



North Yorkshire County Council

Skipton and Ripon Constituency Committee – 6 September 2019

A65 Coniston Aire Causeway – Progress Update

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide an update on the progress of the A65 Coniston Aire Causeway.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Members will recall that a report was presented to the Skipton and Ripon Area Constituency Committee (ACC) on 31 of May 2018 providing details of the feasibility study that had been carried out looking at options to reduce bridge damage and associated traffic disruption associated with the A65 Coniston Aire Causeway. The Committee resolved to formally support the recommendation of the feasibility study which was to pursue Option 5 which is the construction of a multi-span causeway with an estimated cost of £9.5 million.
- 2.2 In light of the feedback from the ACC, the Corporate Director Business and Environmental Services (BES), in consultation with the BES Executive Members, at their meeting of 28 September 2018, approved a recommendation that Option 5, the construction of a New Coniston Aire Causeway at an estimated cost £9.5 million, is taken forward.

3.0 Progress Update

- 3.1 The County Council continues to explore potential funding sources for the bridge scheme and the fact that an approved option was adopted last year means that the scheme is now more 'bid ready' than was previously the case. In July 2019, the Department for Transport (DfT) announced the next round of the Highway Maintenance Challenge Fund with £198m being made available nationally across the 19/20 and 20/21 financial years for special maintenance projects that local highway authorities cannot normally fund out of their normal maintenance allocations. There are two elements to this round of the Challenge Fund and local highway authorities can submit one bid for each.
- Bids for schemes up to £5m to be submitted by 31 October 2019 for delivery in the 19/20 and 20/21 financial years
 - Bids for schemes over £5m for delivery in the 20/21 financial year with Expressions of Interest by 31 October 2019

The Coniston Aire Causeway scheme would be suitable for the 'schemes over £5m' element of the Challenge Fund and officers are currently assessing it against other potential schemes with a view to submitting an Expression of Interest by the 31 October 2019 deadline. The decision about which scheme is selected for the Expression of Interest will be taken by the Corporate Director, BES in consultation with the BES Executive Members.

4.0 Recommendation

- 4.1 Members of the Skipton and Ripon Area Constituency Committee note the contents of the report.

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