

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board

**DATE:** 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2008

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director Environment

**SUBJECT:** Mersey Gateway Tolling/Silver Jubilee  
Bridge Road User Charging Order

**WARDS:** All

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 This report relates to the order under section 168 of the Transport Act 2000 that is being promoted by the Council in order to secure powers to promote the elements of the Mersey Gateway Project (the "Project") that relate to the Silver Jubilee Bridge ("SJB"), in particular to authorise the imposition of charges upon vehicles using the SJB. It deals with the next steps required to make an order to impose such charges.
- 1.2 On 10<sup>th</sup> April 2008 the Council, acting by its Executive Board, resolved to promote a scheme for the imposition of charges for the use of the SJB and its associated approach roads by vehicles. It also resolved - in accordance with Section 170 Transport Act 2000 - that it should undertake consultation in relation to the proposed charging scheme.
- 1.3 There is no statutorily imposed procedure for consultation under s170 Transport Act 2000. Therefore, officers discussed the approach with the Department for Transport. It was agreed that a consultation period should be set so as to end at the same time as the objection period for the Transport and Works Act 1992 Application ("TWA Application") for the Mersey Gateway Bridge. Members will recall that the TWA Application also deals with tolling/charging of the Mersey Gateway Bridge.
- 1.4 On 30 May 2008 the Council commenced consultation in relation to the proposed road user charging scheme.
- 1.5 The consultation period in respect of the SJB road user charging scheme and the objection period for the TWA Application both expired on 18 August 2008.
- 1.6 Road user charging schemes must be imposed by an order made by the Council. Therefore the Council must consider relevant representations before resolving to make the order. This report seeks, subject to the consideration of any relevant representations, the resolution of the Executive Board that an order should be made in relation to the road user charging scheme and that the order, once

made, should be submitted to the Secretary of State for Transport for confirmation.