

SUBJECT:	B4245 Traffic Study (Part 2)
MEETING:	Severnside Area Committee
DATE:	29th January 2020
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	Severnside Area

1. PURPOSE:

This report is to update members of the Severnside Area Committee on the progress with the second phase of the B4245 Transport Study.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

That members note the changes to the original brief of the B4245 Traffic Study phase 2 and the current progress and timescales of this commission as well as other studies currently being undertaken along this corridor.

3. KEY ISSUES:

Following concerns raised at previous Severnside Area Committee meetings about traffic and road safety along the B4245, Capita Consultants were commissioned to undertake a Traffic Study in order to establish the safety and make-up of traffic of this route and make recommendations to address identified problems. This was a 2 phase study since at that time the Welsh Government had not made a decision on the proposed M4 Corridor around Newport. Phase 1 was a route traffic safety review of the B4245 and phase 2 was a wider traffic assessment looking at such matters as the MCC Local Development Plan, future transport impacts as a result of improvements at Severn Tunnel Junction (STJ), a possible new Magor train station and a proposed cycle/ walking link between Rogiet and Magor.

The phase 1 report was completed earlier this year and reported to this committee. The study did not identify significant road safety concerns and furthermore highlighted that the volume of HGV traffic for the B4245 was at a level for similar roads within the county and nationally.

The decision earlier this year by Welsh Government not to proceed with the M4 CaN has allowed Capita to progress with phase 2 of the study and the current position is that traffic surveys have been undertaken and work has now started on a desk top study of the various other influences on traffic movements and volumes along this corridor.

In addition to the B4245 traffic study, Amy Consulting Engineers have been commissioned to undertake a feasibility design for improving STJ as a transport interchange which in addition to considering improved train services, bus connections and parking facilities, also includes the outline design for a new footway/ cycle route along the B4245. This scheme has been identified as an MCC Active Travel Act priority and, along with the wider STJ upgrade scheme, is funded as part of the City Deal Transport and Infrastructure Programme.

It is anticipated that both schemes will be completed early next year and at which time the findings and recommendations will be reported back to the Severnside Area Committee.

4. EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION (INCLUDES SOCIAL JUSTICE, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):

The study will review the impact of traffic upon the local and business community. The brief asks that the recommendations seek to highlight any actions which can be taken to improve the safety and health of residents who live along or use the B4245 and therefore fully supports the key principles of the Equalities and Future Generations Act (EAFGA)

Any further MCC report which support the findings and actions of the study will be subject to a full evaluation of the EAFGA.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

The study may identify a number of options which will need to be considered in detail as part of any further MCC report. This exercise will need to demonstrate evidence that all options have been reviewed, evaluated and the proposed decision is the best solution.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

The findings and recommendations of the study will be used to assist MCC in order to assess the impact of such decision:

7. REASONS:

The study is required in order to review the impact of traffic along the B4245 corridor and, where appropriate, identify further actions to improve safety and the quality of life for residents living along this route whilst also taking in to account the needs of businesses within the area.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The study is funded from the Traffic & Road Safety Revenue Budget. Any future actions outlined within the study will need to be prioritised for future funding as part of the overall Highways Budget and or future bids as part of the Welsh Government annual transport grant programme.

9. CONSULTEES:

The study findings of the report will be discussed with the Cabinet and local members before presenting to a future Severnside Area Committee. Any further action as a result of the recommendations will involve full consultation of the wider community including residents and local businesses as well as other key stakeholders such as bus and hgv operators etc.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

B4245 Phase 1 Road Safety Review

11. AUTHOR:

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