



Title of meeting: Cabinet Member for Transport Decision Meeting

Date of meeting: 16th January 2025

Subject: Rudmore Square (Port) - Design Approval

Report by: Martin Lavers, Assistant Director

Report author: Abi Kelly, Principal Project Manager

Cabinet Member: Councillor Peter Candlish, Cabinet Member for Transport

Wards affected: Nelson Ward

Key decision: Yes

Full Council decision: No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To seek approval to proceed with the reconfiguration of Rudmore Square from a signalised junction to a roundabout. The project forms part of the wider programme of works in delivering Portsmouth International Port's Masterplan 2022 - 2024 and Solent Freepport.

2. Recommendations

- 2.2 **It is recommended that the Cabinet Member for Transport gives approval to proceed with the reconfiguration of Rudmore Square from a signalised junction to a roundabout.**

3. Portsmouth International Port

- 3.1 Portsmouth International Port (the Port) is a major UK Port, responsible for handling millions of customers and vital cargo across the globe. The Port offers easy access from the motorway and major shipping lanes, ideally placed for ferries, cruise and freight.
- 3.2 The Port is Britain's biggest municipal port and is home to Portico who operate the two conventional cargo berths based at the Port.
- 3.3 Investment has been secured to start delivering key aspirations of the Port's Masterplan 2022 - 2024, providing significant economic benefits for the local and national economy. The Masterplan will create thousands of new jobs, both directly



and indirectly, securing Portsmouth's position as the UK's leading marine and maritime city.

4. Solent Freeport

- 4.1 The Solent Freeport is a major opportunity for the UK as it seeks to strengthen its trading position and develop new trading relationships. The Solent's location makes it the UK's most important gateway to European and global markets.
- 4.2 It will accelerate the creation of high-quality employment space, with investment specifically targeted at state-of-the-art growth sectors and ground-breaking approaches to decarbonisation and green innovation.
- 4.3 The Solent region has a track record in translating innovation and new technologies into commercial success, and there is an appetite for innovation and building sustainable, long-term opportunities now and in the future.
- 4.4 The Port plays a vital part of the Solent Freeport project and has potential to attract major benefits to the region as it provides opportunities for job creation through encouraging businesses to develop and grow.

5. Background

- 5.1 The current junction on Wharf Road, leading from Rudmore Roundabout to the Port entrance is considered not fit for purpose in light of the future demands of traffic accessing the Port facilities. The junction does not currently allow for traffic leaving the freight gate to turn right into the ferry holding lanes, where the feeder lane into the Portico site for the Border Control Point is located. This therefore causes vehicles under the supervision of the border authorities being allowed to access the public road network prior to being inspected.
- 5.2 The layout of the junction is not clearly marked or laid out for traffic entering the Port, many vehicles that enter daily are actually destined for alternative ferry services in the City. The junction layout is known to cause mis-direction of traffic, including heavy freight vehicles, on accessing the Port's entrance.
- 5.3 The new roundabout will enable vehicles to turn right rather than leaving the Port and going around Rudmore Roundabout. The design helps to remove traffic, especially heavy goods vehicles from Rudmore Roundabout.
- 5.4 The design has taken into consideration opportunities for greening and to improve facilities for both pedestrians and cyclists.
- 5.5 The reconfiguration of Rudmore Square from a signalised junction to a roundabout forms part of the Freeport delivery programme - this project is critical in future proofing The Port in terms of growth and alleviating the impact on our road network.

6. Reasons For Recommendations

- 6.1 The project aligns and supports both the vision of the Port Masterplan 2022 - 2024 and Solent Freeport objectives.
- 6.2 As the Port continues to grow, the levels of vehicles entering the City will increase due to the additional services on offer.

The new roundabout at Rudmore Square will:

- Provide a safe and efficient route for all Port-bound traffic.
- Minimize the impact of Port traffic on the surrounding road network.
- Reduce the likelihood of mis-directed traffic entering the Port's road system.
- Improve the safety of non-Port traffic, particularly cyclists and pedestrians.
- Provide phase 1 of a wider strategic objective in delivering improved cycling and pedestrian facilities linked to the Western corridor.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 A Solent Freeport Seed Capital grant has been awarded to the Port as part of a wider scheme which facilitates the enabling works required to accommodate the creation of a Customs Zone at the Port.
- 7.2 The reconfiguration of Rudmore Square, from a signalised junction to a roundabout, will mean units moving from the Port to the Border Control Post will no longer need to use the Rudmore Roundabout. This will help to reduce traffic congestion and is consistent with the objectives and conditions of the grant. As part of the grant requirement, the port needs to evidence the congestion saving by identifying the number of units moving from the Port to the Border Control Post that will no longer need to use the Rudmore Roundabout because of the project.

8. Director of Finance's comments

- 8.1 The project is forecast to cost £390,000, and forms part of the port's capital programme. The funding sources identified for the project are approved corporate reserves, and Solent Freeport Seed Capital Grant. Revenue consequences of the scheme will fall due to / be funded from the port's cash limit.



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Signed by: Martin Lavers

Appendices:

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location
Port Masterplan 2022 - 2024	Masterplan-web.pdf
General Arrangement Drawing (HW1267)	Appendix A

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by:

Appendix A:

Current - Signalised Junction



New: Roundabout

