

20 March 2023

Ash Road Bridge scheme to go ahead

The updated budget and funding strategy for the Ash Road Bridge scheme was approved at the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council on 16 March 2023. This allows the construction phase of this long-planned bridge and bypass to proceed once the successful contractor is selected from the tenders received.

The total updated budget is £44.5 million, an increase of £5.59 million on the budget previously approved in April 2021. We have secured £23.9 million towards the road bridge from the Homes England Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF). Surrey County Council has also recently offered a capital contribution of £5million, recognising the importance of delivering the project. The balance will be made up from a combination of our reserves and funds and borrowing.

Lead Councillor for Regeneration, Cllr John Rigg, said:

“We made the decision to go out to competitive tender in September last year because of significant increases in the costs and reflecting the challenging economic and market conditions.

We expect work to start onsite in June 2023 once we enter into contract with the successful contractor.

The Ash Road Bridge scheme, which forms part of our Local Plan, will support new housing in the area and improve safety for road and rail users. It will also significantly reduce traffic congestion on the A323, help to improve air quality and reduce rat-running.

This is great news for the residents of Ash and those who use the A323.

Leader of the Council, Cllr Julia McShane, said:

‘I am pleased that the community in Ash are now a step closer to getting this long-awaited bridge. It will make a big difference to many people’.