

**EXETER CITY COUNCIL****EXECUTIVE  
29 JUNE 2009****HIGHWAYS AGENCY PROPOSALS FOR JUNCTION 29 OF THE M5  
AND THE A30 TRUNK ROAD****1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report advises Members of the current consultation by the Highways Agency on improvements to the M5/A30 junction.

**2.0 INFORMATION**

- 2.1 The Highways Agency have now published their draft Orders for the proposed modifications to Junction 29 of the M5 and to the A30. These Orders are the mechanism by which the Secretary of State for Transport obtains consent to proceed with a range of highway alterations rather than seeking planning consent, which would be the case if this was a local authority scheme.
- 2.2 The proposals arise from the various developments that form part of the Exeter and East Devon New Growth Point which comprise the following key elements:
- o the Science Park adjacent to Junction 29
  - o the new community at Cranbrook, further along the A30
  - o the business park development at Skypark
  - o the intermodal rail freight facility
  - o the expansion of Exeter Airport
- 2.3 A range of transport infrastructure improvements are necessary to ensure that these schemes are a success and the most critical of these is to address the limitations of Junction 29. As Members are aware, capacity at this junction is limited and, indeed, there is no provision for traffic leaving Exeter to join the M5 south bound at Junction 29. Furthermore, the development of the Science Park requires significant alterations to current access which is a rural road, in order to accommodate the development which is envisaged over the next 20 years.
- 2.4 The proposals have been developed over the last three years with design work undertaken by Devon County Council on behalf of the New Growth Point, and supported by the Highways Agency as the authority responsible for the trunk road and motorway network. The outline proposals were initially the subject of consultation some two years ago and in April 2008 the whole package of infrastructure measures associated with the New Growth Point were the subject of exhibitions in Clyst Honiton and Sowton Villages.
- 2.5 The current stage of design development involves the publication of draft Orders and the opportunity for the public to comment on those Orders by 13 August 2009. Copies of the Environmental Statement and the published Orders for the proposals are available for inspection for an eight week period at the Highways Agency offices in Sowton, the County Council's Area Office, County Hall, the Central Library and at East Devon District Council's offices. A leaflet which summarises the proposals and the options considered is attached to this paper.

- 2.6 Members are asked to consider expressing their support for this package of proposals given that the implementation of a range of transportation infrastructure improvements is essential to delivery of the key projects in the New Growth Point. The alterations to Junction 29 will of themselves have minimal environmental impact, although the creation of the new highway layout to the east of Junction 29 to facilitate Science Park access and to enable traffic to head south from Exeter will have a significant impact on the landscape of Redhayes Park. The design has been carefully evaluated and amended to limit that impact whilst still meeting engineering and safety standards. Alternative schemes have been evaluated and found to be inadequate in achieving long term access needs to the area.

### **3.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 It is recommended that Members express their strong support for these proposals to help deliver the future prosperity of Exeter and the sub region.

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**Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)**

***Background papers used in compiling this report:-***

None