

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET – 19 MARCH 2009

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES

MERSEY GATEWAY BRIDGE PROJECT GROUP REPRESENTATION

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report informs Members of the proposal to refresh the partnership arrangements relating to the new Mersey crossing – known as the Mersey Gateway.
- 1.2 Cabinet is requested to approve the attendance of one officer and one elected Member to the reformed Mersey Gateway Bridge Project Group.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 For many years, Halton Borough Council has been campaigning for a new crossing over the River Mersey to help ease traffic congestion in the area and, in particular, on the existing Silver Jubilee Bridge.
- 2.2 Halton Borough Council forms part of the Greater Merseyside Partnership in transport terms, and the Merseyside Local Transport Plan (LTP) partners have maintained its support for the Gateway project within its LTP, which is closely aligned to the Halton LTP. In addition, updates on the project have been provided to MSTEG (Merseyside Strategic Transport & Engineers Group) and MSTPC (Merseyside Strategic Transport and Planning Committee) as appropriate. Breakfast Briefings were also held for a wider audience at key points in the project.
- 2.3 Significant economic and environmental appraisals have been necessary to justify the new bridge and its actual location. In 2006, the Mersey Gateway gained programme entry to the Government's major scheme funding mechanism, which enabled Halton Council to drive forward the appropriate arrangements for project delivery.
- 2.4 Members wishing additional information on the Mersey Gateway may find it useful to go to the project web site:
<http://www2.halton.gov.uk/merseygateway/>

3.0 MERSEY GATEWAY GROUP

- 3.1 The Mersey Gateway project is now reaching a significant point in its development. In 2009, a major Public Inquiry will take place with the view of progressing to contract procurement by the end of the year. Current time lines envisage a start on site in 2011 with completion in 2014.

- 3.2 In order to continue effective partnership working, Halton BC is keen to ensure key stakeholders are kept fully informed and have the opportunity to engage in the future development of the project. With this in mind, Halton BC is looking to refresh its partnership arrangements via the Mersey Gateway Group.
- 3.3 It is Halton's intention to reform the Mersey Gateway Group, which is anticipated to meet quarterly. Two representatives from each of the Merseyside, Warrington, Cheshire West and Chester local authorities are invited, plus representatives from The Mersey Partnership, Merseytravel, North West Development Agency, 4NW the Regional Leaders Group, Liverpool Chamber and Halton Chamber.
- 3.4 Halton Borough Council now request the various bodies to nominate their representatives. In the case of local authorities, it is anticipated that nominations will include an officer and an elected member. It is proposed that the Wirral representatives be Mark Smith, Head of Streetscene and Waste Services, and Councillor Jean Quinn, Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Transport Services.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no specific funding implications arising from this report.

5.0 STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no specific staffing implications arising from this report.

6.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no specific equal opportunity implications arising from this report.

7.0 PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no specific planning implications arising from this report.

8.0 ANTI-POVERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no specific anti-poverty implications arising from this report.

9.0 SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no specific social inclusion implications arising from this report.

10.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no specific community safety implications arising from this report.

11.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are no specific LA21 implications arising from this report.

12.0 LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS

12.1 The Mersey Gateway project will be of interest to all Members.

13.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

13.1 There are no background papers used in the preparation of this report.

14.0 RECOMMENDATION

That Council be recommended that

- (1) the attendance of one officer and one elected Member to the reformed Mersey Gateway Bridge Project Group and the body be included in the schedule of approved bodies within the Constitution; and
- (2) the named representatives be those in section 3.4 of this report.

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