Key points of a meeting between Highways England, West Sussex CC, Chichester DC and the MP for Chichester held at Millbank, London on 23 May 2018.

Present

Highways England: Jim O'Sullivan, Chief Executive, Paul Benham, Regional Sponsor
MP for Chichester: Gillian Keegan
WSCC: Louise Goldsmith, Leader, Lee Harris, Executive Director, EIE
CDC: Tony Dignum, Leader, Diane Shepherd, Chief Executive

Introductions

LG and TD outlined the WSCC and CDC decision making process and timetable.

The WSCC's emerging officer recommendation, based on the Systria report, to support the "northern mitigated route" as the preferred option" and the "full southern route" as a reasonable alternative.

CDC's report has not been finalised but officers are minded to recommend the above for approval. Both Councils were on track to make a RIS 2 submission to HE in June.

JO'S noted this and confirmed that once Highways England (HE) have the final Systria report they would undertake a technical assessment of the work, treating both the "northern mitigated option" and the southern option" equally. He agreed to share the findings with the Councils and the MP, which should be available in the autumn.

JO'S outlined the high level timetable for the RIS2. He confirmed that A27 Chichester was on the HE long list of schemes. A big challenge for RIS 2 is that the level of Government funding is not known. The minimum position will be a level of funding to meet existing Government commitments – eg RIS 1 schemes with expenditure in the RIS 2 period and other policy priorities, such as the Lower Thames Crossing. HE won't know the funding available for new schemes until after the public expenditure review in late 2019.

The RIS 2 timetable was as follows but could be subject to change.

- DfT would produce a draft RIS2 in late 2018 – this is not expected to contain potential schemes.

- HE would publish a draft business plan in April 2019 – which would contain potential RIS 2 schemes and would be subject to public consultation.
- DFT would publish a RIS2 in late 2019 after the expenditure review.
- HE would publish a final business plan in December 2019 with RIS 2 schemes.
- Assuming A27 Chichester was in the RIS 2 programme a HE sponsored public consultation on scheme options could take place as early as summer 2020.
- Next steps would be a preferred route announcement and the DCO planning process. If this proceeded smoothly a scheme could be on site in 2023/24.

J O'S agreed to set out the timetable in a letter and confirm HE's commitment to assess the Systria work.

END