

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 10th July 2025

REPORTING OFFICER: Executive Director - Environment and Regeneration

PORTFOLIO: Environment and Urban Renewal

SUBJECT: Highway structures major maintenance

WARD(S) Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To seek approval to proceed with the procurement of major maintenance works to key structures on the Runcorn Busway under the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) programme using the SCAPE Framework.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That The Board approves the Director Planning and Transportation, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder - Environment and Urban Renewal, to be delegated to deal with any matters relating to the procurement and delivery of the scheme to refurbish the Shopping City Busway Viaduct (North) and associated structures.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 It is proposed that refurbishment to the Shopping City North Viaduct and other adjacent structures on the Runcorn busway be undertaken via the SCAPE framework.

3.2 Due to the age of the structures, the required works include concrete repairs, replacement of bridge joints, renewal of waterproofing systems, resurfacing and drainage repairs. This work is essential to ensure the longevity of the structures and minimise the occurrence of safety issues or disruption to the travelling public associated with the deterioration of highway infrastructure.

3.3 Scheme design and contract development have been undertaken to Feasibility stage within the SCAPE framework with the contractor Balvac. As such, the budget estimate for the scheme is understood to be approximately £1.5m, and the construction period will be around 6 months. The earliest start for the site works is anticipated to be during August 2025.

3.4 The cost of this major maintenance scheme will be met from the

approved CRSTS capital budget allocation for Structures.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The method of procurement conforms to the Council's procurement policies.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The contract works to be covered by the CRSTS Capital grant funding agreement, with no requirement for HBC match funding.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence

Maintaining high quality transport infrastructure provides residents with opportunities to walk and cycle, and hence live healthier, more independent lifestyles.

6.2 Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy

Maintaining network links to employment areas and investing in transport infrastructure will improve the attractiveness of the borough for residents and businesses.

6.3 Supporting Children, Young People and Families

Well maintained transport infrastructure ensures that the public can travel quickly and easily around the borough.

6.4 Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need

Efficient and affordable public transport infrastructure is essential to tackling inequality and helping those most in need.

6.5 Working Towards a Greener Future

An efficient urban rapid transport system reduces congestion and promotes modal shift to a lower carbon travel choice compared to the private car.

6.6 Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community

Well maintained highways ensure the public can travel quickly and easily around the borough.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 Failure to deliver essential maintenance works to key structures would breach HBC's statutory requirements as Highway Authority in addition to the terms of grant funding agreements with the Liverpool City Region.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 None identified.

9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The bus viaducts are an essential part of the busway network in Runcorn, providing urban rapid transport and promoting modal shift to a mode that reduces congestion and offers a lower carbon travel choice to the private car.

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

‘None under the meaning of the Act.’