

A13 widening update report

Forward Plan Reference Number: N/A

Report title: A13 widening update report	
Report to Accountability Board	
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Date: 14 th September 2018	For: Information
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SELEP Partner Authority affected: Thurrock Council	

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Accountability Board (the Board) with an update on the A13 widening project (the Project).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Board is asked to:

- 2.1.1 **Note** the update position concerning the Project as set out in this report.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Project will widen the A13 Stanford le Hope Bypass from 2 to 3 lanes in both directions, from the junction with the A128 (Orsett Cock roundabout) in the west and the A1014 (the Manorway) to the east.

4. A13 Project Delivery Update

- 4.1 Since the last Board update, good progress has been made towards the delivery of the Project.
- 4.2 The main site office has been established at the former Toomey garage at Orsett Cock roundabout.
- 4.3 Temporary accesses have been created off of the eastbound carriageway to facilitate the archaeological works. During the main works, these will be used by construction vehicles to access haul routes.
- 4.4 Archaeological and ecological works are in progress and are due to be completed by mid-September. An update will be provided on the outcome following the completion of these works.

- 4.5 In line with the programme of statutory works, Instalcom has diverted its ducts and fibre optic cables immediately east of Orsett Cock roundabout.
- 4.6 A communications and engagement plan has been submitted for approval by the Project Board and imagery is being prepared for the public information events.
- 4.7 Public information events have been arranged as follows. Each event will run between 2pm and 8pm to enable as many people as possible to attend.
- Monday 15 October - East Thurrock Community Association, 77 Corringham Road, Stanford le Hope
 - Tuesday 16 October - Horndon on the Hill Methodist Church Hall, High Road, Horndon on the Hill
 - Friday 19 October - Orsett Churches Centre, High Road, Orsett
- 4.8 Approval In Principle (AIP) submissions for three of the four bridges have been made to the Technical Approval Authority. Discussions continue with third parties concerning the fourth bridge with a view to accelerating these works. Detailed design elements are now undergoing design checks. The detailed design for the Project is due to complete in January 2019, as set out in Section 6 below.
- 4.9 Since the June Board meeting, Kier have completed a topographical survey of both carriageways and compared it with the original survey undertaken by Mason. This revealed differences in carriageway level between the two surveys of -100mm to +250mm and has implications for the design and construction of the scheme.
- 4.10 To mitigate this risk and comply with bridge headroom standards, it may be necessary to locally reduce the pavement overlay thickness beneath the four bridges. The overall depth of the pavement overlay is also questioned along the entire length of the scheme. Atkins is therefore undertaking further analysis and redesign to achieve the required pavement design life and headroom. This analysis and redesign is likely to impact on the programme and an update will be included in the next report to the Board.
- 4.11 The Kier survey focussed on the carriageway only. In order to accurately quantify the volume and cost of the earthworks, it will be necessary to re-survey the soft verges too. The survey work is underway and a further update will be provided at the next Board meeting, setting out any Project risks which have been identified through these soft verge surveys.

5. Update on Project expenditure

- 5.1 On 23 May 2018, the Department for Transport (DfT) confirmed grant funding of £17.610m for A13 Widening in 2018/19.

- 5.2 In Q1 2018/19, the project spent £2.907m of which £0.490m was scheme development and £2.417m was construction. The rate of spend will increase significantly when the main on-road works commence in early 2019.
- 5.3 This Project is profiled to spend £19.902m by the end of this financial year. The annual spend was calculated by amalgamating profiles for individual elements e.g. widening works, statutory undertakers' diversions, land acquisition, surveys and design and supervision fees etc. The spend profile is reviewed on an on-going basis by the Project team to reflect progress made and the impact of risks and issues, including those highlighted in Section 4 of this report.
- 5.4 The Project spend profile currently remains within the budget available for the Project.
- 5.5 Table 1 below shows the funding profile for A13 Widening. There has been no change to the Project spend profile since the last update report to the Board.

