



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

JAMES PALMER
CAMBRIDGESHIRE &
PETERBOROUGH MAYOR

Agenda Item No: 2.10

Report title: Soham Station update

To: Transport and Infrastructure Committee

Meeting Date: 06 January 2021

Public report: Yes

Lead Member: Mayor James Palmer

From: Paul Raynes, Director of Delivery & Strategy

Key decision: No

Forward Plan ref: Not applicable

Recommendations: The Transport and Infrastructure Committee is recommended to:

- a) Note the progress of work on site at Soham Railway Station; and
- b) Note that Network Rail is predicting a December 2021 opening date.

Voting arrangements: Simple majority of members

1. Purpose

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

2. 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. This has been illustrated by a recent planning application made for housing adjoining the station site.
- 2.3 The project continues to have 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. Progress

- 3.1 The project was granted planning permission from East Cambridgeshire District Council on 26 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 programmed 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, along with a series of weekend, overnight works clearing the tracksides in preparation for the future works.
- 3.5 On site enabling works commenced on 1 September 2020. A full programme of site activities is in place through to October 2021, with subsequent station commissioning work immediately after.
- 3.6 The site has now been cleared of vegetation, hard standing areas have been established within the site for the storage of materials and parking for construction staff. Site offices and welfare are now in operation.
- 3.7 Translocation of great crested newts to a newly established habitat is now complete along with treating vegetation.
- 3.8 The project remains on the agreed shortened programme and to date has not been impacted by COVID restrictions or government lock down rules.

- 3.9 Officers will provide a further oral update at the meeting on any significant developments since the date of drafting this paper.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 None at this stage. The savings in the forecast will need to be carried forward into the next financial year to fulfil the commitment made with Network Rail.

5. Legal Implications

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

6. Other Significant Implications

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

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 Transport and Infrastructure Committee, 9th September 2020 – section 2.5

[Transport and Infrastructure committee 9th Sept 2020 item 2.5](#)

- 7.2 Link to presentation to CPCA Business Board, 27th July 2020 – section 5.7

[Presentation to CPCA Business Board 7th July 2019](#)

- 7.3 Transport and Infrastructure Committee, 8th July 2020 – section 3.4

[Transport and committee 27th July 2020](#)

- 7.4 25th September 2019, Board paper

[25th Sept. Board 2019](#)

- 7.5 25th October 2017

[transport priority schemes 25th October 2017](#)

- 7.6 28th March 2018

[Transport Delivery 2018/19](#)