



PART B:	RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL
REPORT TO:	POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
DATE:	23 SEPTEMBER 2021
REPORT OF THE:	PROGRAMME DIRECTOR, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, BUSINESS AND PARTNERSHIPS PHILLIP SPURR
TITLE OF REPORT:	A64 UPDATE
WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- make a recommendation to Council as to whether RDC wishes to reaffirm its support for the dualling of the A64 between York and Scarborough, as well as other improvements in between; and
- make a recommendation to Council as to whether RDC calls on the Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee to work with Officers, other local authorities, business leaders and MPs to ensure dualling takes place as quickly as possible

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that:

- (i) Policy and Resources Committee advises Council whether it recommends that Council reaffirms its support for the dualling of the A64 between York and Scarborough, as well as other improvements in between; and
- (ii) Policy and Resources Committee advises Council whether it wishes the Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee to work with Officers, other local authorities, business leaders and MPs to ensure dualling takes place as quickly as possible

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 3.1 At the full Council meeting held on 5th July 2021 the following Motion was submitted by Cllr Duncan, seconded by Cllr Goodrick:

“This Council wishes to reaffirm the 22-5 decision taken on June 27, 2019 in relation to support for dualling the A64 between York and Scarborough, as well as other improvements in between. The Council calls on the Chairman of Policy and Resources to work with our Officers, other local authorities, business leaders and MPs to ensure dualling takes place as quickly as possible.”

- 3.2 The purpose of this report is to secure recommendations on the Motion from the Policy and Resources Committee which can be made to the full Council meeting to be held on 7th October 2021.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

- 4.1 Proposals to upgrade and dual the A64 have been of interest to RDC and the communities and businesses of Ryedale for some considerable period of time. The exploratory work which is currently being undertaken, led by Highways England (HE), will inform a Department for Transport (DfT) decision on whether enhancement works will be progressed. As a key stakeholder RDC’s view on the proposals will carry important weight.
- 4.2 The dualling of the A64 is expected to generate significant economic benefits for the district, but it is recognised that construction and use will have environmental impacts. These issues will be assessed by HE in its project development work.

5.0 POLICY CONTEXT AND CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Council Plan 2020 – 2024 sets out a vision of Ryedale as ‘A great place to live, work and visit, which is culturally unique, environmentally sustainable and supports connected communities to thrive. [Ryedale will] have a strong rural economy, with world-class assets and new jobs linked to growth including bio-renewables, food, farming, agriculture, the visitor economy and carbon reduction technologies.’
- 5.2 The Plan identifies key priorities focussed on building strong, inclusive and attractive communities; harnessing Ryedale’s unique economy to deliver growth, homes and jobs; and ensuring that the district is a sustainable, safe and clean place.
- 5.3 Within the economic priority of the Plan improving road and rail connectivity to unlock economic growth is identified as an important activity, with working ‘with partners to improve the A64’ specifically highlighted as a key initiative. Within the environment theme, in line with the Council’s declared Climate Change Emergency, it is recognised that measures are required to reduce the district’s carbon footprint through regional and local initiatives.
- 5.4 At its meeting on 27th June 2019 in response to a Motion which highlighted that “Poor road connectivity is holding Ryedale back, suppressing wages and stunting economic growth. Our only strategic road, the A64, is “significantly stressed” according to Highways England”, Council resolved to:
- (i) renew its commitment to the dualling of the A64 between York and Scarborough and other improvements in between

- (ii) urgently request that the Leader of Council, the Deputy Leader of Council and officers work with local authorities, business leaders and MPs to pull together the strongest case [to progress plans for dualling the A64].

6.0 REPORT DETAILS

6.1 Background – Council Motion

- 6.2 At the full Council meeting held on 5th July 2021 the following Motion was submitted under Procedure Rule 11:

“This Council wishes to reaffirm the 22-5 decision taken on June 27, 2019 in relation to support for dualling the A64 between York and Scarborough, as well as other improvements in between. The Council calls on the Chairman of Policy and Resources to work with our Officers, other local authorities, business leaders and MPs to ensure dualling takes place as quickly as possible”.

- 6.3 Under Procedure Rule 11.4 the Motion was automatically referred to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration - this report.

