



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No: 2.5
9 SEPTEMBER 2020	PUBLIC REPORT

SOHAM RAILWAY STATION UPDATE

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1. This report updates the Committee on the progress of the Soham Railway Station project.

<u>DECISION REQUIRED</u>	
Lead Member:	Mayor James Palmer
Lead Officer:	Paul Raynes, Delivery and Strategy Director
Forward Plan Ref: N/A	Key Decision: No
The Transport Committee is recommended to: (a) Note that work has begun on site at Soham Railway Station; and (b) Note that Network Rail are indicating that the project can be completed 5 months earlier than originally planned.	Voting arrangements NA

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1. Soham has been without a rail connection for almost 55 years. This project will reinstate the railway station at Soham, providing a direct link to Ely to the west and Ipswich to the east.
- 2.2. This will bring sustainable transport benefits to the growing market town of Soham and support economic and housing growth.

- 2.3. The project has significant public and partner support. The design will provide an attractive approach and setting to the new station, as well as facilitating access. The Combined Authority Board approved the GRIP 4 business case and authorised the project to progress to complete the GRIP 5-8 design and construction phases at its meeting in September 2019.

3.0 PROGRESS

- 3.1. The project was granted planning permission from East Cambridgeshire District Council on 26th June 2020. This was earlier than planned.
- 3.2. Combined Authority officers have agreed a programme of efficiencies with Network Rail. That has resulted in programme acceleration. It is now expected that the new railway station will be complete in December 2021 rather than May 2022, a saving of five months.
- 3.3. The contract for the design and construction phase has been signed between Network Rail and J Murphy & Sons Ltd as contractor and Atkins as designer.
- 3.4. The first section of existing railway track improvement was carried out over the weekend of 22/23 August 2020 in preparation for future track replacement in 2021.
- 3.5. On site enabling works commenced on 1 September 2020. A full programme of activity is in place following through to October 2021, with subsequent station commissioning work.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. There are no significant implications not set out above.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. None at this stage. There is potential for accelerated delivery to be reflected in budget savings, but it would be imprudent to take that for granted before construction has got under way.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. The recommendations accord with CPCA's powers under Parts 3 and 4 of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Order 2017 (S1 2017/251).

7.0 APPENDICES

<u>Background Papers</u>	<u>Location</u>
Link to presentation to CPCA Business Board, 27 th July 2020 section 5.7	link to CPCA Business Board meeting 27th July 2020
Transport and infrastructure Committee, 8 th July 2020 – section 3.4	link to CPCA Transport and infrastructure Committee 8th July 2020
25th September 2019, Board paper	Soham Rail Station – Detailed Design & Construction
25th October 2017	Priority Transport Schemes
28th March 2018	Transport Delivery 2018/19