

Report to Accountability Board	Forward Plan reference number: N/A
Date of Accountability Board Meeting:	15th June 2018
Date of report:	31st May 2018
Title of report:	A13 widening update report
Report by:	Paul Rogers, Programme Manager Major Schemes, Thurrock Council
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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 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 in delivery of the A13 Widening Project.

4.2 Apart from localised areas vegetation clearance and temporary fencing are complete.

4.3 Reptile fences have been installed and work is under way to relocate reptiles to safe habitat elsewhere along the route. We have engaged the services of an ecologist to advise about the protection of wildlife.

4.4 The ground investigation started in January, and has affected the timeline for detailed design and release of construction drawings. Main works are therefore due to start in September 2018.

- 4.5 A survey is being undertaken to confirm the vertical alignment of the existing carriageway and corroborate the design and detailed design is continuing and is expected to be completed in November. Approval in Principle documents for the four bridges and the first few design packages have been submitted to the Employer's representative for checking. Other design packages are still being prepared.
- 4.6 Advance payments for the diversion of Statutory Undertakers' apparatus have been made as follows:
- £1,190,400 to National Grid Gas for the diversion of Feeder 5, part of the national high pressure gas transmission system
 - £ 849,900 to Openreach for the construction of new chambers and the diversion of ducts and fibre optic cables
 - £86,540 to Verizon for the construction of new chambers and the diversion of ducts and fibre optic cables
- 4.7 Ownership of land required is currently being transferred to Thurrock Council from DP World London Gateway, who used its powers under the London Gateway Port Harbour Empowerment Order to acquire the land.

5. Update on Project expenditure

- 5.1 In accordance with the 17 November 2017 Board decision, we accelerated Local Growth Fund (LGF) spend from the Department for Transport retained scheme funding contribution in 2017/18 in advance of the SELEP LGF (unretained) contribution to the scheme. The Project achieved higher than expected spend in 2017/18 through the acceleration of payments to statutory undertakers, with the final outturn for 2017/18 totalling £13.408m.
- 5.2 An updated spend forecast that was produced in May 2018, is presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1 Project Funding Profile, May 2018

Funding (£m)	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	Total
As reported to Board in March 2018							
SELEP LGF	2.708		2.292				5.000
DfT Retained Scheme LGF		12.629	30.933	20.613	1.882		66.057
Third Party Funding						7.809	7.809
Total	2.708	12.629	33.225	20.613	1.882	7.809	78.866
May 2018 Update							
SELEP LGF	2.708		2.292				5.000
DfT Retained Scheme LGF		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

- 5.3 The forecast total LGF spend in 2018/19 has reduced substantially to £19.9m, from the planned LGF spend of £33.2m that was agreed by the Board in March 2018, as set out in Table 1 above.
- 5.4 This revised expenditure profile has been accepted by the Department for Transport and the reduced grant allocation is reflected in their 2018/19 grant award letter dated 23 May 2018.
- 5.5 The slippage of LGF spend in 2018/19 is due mainly to a delay to the ground investigation. The ground investigation started three months later than programmed and was affected by access difficulties, the discovery of hard material, change of borehole locations and change of ground investigation rig to suit the conditions. This has had a knock on effect on the detailed design and the issue of construction drawings and affects both the start date for the main works and the rate of spend.
- 5.6 In the previous update report, the Board was informed that the Contractor, Kier had submitted a compensation event for Statutory Undertaker delays in the sum of £5.4m. This has been rigorously reviewed and challenged and has been accepted in the sum of £3.1m. This additional cost will be met from the £20m Project contingency fund. The £3.1m compensation claim as been taken into consideration in preparing the updated spend profile set out in Table 1 above.
- 5.7 At the time of drafting this report, the top risk to the Project involves a discrepancy between the topographical survey provided with the tender documents and survey's which have subsequently been undertaken by Kier. The impact of the discrepancies between the surveys may result in the re-design of certain aspects of the Project and/or additional thickness of surfacing material. To mitigate this risk, Kier are double checking the latest survey information, validating survey control, undertaking a series of checks on levels on A13 main line and reviewing the specification of the pre-tender topographical survey. The Board will be kept updated on the cost and programme implications of this risk through quarterly update reports to the Board on the delivery of the Project.

6. Financial Implications (Accountable Body comments)

- 6.1 Confirmation of the funding to meet the Project costs in 2018/19 has been received by the Accountable Body and will be transferred to Thurrock under the terms of the SLA. Future year allocations are subject to annual confirmation and receipt of the Grant from the respective Government department.
- 6.2 It is noted that since the last report to the board, the cost increase arising from the compensatory event has been agreed and will be funded from the contingency, meaning that no additional funding needed to be sought to ensure delivery of the Project.

6.3 It is also noted that whilst the reported spend in 2017/18 was higher than had previously been expected, this was due to pre-payments made to the statutory undertakers but this was not accompanied by an acceleration in delivery of the associated works.

6.4 It is recommended that the next Project update to the Board includes a summary of the key risks and mitigations for successful Project delivery, and an update on the Project delivery milestones, in light of the delays highlighted in this report.

6.5 In addition, the full implications of the potential risks arising in relation to the topographical survey should be included in the next update report, particularly with regard to the impact on the cost, delivery timescales and quality of output of the A13 widening project. This should include confirmation of whether any additional costs identified can be met from the outstanding Project contingency. Further, any impact on the value for money assessment should also be included.

7. Legal Implications (Accountable Body comments)

7.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report

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

8.1 None at present.

9. Equality and Diversity implication

9.1 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.

9.2 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 their 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.

10. List of Appendices

10.1 None

11. List of Background Papers

- Business Case for A13 Widening Project

(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)	6/6/18