6.4 Background – Council/Committee Decisions

- 6.5 The upgrading the A64 has been an issue of interest to RDC for some considerable time, and has been considered by full Council/committee on a number of previous occasions.

- 6.6 At the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 13th February 2014 it was agreed (minute number 62) that RDC would enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with partners including the York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership, other local authorities (including City of York, Scarborough BC, and NYCC), and Highway England to ‘establish a framework for effective co-operation to enable the development and implementation of a long term programme of improvements for the A64 trunk road between York and Scarborough.’

- 6.7 At the full Council meeting held on 14th April 2016 the Ryedale Economic Action Plan was adopted (minute number 98), which identified A64 dualling from Hopgrove to Barton Hill as a priority economic project for delivery from 2020 onwards.

- 6.8 At the full Council meeting on 27th June 2019 in the context of an imminent DfT decision on investment priorities a Motion was put forward which identified that “Poor road connectivity is holding Ryedale back, suppressing wages and stunting economic growth. Our only strategic road, the A64, is “significantly stressed” according to Highways England.” In response to this Motion Council resolved to:

- (i) renew its commitment to the dualling of the A64 between York and Scarborough and other improvements in between.
- (ii) urgently request that the Leader of Council, the Deputy Leader of Council and officers work with local authorities, business leaders and MPs to pull together the strongest case [to progress plans for dualling the A64].

- 6.9 At the full Council meeting held on 5th July 2021 the Motion set out at s.6.2, above, was submitted, with the Motion referred to this Committee for consideration.

6.10 Scheme Overview

- 6.11 In line with the resolution agreed on 27th June 2019 that RDC work with partners order to progress a case for dualling the A64 RDC engaged with the A64 Growth Partnership, a private sector-led body comprising of business representatives, councils and the LEP focussed on securing Government support to progress plans to upgrade the A64.
- 6.12 On 11th March 2020 Baroness Vere of Norbiton, Transport Minister for Roads, Buses and Place advised that under the second Road Investment Strategy (RIS2) programme the Government would provide funding to develop a proposals to upgrade the Hopgrove roundabout/A64. This development work means that any agreed scheme “can be ready to enter the programme after 2025”. (It should be noted that whilst developmental work will be undertaken any decision on scheme delivery is still to be made.)
- 6.13 Project development work is being led by Highways England, which is examining three dualling options (as set out on slide 5 of the presentation attached at Appendix 1). On 22nd April 2021 officers from the Council’s Economic Development and Planning teams were invited to an introductory meeting with HE and their consultants, AECOM, to discuss the work to be undertaken by HE/AECOM.
- 6.14 In undertaking its work HE’s focus is on:
- improving capacity and journey times to meet future demands
 - relieving congestion, especially at weekends and holiday periods
 - improving safety on this section of the A64
 - improving accessibility for non-motorised and vulnerable users
 - supporting regeneration/economic development/regional economy
 - minimising environmental impacts
- 6.15 The outputs to be achieved are: robust public consultation; and the identification of a deliverable, affordable solution to DfT that provides value for money.
- 6.16 Officers have been seeking a follow up meeting with HE to receive an update on project progress but, at the time of completing this report (10th September 2021), no meeting has been arranged (though a meeting with the A64 Growth Partnership was held on 2nd September 2021). Should any update be received from the HE in advance of the committee meeting this will be reported verbally to the meeting.
- 6.17 Work is therefore progressing, including a public consultation process, with the intention that HE will submit its findings to the DfT in 2022 for the DfT to then determine the way forward. As a key stakeholder RDC’s view on any proposals will carry important weight in the findings put forward by HE and in the decision made by DfT on how/whether to progress the scheme to the next phase of development.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The following implications have been identified:

- Financial
There are no direct financial implications flowing from this report.
- Legal

There are no direct legal implications flowing from this report.

- Other (Equalities, Staffing, Planning, Health & Safety, Environmental and Climate Change, Crime & Disorder)
Whilst there are no direct implications flowing from this report environmental, economic, health and safety, and a range of other issues will be closely scrutinised by HE in the exploratory work it is currently undertaking.

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Background Papers:

Appendix 1 - A64 Hopgrove Scheme PowerPoint presentation, 10th August 2021