

Meeting:	Cabinet
Date:	26 June 2023
Classification:	Part 1
Key Decision:	Yes
Title of Report:	Site known as 'Land between Barge Pier Road and Ness Road' – Vehicle movements
Report Author:	Neil Hoskins (Head of Civil Engineering)
Cabinet Member:	Cllr Kevin Buck (Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport & Parking)

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. Following the motion and petition to Council on the 2nd March 2023, this report is to confirm that discussions have commenced with the site's developer and are ongoing. These discussions are exploring options that may exist for the developer to transport the spoil by means other than the city's road network

2. Purpose of Report

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to update on the motion of the Opposition Councillors ("Opposition Business"), as moved at the meeting of the Council on the 2 March 2023, and the Petition presented to the same meeting of the Council, in terms of the legality and wider implications of what they propose.
- 2.2 Both the Opposition Business and the Petition relate to vehicle movements on the public highway associated with a development which has been granted planning permission at the site known as 'Land between Barge Pier Road and Ness Road' under the applications with Local Planning Authority reference numbers 22/01602/RES and 20/01227/OUTM.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. That the Council notes that the Head of Civil Engineering and/or Director for Transport & Waste will continue discussions with the developer on the viability of moving earthworks material by means other than by road

4. Background

- 4.1. Councillor Nelson submitted a motion under opposition business for debate at Council on the 2 March 2023.
- 4.2. The motion read as follows:

"This Council resolves that:

1. This Council believes either waterways or rail should be used to transport earth to the Gunners Park development site.

2. The Council will open negotiations with Bellway in order to look at delivering earth to the site by barge and/or by train.

3. This Council apply for a temporary Traffic Regulation Order for a weight restriction along Thorpe Hall Avenue to allow Anglian Water, as the body responsible for the maintenance, to do an engineering assessment to see if the sewage line in Thorpe Hall Avenue is robust enough to take the proposed additional 85,000 HGV vehicle movements.

4. Structural surveys are undertaken on house foundations along Thorpe Hall Avenue and all roads on the proposed route.”

- 4.3. Following this Councillor Cowdrey proposed an amended motion to be debated at the same meeting of the Council. This read:

“This Council therefore resolves that:

1. This Council believes either waterways or rail should be used to transport earth to the Gunners Park development site.

2. The Council will open negotiations with Bellway in order to look at delivering earth to the site by barge and/or by train.

In the event that the options of the use of waterways or rail be ruled out, the following are undertaken prior to any final decision being made:

3. This Council apply for a temporary Traffic Regulation Order for a weight restriction along Thorpe Hall Avenue to allow Anglian Water, as the body responsible for the maintenance, to do an engineering assessment to see if the sewage line in Thorpe Hall Avenue is robust enough to take the proposed additional 85,000 HGV vehicle movements.

4. Structural surveys are undertaken on house foundations along Thorpe Hall Avenue and all roads on the proposed route.”

- 4.4. At the meeting of the Council on the 2 March 2023 a petition with 1292 signatures was considered on a closely related matter. The text for this petition was as follows:

“We the undersigned petition the council to Not allow over 85,000 earth moving trucks along the whole of the City's highways infrastructure and use other means, such as barges along the river Thames or the rail network. The Council is proposing to allow 120 earth moving trucks of 40/50 tonnes per day on our highway infrastructure, from the far west of the City's boundary to the far east, over a two-and-a-half-year period. This equals over 85,000 truck movements, between the hours of 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday and

between 8am and 1pm on a Saturday. No impact assessment has been carried out in terms of diesel exhaust fumes and the environmental impact around our children's schools, no impact assessment has been carried out on the vibration to the foundations of the residential homes throughout this route, no property surveying is proposed to check for damage and subsidence to any residential homes along the route. The proposed route is the A127, Prince Avenue, Priory Crescent, Eastern Avenue, Royal Artillery Way, Thorpe Hall Avenue (north and south of the railway), Thorpe Esplanade and Shoebury Common Road into Ness Road.”

4.5. Works Undertaken to date

4.5.1. Following the motion and the petition detailed above, the Head of Civil Engineering had an exploratory discussion (on the 24 April 2023) with the representatives of the developer about the prospect of moving the earthworks material by means other than by road transport.

4.5.2. The developer has agreed to consider the viability (technical as well as financial) of the request and provide a short note setting out their findings. This response is expected by the end of June 2023.

5. Financial Implications

5.1. None

6. Legal Implications

6.1. N/A

7. Carbon Impact

7.1. N/A

8. Equalities

8.1. N/A

9. Consultation

9.1. N/A

10. Appendices

10.1. None