

TO THE CHAIR OF THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

THE COMBINED AUTHORITIES (OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES, ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND AUDIT COMMITTEES) ORDER 2017

GENERAL EXCEPTION PROCEDURE

ST NEOTS RIVER GREAT OUSE NORTHERN CROSSING CYCLE BRIDGE

The Combined Authority intends to make a Key Decision for which 28 days' notice has not been given and which has not previously been published on the Combined Authority's Forward Plan of Key Decisions as required by Article 11 of the Combined Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2017. In those circumstances, the Key Decision may only be made after the Combined Authority's Monitoring Officer has informed the Chair of the Combined Authority's Overview & Scrutiny Committee by notice in writing of the matter about which the Key Decision is to be made and the Key Decision may only then be made after 5 clear days have elapsed following the publication of this Notice.

The Key Decision relates to St Neots River Great Ouse Northern Crossing Cycle Bridge and recommendations from the Transport & Infrastructure Committee to the Combined Authority Board, made at its meeting on 6 March 2020, that work on the St Neots Foot and Cycle Bridge should cease and the project be removed from the Combined Authority's Business Plan for 2020-21 and that the remaining funding allocated to the project be re-allocated to projects within the St Neots Masterplan.

These recommendations will be considered by the Combined Authority Board at its meeting on 25 March 2020.

It has not been practical to comply with Article 11 and provide 28 days notice of the Key Decision in the Forward Plan because until Cambridgeshire County Council provided the Combined Authority's officers with a feasibility report from its contractor which indicated that the overall construction cost for the bridge would be £7.4m it was not known that a Key Decision would be required. The allocated budget for the project is £3.7m.

If the making of the Key Decision were to be postponed beyond the Combined Authority Board's Meeting on 25 March 2020 to a later meeting it would prejudice Huntingdonshire District Council's ability to seek the reallocation of the funding. Huntingdonshire District Council wish to use the funding as match funding for a bid to the government's Future High Streets Fund [FHSF]. In order for that bid to proceed the budget from the bridge would have to be transferred to the Combined Authority's Gainshare budget which requires a decision from the Combined Authority Board. Unless the Key Decision is made promptly Huntingdonshire District Council will not be able to deal with any queries about match funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government about the bid in a timely manner. For these reasons it is not practical to give 28 days notice of the Key Decision in the Forward Plan.

Dermot Pearson

Interim Monitoring Office

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority

12 March 2020