

Norwich Western Link project update – 23.6.2023

I'm writing to you with an update on our Norwich Western Link project. A report on the project has been published this afternoon and this will be considered by me and my cabinet colleagues at a meeting on Monday 3 July.

The report highlights that we have made good progress on the project in recent months, particularly in developing the proposals for the planning application, including taking into account comments received through the project's pre-planning application public consultation held late last year. The planning application documentation will provide more detail on the design of the new road, including the viaduct across the River Wensum, the complementary sustainable transport measures, and on the environmental mitigation and enhancement measures that will form part of the project, in order to support wildlife in the local area.

We are still currently awaiting approval from central government of the project's Outline Business Case, so the status of this is unchanged since my last email to you. Approval of this business case will give us the funding commitment we need to submit the planning application. We know other infrastructure projects across the country are in a similar position to us in this respect and, with our strong business case, there is no reason to think that this approval won't come. And my Cabinet colleagues and I, together with MPs and other partners, are continuing to push Ministers for a decision at the earliest opportunity.

In the meantime, this report recommends a sensible approach to the next steps for the project which would see us reduce activity on the project for the next three months. This would strike a balance between reducing costs while we await a decision on the Outline Business Case but also mean we will be well-placed to finalise the planning application documents as and when we do receive approval from central government.

I know that any delays will be disappointing to all the people that are being impacted every day by the transport issues in the area to the west of Norwich. Delivering large-scale infrastructure projects like the Norwich Western Link is a complex process with many moving parts, some of which are not within our control. I remain committed to doing everything I can to provide Norfolk with the infrastructure it needs and the Norwich Western Link is front and centre in this commitment.

You can find the full cabinet report on the Norwich Western Link at [here](#) on our website - the full weblink is also included at the end of this email. There is also a report, available via the same link, that provides an update on the improvements being delivered through our Transport for Norwich project, for those of you who are interested.

I will email again following the cabinet meeting on Monday 3 July to let you know the outcome of the meeting. If you have any questions or concerns that this email or the cabinet report doesn't answer, feel free to email me and the project team at this email address and we'll get back to you as soon as we can.

Best wishes,

Graham

Cllr Graham Plant
Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Infrastructure
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Full link to cabinet papers:

<https://norfolkcc.cmis.uk.com/norfolkcc/CalendarofMeetings/tabid/128/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/496/Meeting/2050/Committee/169/Default.aspx>