

## Item 1

**REPORT TO:** Mersey Gateway Exec Board

**DATE:** 21<sup>st</sup> July 2008

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Mersey Gateway Project Director

**SUBJECT:** Comments Received in Response to the Published Orders and Applications.

### 1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an interim report to members, pending the termination of the formal consultation period on 18 July, on the expressions of support, representations and formal objections received in response to the published Orders and Applications for Mersey Gateway, and the action taken to resolve issues raised in formal objections.

### 2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

The Mersey Gateway Executive Board note:

- (1) the formal responses received to date; and
- (2) the action taken to resolve Objections.

### 3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 For a project of the size and complexity of Mersey Gateway, the response received at the date of publication of this report has been relatively low key. At the meeting on 17 July an oral up date will be given by the Project Director relating to any additional expressions of support, representations and objections received, and it should be noted that more objections than reported herein are expected.

- 3.2 A summary of the parties and institutions that have responded with expressions of support, representations or to record a formal objection are listed at the annex, alongside a summary of the issues raised. In total we have received the following response:

Expressions of Support	: 4
Representations	: 15
Formal Objections	: 23

- 3.3 It is encouraging to receive the confirmation of support from the NW Development Agency, Cheshire Police and neighbouring St. Helens and Vale Royal Borough Councils.

- 3.4 Key formal objections received from institutions to date include the Environment Agency and Natural England who share a concern over the delivery of appropriate mitigation proposals to deal with the ecological impact of the project. The published proposals include the enhancement of large areas of local salt marsh to create improved habitat and local amenity. The published Compulsory Purchase powers in the Transport and Works Act Order include the area of salt marsh where it is proposed to undertake these mitigation works. We are therefore confident that the proposals are equitable in mitigating the ecological impact of the project and we expect to reach agreement with Natural England and the Environment Agency leading to the objection being withdrawn.
- 3.5 A meeting is taking place with the Highways Agency on 7<sup>th</sup> July to address concerns raised in a formal representation to the Planning Applications. The Highways Agency has not issued a formal objection to date.
- 3.6 We understand from recent communications with Warrington Borough Council that they will be supporting the scheme but will be expecting mitigation for potential impacts on the road network in Warrington. The project team is already in discussion with Warrington on this issue.
- 3.7 We also understand that the Merseyside PTE are likely to approve resolutions from the PTA to object to the Transport and Works Act Order and make representations to the Road User Charging Order on account of the effect of the operation of the new bridge on the Mersey Tunnels. A meeting has been called by the PTA on 14<sup>th</sup> July to authorise the objection. The project team has offered to hold a meeting to discuss the concerns of the PTA and to assist the PTA with an Exhibition of the proposals.
- 3.8 Objections from the public are confined to concern expressed by Halton Lea and Halton Brook ward Councillors and residents along the Central Expressway in Runcorn. The concern relates to increased traffic and the environmental consequences. A local meeting was arranged by Councillor Lowe at Halton Lodge on 1<sup>st</sup> July for residents of Halton Lea ward. The project team provided exhibition material and four members of the team attended the meeting and responded to concerns raised by residents. Councillor Bryant has invited the project team to attend a meeting of the Runcorn Residents Association on 16<sup>th</sup> July. In particular the team will explain how the effects of increased traffic will be nullified by noise barriers and landscaping proposals.

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The project is a key priority for the Council which will deliver benefits locally and across the wider region.

## **5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The effort required to address objections will impact on project budgets. At the moment the level of response is in line with the resources predicted to be required.

## **6.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

- 6.1 Resolving objections are included in the project risk register where critical risks are reported routinely to the Project Board.

## **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 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

- 8.1 Files maintained by the Mersey Gateway Project Team and by the Highways and Transportation Department.

**Mersey Gateway - Summary of Formal Representations received by 3rd July 2008**

<b>Name</b>	<b>OBJ/REP/SUP</b>	<b>Issues</b>
Anglo Plant Hire	OBJ	CPO - site access affected
Appleton Commercial Engineering Ltd	OBJ	Disruption and upheaval in Widnes
Berford Properties	OBJ	Access from Moor Lane affected
Bold Nu-Tec Insulation	OBJ	CPO
CPRE	OBJ	Climate Change, Travel Patterns, Green Belt/Open Space, Biodiversity, Water, Noise, Air Quality
Fairview Windows	OBJ	CPO
Fordgate Ltd	OBJ	Impact on Halton Lea Shopping Centre - signing strategy required
Halton Friends of the Earth	OBJ	Highways, Visual Impact, Noise, Light Pollution, light Rail, Access to Hospitals, Ecology, Health, Climate Change, Contamination, Air Quality, Construction Impacts
ID4 Living	OBJ	CPO - impact on development scheme
JE&E Drinkwater and their Tenants	OBJ	Temporary closure of Hutchinson Street, Widnes - access to properties
Jim Ballantine	OBJ	Misleading Poorly Managed Notifications, Traffic in Populated Areas, Air Quality, Noise, Health, Costs
Jimmy Doran	OBJ	Access to property, disruption during construction
Ken Martin	OBJ	Delinking of SJB
Kenneth Beech	OBJ	Lodge Lane Traffic Increase & Construction Impact, Noise Air Quality, Health, Visual Amenity of Property
Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service	OBJ	Habitats Regulations Assessment
Mr Mc Laughlin	OBJ	Noise & Vibration, Health
National Grid	OBJ	Protection of apparatus
Natural England	OBJ	Potential Impacts to Mersey Estuary, The ES, The Mersey Estuary & Hydrodynamics, Landscape & Visual Assessment, Effects on landscape character perception, Recreation, amenity, accessible natural greenspace & green travel, Landscape & Environmental aspects of toll collection.
Peter Black	OBJ	Environment, climate change, benefits, increase in traffic, public transport links, cycling and walking links, visual impact
Preston Brook Parish Council	OBJ	Tolling
Redman Heenan Properties	OBJ	CPO
Transport Activists Round Table North West	OBJ	Sustainability, Water Quality, Biodiversity, Air Quality, Land Use & Transport Policy, Travel Choices, Social Exclusion ( Tolling), Health
Environment Agency	OBJ	Mitigation & Enhancement, Hydrodynamics, Flood Risk Assessment, Watercourses, Contamination, Water Quality
British Waterways	REP	No Objection
CAA Safety Regulation Group	REP	Aviation
CABE	REP	Bridge Design, regeneration and masterplan
Cheshire County Council	REP	
Daresbury Parish Council	REP	No Objection
Ellesmere Port and Neston BC	REP	No Comment
English Heritage (North West Region)	REP	No Comments
Forestry Commission	REP	Black Poplars - opportunity to plant
Government Office of the North West	REP	EIA's now accepted in CD Format
Halton Lea Ward	REP	Impact on Residents at Halton Lodge, Noise Pollution, Mitigation, Objects being thrown from Bridges
Highways Agency	REP	Traffic modelling
Liverpool John Lennon Airport	REP	No Objection
Michelle Ann Clunie	REP	Lodge Lane Plans, Timescale, Noise, Property Values
Mrs Barbara Manley	REP	Traffic on Central Expressway, New Homes at Halton Brook
United Utilities Water plc	REP	Drainage Adoption, Diversions, SUDS
Cheshire Constabulary	SUP	Benefits to sub-region, reduction in congestion, improved facilities for public transport, cycling and walking
North West Regional Development Agency	SUP	Congestion Relief, Reliability, Accessibility
St Helens Council	SUP	
Vale Royal Borough Council	SUP	Improved transport links between West Cheshire and Merseyside