Table 1 Project Funding Profile, August 2018 (£m)

LGF	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	Total
August 2018 Update							
SELEP Development Funding	2.708		2.292				5.000
DfT Retained Scheme Funding		13.408	17.610	29.474	5.565		66.057
Third Party Funding						7.809	7.809
Total	2.708	13.408	19.902	29.474	5.565	7.809	78.866

6. Update on programme

- 6.1 Table 2 below shows a summary of key milestones. The variances are due mainly to the diversion of Statutory Undertakers' apparatus, delay to the ground investigation and the detailed design.
- 6.2 The above diversions are undertaken by the Statutory Undertakers and the Council has limited powers to make them work faster.
- 6.3 The ground investigation took longer than programmed due to the location, number, and type of samples required; access issues; ground conditions; and unexpected obstructions requiring a change of methodology (bored rig to percussive rig).
- 6.4 The detailed design is taking longer than programmed due to third party approvals e.g. Saffron Gardens Bridge and the entry and exit slip roads at the BP service stations; land issues; design of Statutory Undertakers' diversions; late provision of ground investigation report; and discrepancies with the original topographical survey.

Table 2 Summary of Key Milestones

Activity	Timescale agreed at contract stage Finish Date	Finish Date	Cumulative Variance (days)
Contract award	03/07/17	03/07/17	0
Ground investigation	23/01/18	09/05/18	106
Detailed design	24/05/18	17/01/19	238
Vegetation clearance	05/03/18	10/09/18	189
Statutory Undertaker diversions	15/10/19	30/06/20	259
Construction	19/12/19	19/11/20	336
Terminal float	06/03/20	19/11/20	258

7. Summary of Risks and Mitigations

- 7.1 The risk register is reviewed by the Project Board and updated on a regular basis by the Project team.
- 7.2 The current top risk is the discrepancy between the topographical survey provided at the time of tender and the additional topographical survey undertaken by Kier, as set out in 4.9 above. To understand the impact of this risk on the project cost and programme, further analysis and design work will be completed to achieve the required pavement design life and headroom and by resurveying the soft verges to accurately quantify the volume and cost of the earthworks.
- 7.3 Once these additional works have been completed, a further update will be provided at the next meeting of the Board, setting out the implications for Project costs and programme.

8. SELEP Secretariat Comments

- 8.1 At the last meeting of the Board, Board members sought confirmation of the DfT funding contribution to the Project.
- 8.2 A letter from the DfT confirming their funding contribution to the Project is attached as Appendix 1. This letter states that, “the Department will provide a maximum capped funding contribution of £66.05m towards an estimated total scheme cost of £78.85m”.
- 8.3 The Project update provided by Thurrock Council confirms that the Project remains deliverable within the allocated Project budget.

- 8.4 Through recent correspondence with the DfT they have confirmed that the total funding contribution remains as stated in the letter dated the 12th April 2017.
- 8.5 The DfT funding is transferred on an annual basis under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003. The grant letter for 2018/19 has been received and the funding contribution to the Project has been transferred by the DfT to Essex County Council, as the SELEP Accountable Body.

9. Financial Implications (Accountable Body comments)

- 9.1 There are no significant financial risks identified in this report and the planned project spend profile remains unchanged from the previous update in June 2018; however, it is noted that new risks have been identified for which the value and impact are to be confirmed in the next update to the Board, due in November 2018. Until this information is available, it is not possible to assess the significance to the delivery of the Project of the risks identified or if the cost can be met by the outstanding Project contingency.

10. Legal Implications (Accountable Body comments)

- 10.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report

11. Staffing and other resource implications (Accountable Body comments)

- 11.1 None at present.

12. Equality and Diversity implication

- 12.1 Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 creates the public sector equality duty which requires that when a public sector body makes decisions it must have regard to the need to:
- (a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other behaviour prohibited by the Act
 - (b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - (c) Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.
- 12.2 The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation.
- 10.3 In the course of the development of the project business case, the delivery of the Project and the ongoing commitment to equality and diversity, the promoting local authority will ensure that any equality implications are considered as part of their decision making process and were possible identify

mitigating factors where an impact against any of the protected characteristics has been identified.

13. List of Appendices

13.1 Appendix 1 – A13 Widening Project Funding Approval from DfT

14. List of Background Papers

- Business Case for A13 Widening Project
- Accountability Board Agenda Pack 15th June 2018 – Project update report
- Accountability Board Agenda Pack 31st March 2018 – Project SELEP funding approval

(Any request for any background papers listed here should be made to the person named at the front of the report who will be able to help with any enquiries)

Role	Date
Accountable Body sign off Stephanie Mitchener (On behalf of Margaret Lee)	 05/09/2018