



CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF USE OF SPECIAL URGENCY PROCEDURE

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

KING'S DYKE LEVEL CROSSING

The Combined Authority intends to make a Key Decision at its meeting on 29 January 2020 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.

"Key Decision" means a decision, which in the view of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the Combined Authority is likely—

- (i) to result in the Combined Authority or the mayor incurring significant expenditure, or the making of significant savings, having regard to the combined authority's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
- (ii) to be significant in terms of its effects on persons living or working in an area comprising two or more wards or electoral divisions in the area of the combined authority;

The agenda for the meeting of the Combined Authority Board on 29 January 2020 was published on 21 January 2020. In these circumstances, the Special Urgency procedure set out in the Order applies and the Key Decision may only be made if the Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee agrees that the making of the decision is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred.

The Key Decision relates to the King's Dyke level crossing improvement works. This is a scheme being undertaken by Cambridgeshire County Council. At its meeting on 31 October 2018 the Combined Authority Board agreed to provide a funding contribution of up to £16.4m in addition to the original £13.6m allocation to enable the scheme to progress to construction. At that time construction was anticipated to be complete and the scheme open in late 2020. The original funding was made up of £8m Local Growth Fund, £3.5m from County Council capital funds and £2.1m County Council borrowing.

The current position, as advised by the County Council, is that completion of the scheme is anticipated to be in December 2022 and a Funding Agreement is being prepared to include this completion date.

The County Council has been conducting a procurement exercise for construction works in relation to the scheme and this is expected to conclude in March 2020 before the date of the Combined Authority Board meeting on 25 March 2020. In order to let any contract for the construction work the County Council require a funding agreement between the County Council and the Combined Authority to be in place. This further decision of the Combined Authority Board to agree the revised expected date for the completion of the scheme is required before a Funding Agreement can be signed on behalf of the Combined Authority.

The urgency of the decision arises from the need for the County Council to be able to demonstrate to those bidding for the construction work that the funding is in place, without which the procurement exercise would be prejudiced. Any difficulties in letting the contracts would risk extending the expected completion date for the scheme further, prolonging the problems being experienced by those using the current King's Dyke level crossing.

The Chair of the Combined Authority's Overview and Scrutiny Committee has agreed that the making of the decision is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred.

The Order requires that as soon as reasonably practicable after the agreement of the Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Committee has been obtained that the making of the decision is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred, a notice must—

- (a) Be made available to the public at the offices of the combined authority setting out the reasons why the meeting is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred; and
- (b) publish that notice on the combined authority's website

This document is the required notice.

Dermot Pearson

Interim Monitoring Office

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority

27 January 2020