

**CABINET
28 NOVEMBER 2022**

RECLASSIFICATION OF A476 CROSS HANDS

Purpose:

The Cross Hands Economic Link Road planned to be opened to traffic in October 2022. It is proposed that road classifications are revised to make the new link road the A476 and a section of the existing A476 given a B road classification.

This proposal has been discussed with Welsh Government who manage the Trunk Road network who are supportive of the proposal. Other minor modifications are also included.

If agreed, the reclassification will be coordinated with signage changes on the Trunk Road Network with interim arrangements in place until the reclassification.

Recommendations / key decisions required:

That the reclassification of the A476 is approved in principle.

Reasons:

To ensure effective traffic management and to ensure full benefits of the new road are taken.

Cabinet Decision Required YES 28th November 2022

Council Decision Required NO

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER Cllr. Edward Thomas (Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services)

Directorate:

Name of Head of Service:

Steve Pilliner

Report Author(s):

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Designations:

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
CABINET
28 NOVEMBER 2022**

Reclassification of A476 Cross Hands

The construction of the Cross Hands Economic Link Road is expected to be completed in October 2022 and the new road open to traffic. The new road will provide a high quality and more direct link between the A48 Trunk Road at Cross Hands and the A476 to the north of Gorslas.

The new road will take traffic out of an urban area and away from homes and a local school. It will also relieve pressure on the existing A48/A476 roundabout at Cross Hands which can be a source of traffic congestion and delay. The new road will play a key role in facilitating access to future development sites and improving access to existing sites.

To derive all of the potential benefits of the new road it is proposed to designate it as part of the A476 and to reclassify a section of the existing A476 through Gorslas as a 'B' class road. This reclassification will enable the route north from the A48 along the A476 to Llandeilo to be signed from the grade separated junction to the east of Cross Hands rather than through the existing roundabout.

Associated with the new road a short section of the B4556 (Norton Road) will also be redesignated along a new access onto the Link Road. Plans indicating the proposed highway classifications is attached along with a plan of the existing arrangement.

Welsh Government are supportive of the changes and recognise the benefits of reclassification in relieving pressure on the key roundabout junction at Cross Hands which can become congested during peak times.

The proposal would require changes to the existing signage on the A48 Trunk Road which Welsh Government hope to be in a position to implement in 2023/24. The reclassification will be brought forward in coordination with Welsh Government's signage changes. In the interim the existing road classification will remain.

Powers to reclassify roads are vested in local authorities. Advertising and consultation is not a requirement however new road numbers, which will be required for a short section of current A476, are generated by Welsh Government.

Further details on the process are available at:

[Classification of roads and the Primary Route Network | GeoPlace LLP](#)

[GeoPlace - NSG Department for Transport A4 Insert AW3 - Revised Contact Details.indd](#)

Recommendation:

That the reclassification of the A476 is approved in principle.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

NO

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed: **Steve Pilliner** Head of Highways and Transportation Services

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	YES	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES

Legal

The reclassification of County roads is a power vested in local authorities. Details of this process are contained and referenced within the report.

Finance

Traffic sign changes on County roads will be funded from scheme budgets. Welsh Government will fund their own changes to Trunk Road signs which is expected in 2023/24.

Physical Assets

The new Economic Link Road will provide a significant improvement in traffic management in the area. The road will take pressure off the A48 Cross Hands roundabout which can be subject to congestion during peak traffic hours. The new link road also removes traffic from an existing section of the A476 which has many residential frontages and a local school nearby.

The Link Road also improves access to existing employment and retail sites and facilitates further development.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Steve Pilliner

Head of Highways and Transportation Services

(Please specify the outcomes of consultations undertaken where they arise against the following headings)

1. Scrutiny Committee request for pre-determination	NO
If yes include the following information: -	
Scrutiny Committee	
Date the report was considered:-	
Scrutiny Committee Outcome/Recommendations:-	

2. Local Member(s)

N/A

3. Community / Town Council

NA at this stage

4. Relevant Partners

Welsh Government

South Wales Trunk Road Agency

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

N/A

**CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO
HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED**

YES

Include any observations here

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THERE ARE NONE