



**DORSET**

Local Enterprise Partnership

# **Cooper Dean Widening**

## **End of Project Report**

**May 2020**

## Project Summary

This scheme also followed on from the completion of the Hurn Roundabout Scheme as the fifth improvement scheme of the BIG Programme and was carried out in conjunction with the Blackwater Junction and Auxiliary phase.

The works included:

- Construction of a dedicated lane for Southbound traffic exiting at Cooper Dean Junction.
- Partial slip road construction from the proposed Wessex Fields Phase 1 project.
- Sustainable, low maintenance, drainage system
- Installation of a single, low maintenance central reserve vertical concrete barrier (VCB)
- Installation of communication ducting
- Widening, resurfacing and strengthening of the existing A338.
- Create low maintenance planting and verge maintenance.
- Improved signage and installation of average speed cameras
- Protection of the Wessex Water sewerage syphon pipes and chambers

### Aims

- Alleviate traffic congestion in vicinity of Cooper Dean by improving journey times and traffic flow in the area.
- Reduce road casualties in vicinity of Cooper Dean Junction.
- Improve access to the Bournemouth Hospital and the Wessex Fields Development to support job creation of up to 10,000 jobs in the next 10-year period and stimulate Economic Growth in the area including the Airport

The scheme builds on improvements made to the A338 and Blackwater Junction and is the penultimate project of the Big Programme.

Objectives continue to be met following successful completion of this phase as recorded in Outcomes and Outputs.

Project start date	January 2019
Project construction start date	September 2019
Project completion date	July 2020

## Change Request

- (i) Transfer funding of £938,000 from the Cooper Dean Widening scheme to Wessex Fields Scheme
- (ii) Request that southbound A338 widening and Blackwater Junction Improvements costs and reporting be combined as the schemes will be delivered as one.

## Outputs and Outcomes:

### Outputs

- (i) Improved connectivity to wider transport network. – Achieved
- (ii) Alleviate traffic congestion and increase capacity in vicinity of Cooper Dean Roundabout. - Achieved
- (iii) Improved access to Bournemouth Hospital and to support job creation and help achieve overall BIG aims of creating 10,000 jobs in the local area over a 10-year period – This is ongoing in conjunction with outstanding improvements to Blackwater Interchange which are due to be completed in late Spring 2020
- (iv) 1km of carriageway was resurfaced and 1km of new carriageway lane provided
- (v) Improved access to Wessex Water Treatment works so avoiding their large tankers using Riverside Avenue.

The scheme was constructed all within the existing highway boundary. It will eventually help to open-up land adjacent to the project for development of commercial floorspace or buildings including housing. It will contribute to the overall project aims once the programme is completed in Spring 2020.

### Outcomes

The A338 Cooper Dean widening scheme will contribute to the outcomes of the BIG Programme. The following outcomes have been achieved since April 2015.

Outcome	Number
Jobs at Aviation Business Park	1,125
Private investment leveraged at Aviation Business Park	£143,939,000
Land Unlocked (Ha) at Aviation Business Park	6.4
Commercial floorspace created at Aviation Business Park	37,577
Land Unlocked (Ha) at Wessex Fields	6.07

Outcomes continue to be monitored on a quarterly basis and reported to Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. Further analysis of these outcomes and benefits will feed into future reporting and case studies.

## Benefits Realised to date

- On slip and off slip lane widening to improve traffic merging and exiting the A338
- Sustainable drainage system which will need less ongoing maintenance
- Crash barriers and signage. – to modern standards and a reduction in unnecessary features.
- Resurfacing and strengthening of the existing A338 to reduce future maintenance and improve drive quality, noise reduction and spray.
- Reduced verge maintenance and landscape areas.
- Installation of Otter fencing so avoiding them coming into conflict with traffic.
- Works carried out in conjunction with the Blackwater Junction and Auxiliary Lane project producing savings on economy of scale.
- Traffic flowing more freely and without conflict at Cooper Dean Junction
- Improved maintenance capability without disrupting traffic considerably.

## Finances

- Budget for scheme - £2,750,000
- Actual Scheme Costs - £1,877,401
- Savings have been reinvested in Wessex Fields Phase 1.1 scheme.

## Lessons Learnt

- Having the next phase of works in mind at Wessex Fields enabled some construction of its slip roads. This avoided extensive and disruptive traffic management on the busy A338 southbound into Bournemouth at a later stage.
- Design /Target, Costing and Construction time was at its absolute minimum due to tight programming of BIG programme of Works. Therefore, reviewing overall scheme delivery more regularly would need to be undertaken.
- Project teamwork between BCP / Dorset Council / Hanson's and WSP provided an alternative solution avoiding an expensive addition concrete barrier in the central reserve due to level differences.

## Success Story



Before A338 Cooper Dean Improvements



A338 Cooper Dean following completion in 2019

The Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), BCP Council and Dorset Council continue to deliver major improvement works on the A338. The works at Cooper Dean have been completed on time and on budget

All lanes of the A338 were opened ahead of the main summer holiday period 2019.

The seven-month long scheme formed part of the Bournemouth International Growth (BIG) Programme's transport and infrastructure projects, funded through Dorset LEP secured growth deal funding aimed at driving economic growth.

Minister for Local Growth, Jake Berry, MP said: "We're committed to boosting economic growth across the whole of the UK and building a Britain fit for the future.

"The major improvements to the A338 / Blackwater Junction, part of the £45.2 million of Local Growth Fund investment in Dorset's transport network, will improve traffic flow and ease congestion to make journeys for all road users in the area much easier. I'm pleased to see work on this section of the roads improvement project completed and look forward to people and businesses across Dorset seeing the benefits."

Jim Stewart, Chair of Dorset LEP said: "We are delighted to see the successful completion of the final phase of the A338 / Blackwater Junction improvements delivering better traffic flow at this key junction. It marks another key milestone in Dorset LEP's multi-million-pound BIG Programme which tackles the region's transport issues and opens up opportunities for economic growth and job creation in and around Bournemouth Airport and Wessex Fields."

Cllr Margaret Phipps, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, BCP Council, commented: "I am delighted that these works are now complete. For their duration the long delays to motorists across a wide area of Christchurch and Bournemouth have been very frustrating, particularly at morning and evening rush hours. It is good news that we can all now look forward to free-flowing traffic through Blackwater Junction to Cooper Dean."

Cllr Ray Bryan, Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment, Dorset Council, added: "I'm pleased that our partnership working with Hanson and BCP Council has resulted in another scheme being successfully completed.

"These types of road improvements are vital for the long-term economic growth of Dorset; I know that local drivers will be overjoyed that the work has finished."

These completed works are part of Dorset LEP's BIG Programme of ongoing planned programme of works providing improvements to the whole of the A338/B3073 intersection and follows on from the major reconstruction of the A338 in 2016.

**Dorset LEP**

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**Annex 1:**

Scheme: A338 Auxiliary Lane	Description	FY 19/20		FY 20/21	FY 21/22	FY 22/23	FY 23/24	FY 24/25	Total
		Projection	Current Year						
<b>WORKS COMPLETE 05/07/19</b>			1.4						
Length of Road Resurfaced This Period	Length of road for which maintenance works have been completed this quarter (km).								
Length of Newly Built Road this period	Length of road for which works have been completed and now open for public use (this quarter) (km).		1						
New Cycle Ways	Length of cycle way for which works have been completed and now open for public use (km).		0						