

Agenda Item

### FOR PUBLICATION

### **DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **CABINET MEMBER DECISION – HIGHWAYS ASSET AND TRANSPORT**

### 7 October 2021

# **Report of the Executive Director – Place**

# Section 278 Agreement - Sheffield Road, Chesterfield

- 1. Divisions Affected
- 1.1 Spire Electoral Division
- 2. Key Decision
- 2.1 This is not a Key Decision.
- 3. Purpose
- 3.1 To seek the Cabinet Member's approval to waive the requirement for a Guarantee Bond with regard to proposed works at Sheffield Road, Chesterfield which are to be undertaken by Chesterfield Borough Council within the existing highway pursuant to a Section 278 Agreement under the Highways Act 1980.

## 4. Information and Analysis

4.1 Chesterfield Borough Council (CBC) has secured planning permission for a new warehouse on land opposite Hazlehurst Avenue, Sheffield Road, Chesterfield. The works include a new junction and lowering an existing footway. An agreement under Section 278 of the Highways Act will be entered into with the County Council, as Highways Authority, to adopt the footway and new junction.

- 4.2 The scope and nature of planned work is shown on drawing number 20099-RLL-20-XX-DR-C-2005 P04 S278 General Arrangement (Appendix 2 to this report) this includes a new junction to serve the site, road makings, lowering of the raised footpath and a new dropped crossing with tactile paving. This would attract a total bond value of £44,850. (NB: A Bond is normally secured to ensure the works can be completed by the Highway Authority should the developer not be able to do so)
- 4.3 CBC is aware that it needs the County Council's full permission, as Highway Authority, to fund or carry out works in the public highway by entering into agreements under Section 278 of the Highways Act 1980.
- 4.4 CBC has confirmed that it is willing to underwrite the works and complete them to an adoptable standard as detailed by the County Council.

### 5. Consultation

5.1 There are no requirements to undertake wider public consultation for this request to seek Cabinet Member approval.

## 6. Alternative Options Considered

- 6.1 A formal request has been received from CBC to seek approval from the County Council to waive the requirement for a Guarantee Bond.
- 6.2 The alternative option is to not waive the bond and request a Guarantee Bond or cash deposit of £44,850 from Chesterfield Borough Council. However, given that CBC has offered to underwrite the work and complete them to an adoptable standard this is not considered necessary. Also, as a local authority, CBC has a clear vested interest in ensuring good quality development at this site and the risk of noncompletion of the work is very low.

## 7. Implications

7.1 Appendix 1 sets out the relevant implications considered in the preparation of the report.

# 8. Background Papers

8.1 None identified.

# 9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 Implications.
- 9.2 Appendix 2 20099-RLL-20-XX-DR-C-2005 P04 S278 General Arrangement

### 10. Recommendation

That the Cabinet Member:

a) approves to waive the requirement of a Guarantee Bond regarding proposed works on Sheffield Road, Chesterfield which are to be undertaken by Chesterfield Borough Council under Section 278 Agreement of the Highways Act 1980.

### 11. Reason for Recommendation

- 11.1 As the developer is a local authority, the County Council consider the risks of default or financial insolvency are negligible and are therefore able to waive the requirement for a Guarantee.
- 12. Is it necessary to waive the call in period?

12.1 No.

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This report has been approved by the following officers:

On behalf of:	
Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer Director of Finance and ICT Managing Executive Director Executive Director(s)	

## **Implications**

### **Financial**

1.1 It is normal policy and practice for the County Council to require commercial developers to provide financial security prior to commencing work in order to indemnify the County Council against the cost of having to complete the work in the event that the developer defaults or ceases to trade. In this instance, as the developer is a local authority, the County Council consider the risks of default or financial insolvency are negligible and is therefore able to waive the requirement for a Guarantee.

## Legal

2.1 Section 278 of the Highways Act 1980 empowers the County Council to allow third parties to fund or carry out highway improvement works. In this case, Chesterfield Borough Council (CBC) will be obliged to enter into a Section 278 Agreement for Sheffield Road highway works and to pay Derbyshire County Council's legal and inspection fees.

### **Human Resources**

3.1 None.

# **Information Technology**

4.1 None.

# **Equalities Impact**

5.1 None.

## Corporate objectives and priorities for change

6.1 This proposal supports the Council's objective to create a 'green and prosperous Derbyshire'.

Other (for example, Health and Safety, Environmental Sustainability, Property and Asset Management, Risk Management and Safeguarding)

7.1 None.

