



# CITY DEAL

Preston, South Ribble & Lancashire

## **CITY DEAL EXECUTIVE AND STEWARDSHIP BOARD**

**Private and Confidential: NO**

**Date:** Tuesday, 13 July 2021

### **A582 South Ribble Western Distributor - Update**

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#### **Executive Summary**

This report provides a progress update and spending position for this scheme, confirming that the submission of the Outline Business Case is now programmed for the end of the year and the cost of completing the necessary elements is expected to be within the budget agreed in July 2020.

#### **Recommendation**

The City Deal Executive is asked to note the report.

### **Background and Advice**

In July 2020, the City Deal Executive & Stewardship Board agreed to a budget allocation and activities to be completed in the period to the preparation of the Outline Business Case and its submission to the Department for Transport.

This provided a budget allocation for necessary work of £1.509m, to cover environmental and planning, design and costing, transport modelling and business case-making and land assembly activity. In the period July 2020-June 2021, actual and committed spending on these activities stands at £792k. Taking account of the full range of activity to be completed, including several significant tasks for the design of the rail bridge structures, ecological survey, independent cost verification and gateway review, the project team is confident that costs will be contained in the budget allocation.

More recently in February of this year, a report updated the Executive and Stewardship Board on changes to the spending period for the Department's Major Road Network/Large Local Majors funding programme. In short, the Department announced that the original spending period to March 2025 should no longer be used as an end point for schemes under this programme.



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As explained in this earlier report, this change to the Department's funding timescales has allowed for a review of the scheme's delivery programme, and a refocus of efforts and resources to other projects, affecting the programme and a number of key milestones due to be met during 2021 for this scheme.

Activity since the Board last met in February has focussed on several aspects of work:

- Design activity for the road and associated landscaping and ecological measures has continued;
- Handling requests to provide further information in support of the planning application, including updates to respond to matters raised by Highways England and the Environment Agency;
- Archaeological and Geotechnical survey and assessment;
- Work to reach a sensible pause in the production of the Outline Business Case.

The programme had anticipated work to proceed and to be advanced by this stage on two key aspects of the design programme, however, it has not been possible to progress these as anticipated: firstly on concluding the road design due to resources being concentrated on other activities; and secondly, on progressing the rail structures design which has awaited protracted legal and procurement deliberations.

Because these activities are key to providing an updated cost position, this will put the submission of the outline business case to no sooner than the end of this year. In the context of the continuing City Deal Review and announcements anticipated in the Comprehensive Spending Review due in autumn, this timeframe would allow for a resolution of the funding position and the means to confirm to the Department for Transport full funding with the requisite local contribution, as part of the business case submission.

## List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None		
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Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		
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