

REPORT TO: Environment and Regeneration Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 12 November 2025

REPORTING OFFICER: Executive Director Environment and Regeneration

PORTFOLIO: Environment and Urban Renewal

SUBJECT: Mersey Gateway Project

WARD(S) Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an overview of the Mersey Gateway Project in relation to achievement of the Seven Strategic Objectives and an update as at the eighth anniversary of the opening of the Mersey Gateway Bridge in October 2017.
- 1.2 A presentation at the meeting will be provide further details on the achieved objectives.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the report be noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Mersey Gateway Bridge (MGB) opened to traffic on the 14th October 2017 and on the eighth anniversary almost 190m crossings had been made on the bridges since opening. The Council established the project with the intention of it delivering the following seven strategic objectives:
1. To relieve the congested SJB, thereby removing the constraint on local and regional development and better provide for local transport needs:
 2. To apply minimum toll charges to both MGB and SJB consistent with the amount required to satisfy affordability constraints:
 3. To improve accessibility in order to maximise local development and regional economic growth opportunities:
 4. To improve local air quality and enhance the general urban environment:
 5. To improve public transport links across the river
 6. To encourage the increased use of cycling and walking:
 7. To restore effective network resilience for road transport across the river Mersey.
- 3.2 All of these objectives have now been achieved, and the

presentation will provide further details on these achievements.

- 3.3 The project has delivered major transport improvements, such as:
- Reductions in some journey times of up to 15 minutes in peak periods.
 - Increase in journey time reliability, less congestion; and
 - A major strategic new transport route linking the Liverpool City Region and the North West to the rest of the country.

- 3.4 The MGB has also delivered an 80% reduction in traffic using the SJB, freeing it up for use as a local bridge. This in turn has delivered social benefits to communities in and around Halton including:
- Improvements to public transport facilities.
 - Improvements to walking and cycling facilities; and
 - Improved health as a result of reduced air pollution

- 3.5 Achievements made through the Mersey Gateway Environmental Trust have included creating and managing new wildlife habitats like saltmarsh and reedbeds, removing over 3.2 tonnes of plastic from the estuary, and conducting environmental monitoring to assess bird populations.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Providing that the Council continues to operate the project within the obligations outlined in the DfT Funding Letter 2016, then there are no negative financial implications as the Project costs are met from project revenue and DfT grants.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

There are no direct implications for the Council's priorities.

- Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence
- Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy
- Supporting Children, Young People and Families
- Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need
- Working Towards a Greener Future
- Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 7.1 The controls and processes of the Mersey Gateway Crossings

Board' (MGCB) who provide regular financial reporting to Central Government and Council will mitigate as far as possible any future risk of financial unsustainability developing.

- 7.2 A project risk register covering financial, contractual, operational and other risks is maintained by MGCB.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 8.1 None

9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 None

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

'None under the meaning of the Act.'