum-Lake, Winterbourne Stoke, Woodford Valley

A303 Stonehenge Improvement

Objectors Alternatives AR1 to AR3 and AR5 to AR9

Route Descriptions