

REPORT TO: Mersey Gateway Executive Board

DATE: 19 September 2013

REPORTING OFFICER: Chief Executive

PORTFOLIO: Leader

SUBJECT: Progress towards achieving Financial Close with the Preferred Bidder

WARD(S): Borough-wide

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To receive a verbal update on the progress towards achieving Financial close with the Preferred Bidder.

1.2 RECOMMENDATION: That: the Board receive and comment upon the verbal update.

2. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

2.1 Significant progress is being made with the fine tuning issues and the confirmation of project finance as laid out in the Preferred Bidder appointment letter. The Project Direct will report the current situation and invite views and comments from the Board.

3. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The Project is a key priority for the Council which deliver benefits locally and across the wider region

4.0 OTHER / FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 All substantive implications are reported above

5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

5.1 Children and Young People in Halton

Mersey Gateway provides an opportunity to improve accessibility to services, education and employment for all.

5.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

Over 500 construction jobs will be required for MG and matters are in hand designed to ensure the local community has access to these job opportunities. In the longer term, several thousand jobs are forecast to

be created in the sub-region due to the wider economic impact of the project.

5.3 A Healthy Halton

Mersey Gateway provides an opportunity to improve accessibility to services, education and employment for all, including improved cycling and walking facilities

5.4 A Safer Halton

The project will produce road safety benefits for road users including improved cycling and walking facilities.

5.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

Mersey Gateway Project is a priority project in the Urban Renewal Programme.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 The project structure supported by the proposed delegation and decision authority will reduce the risk of delay and improve the quality of the project control.

The creation of MGCB Ltd is a requirement of the DfT Funding Letter.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 Mersey Gateway provides an opportunity to improve accessibility to services, education and employment for all.

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

8.1 None under the meaning of the Act.