



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No: 8
Date: 23 March 2020	PUBLIC REPORT

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY: WISBECH RAIL

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To report on the Wisbech Rail project.

<u>DECISION REQUIRED</u>	
Lead Officer and Author:	Anna Graham, Transport Programme Manager
The Committee is recommended to: 1. To note the report	

2.0 Feasibility

- 2.1 The feasibility of restoring the rail link between Wisbech and Cambridge was explored in a pre-feasibility study by Atkins and Mott Macdonald between 2012-14.
- 2.2 The study concluded that the project was feasible and would represent value for money.
- 2.3 Further work on the proposal was undertaken in an Outline Business Case and GRIP2 report which were published in 2015. That study recommended that the project was deliverable and would represent value for money.
- 2.4 The Combined Authority, building on the GRIP2 report/OBC, commissioned Mott Macdonald to prepare a Full Business Case and GRIP 3 study in February 2019. The draft outcome of that work was reported to the Transport and Infrastructure Committee in March. A copy of that paper, which itself has attached the draft report, is attached. The draft recommends that a heavy rail solution between Wisbech and Cambridge is deliverable and would represent value for money.
- 2.5 The remaining work to be undertaken on the report relates to detailed track surveys which were delayed pending Network Rail permissioning. The outcome of those surveys is not expected to affect the overall conclusions of the report.

3.0 Timescales

3.1 The Full Business Case is anticipated to be completed at the beginning of June 2020.

3.2 An indicative programme for developing the scheme has been produced by Mott McDonald and is set out in the table below,

Stage	Design and construction - Indicative duration	Statutory Process – Indicative duration
GRIP 3 - Option Selection & Full Business Case	12-15 months	
GRIP 4 – Single Option Development	6 months + 4 weeks NR approval	Prepare order documents and submit at end of Grip 4
GRIP 5 study – Detailed Design	9 months + 4 weeks NR approval	6-9 months Objection management and prep for Public Inquiry
Land Acquisition	-	9-12 months Public Inquiry and decision
GRIP 6 – Construction, Test and Commissioning	15 months construction 3 months route learning, rolling stock introduction, test & commission	

4.0 APPENDICES

4.1 Appendix 1 – Transport and Infrastructure Committee Paper – 6 March 2020

<u>Source Documents</u>	<u>Location</u>
Link to previous studies can be found by following the link	Here