

**Proposed Bridge Replacement at Thomson Street Stockport**  
**as part of the MCF Edgeley to Stockport Scheme**

**Report of the Corporate Director for Place Management & Regeneration**

**1. Introduction**

**Purpose of Report**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to update Members on progress on the Edgeley to Stockport MCF scheme and in particular for replacement and upgrading of the former footbridge over the WCML between Thomson Street and King Street West in Edgeley which forms part of the scheme.
- 1.2. This report also seeks approval for Officers to enter into an agreement with Network Rail for provision of an upgraded bridge to accommodate cycle use as well as pedestrian use and for maintenance of the bridge thereafter.

**Background and Proposals**

- 1.3. Work has started on a Greater Manchester wide programme to make journeys on foot or by bike easier and more attractive. Greater Manchester's Cycling and Walking Commissioner has unveiled an innovative new plan to create a city region wide cycling and walking network (the 'Bee Network') that includes Stockport. The Bee Network will consist of more than 1800 miles of routes and will be the largest joined up system of walking and cycling routes in the UK.
- 1.4. In support of this ambition, the Mayor of Greater Manchester has allocated £160 million to the Mayor's Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund (MCF). This has been made possible thanks to the national government's Transforming Cities Fund, which is investing in public and sustainable transport to improve productivity and spread prosperity.
- 1.5. In Stockport a number of schemes have been developed across the borough, including the MCF Tranche 6 Edgeley to Stockport scheme. This has programme entry which allows Stockport Officers to develop the scheme and subject to approval of the proposals a business case will be submitted to TfGM for funding of the scheme from the MCF fund.
- 1.6. The Edgeley to Stockport route will seek to improve cycle linkage between Castle Street and the Town Centre by cycle, both to the historic area of the Town and also to the new bus station. The route join King St west from Moseley Street and Bengal St and cross King Street West at the existing Toucan crossing near to the Station. It crosses the WCML on a foot / cycle bridge, will go down a new ramp from the Armoury Car Park to Railway Road, proceeds along Railway Road and then crosses the A6 at a modified Railway Road / A6 junction (jointly funded by TCAP and subject to a separate

Committee report). From the A6 it proceeds via John Street, Loonies Court, Norbury St, Lord St and St Petersgate to the Town Centre. From Railway Road a spur to the route will cross the front of the station and link up with a new ramp / bridge to the new bus station.

- 1.7. Prior MCF schemes have been consulted over and reported as full schemes. This scheme is more complicated in that other sources of funding are being used in addition to the MCF funding and they are working to different timetables to the MCF approval process. In particular Network Rail are seeking to replace the former railway footbridge at Thomson St in the coming financial year and need an early decision about additional funding to enable the footbridge to be widened to allow cycling. Also part of the A6 / Railway Road scheme is funded from the TCAP programme with funding that runs out at the end of the financial year.

## **2. Proposals for Thomson Street and Scheme Funding**

- 2.1. Network Rail are proposing to replace the WCML footbridge on a like for like basis with a new 2m wide footbridge. The MCF scheme would require widening of the bridge to enable cycle use, probably with a width of 5m. It will include measures to prevent vehicle use and street lighting on the bridge. The additional cost of this is estimated at approximately £500k. This would be provided from MCF funding in advance of the approval of the business case of the wider scheme and would need an agreement with Network Rail along with any advance maintenance payments required by Network Rail for maintaining the wider bridge.

## **3. Recommendation**

- 3.1. The Corporate Director for Place Management and Regeneration requests the comments on the proposals from the Central Stockport Area Committee and recommends that the Cabinet Member for Economy & Regeneration authorises Officers to enter into an agreement with Network Rail for the construction of a wider replacement bridge over the WCML at Thompson Street and for future maintenance thereof.

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