



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

JAMES PALMER
CAMBRIDGESHIRE &
PETERBOROUGH MAYOR

Agenda Item No: 2.8

Report title: A605 Kings Dyke Project Update

To: Transport & Infrastructure Committee

Meeting Date: 6th January 2021

Public report: Yes

Lead Member: Mayor James Palmer

From: Paul Raynes, Director of Delivery and Strategy

Key decision: No

Forward Plan ref: Not applicable

Recommendations: The Transport & Infrastructure Committee is recommended to:
Note progress of the construction phase of this scheme.

Voting arrangements: Simple majority of members

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report is to update the Committee members on progress to date of the construction phase of the A605 Kings Dyke level crossing replacement scheme.

2. Background

- 2.1 The A605 is an important east-west route between the Fens and Peterborough and is identified as a strategic route for Heavy Commercial Vehicle (HCV) traffic on the Cambridgeshire Strategic Advisory Freight Route. The A605 provides connections to the A1(M) and the A47 via the Peterborough Parkway network.
- 2.2 The A605 between Whittlesey and Peterborough carries over 12,000 vehicles per day and there are some 120 daily train movements across the level crossing. This scheme's objective is to remove this road-rail conflict.
- 2.3 North Bank currently offers an alternative route when the crossing is closed. That road falls within the Nene Washes flood plain. Nene Washes is a 1,522-hectare Site of Special Scientific Interest on the bank of the River Nene east of Peterborough in Cambridgeshire. The area is also a RAMSAR internationally important wetland site, a Special Area of Conservation, a Special Protection Area and a Nature Conservation Review site. By enabling people to choose the King's Dyke route over the North Bank option, the project will have a significant positive impact on the environment.
- 2.4 The scheme is currently costed at £32 million. The Combined Authority is contributing £24.4 million, or three-quarters of the budget.
- 2.5 The main contractor, Jones Bros Civil Engineering UK, was appointed for the construction phase which commenced on 15 June 2020. The scheme is forecast to complete and open to traffic in December 2022.
- 2.6 Progress has been good to date and the project is currently on programme. Jones Bros have also managed to bring forward work within one of the construction areas. That will, however, require a budget amendment to bring funds forward from the next financial year into this year; this will be presented to the January meeting of the Combined Authority Board. This is a rephasing and not an overall budget increase.
- 2.7 There are still considerable challenges to overcome, such as the backfilling of the section of star pit to enable the bridge alignment. Those risks are being closely monitored by the contractor and the project team who are responsible for putting mitigations in place.
- 2.8 In addition, officers will monitor the winter impact on the programme, although normal weather predictions have been allowed for.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 The current approved scheme budget of £32 million is made up of funding from Cambridgeshire County Council and a £24.4 million contribution from the Combined

Authority.

- 3.2 The project is currently delivering to cost and programme. Works brought forward in section 3 will require a budget adjustment to move provision into the current financial year from 2021/22. That will be presented for Board decision in January.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 There are no legal implications to this report.
- 4.2 This Committee meeting shall be conducted in accordance with Parts 2 and 3 of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus)(Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings)(England and Wales) Regulations 2020 (SI 2020 No.392).

5. Appendices

- 5.1 There are no additional background papers. A link to the YouTube progress video can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JpfZkEtIYRk&feature=youtu.be>