

APPENDIX 1 – BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1.1 Network Rail's stated aims and objectives are to:

- Improve the safety of level crossing users
- Deliver a more efficient and reliable railway
- Reduce the ongoing operating and maintenance cost of the railway
- Reduce delays to trains, pedestrians and other highway users
- Improve journey time reliability for railway, highway and other rights of way users

1.2 This is the first stage of five proposed stages in Network Rail's Anglia Level Crossings Strategy, aimed at closing crossings that Network Rail consider will have little impact on users or for which alternative routes can be readily found without the need for a new bridge. Cambridgeshire County Council's own assessment of the impact of the proposals can be found in its response to the Diversity Impact Assessment Scoping Report dated 9th November 2016 (see Appendix 3), and in its table of reasons for the County Council's position on each crossing proposal at Appendix 5.

1.3 Network Rail intend to achieve the closures through a Transport & Works Act Order (TWAO). Normally, changes to the network are made on an individual basis by application to Cambridgeshire County Council as the Highway Authority, who then makes the relevant orders under specific sections of the Highways Act 1980, holding a public inquiry if appropriate. The Authority is reimbursed for its costs. By contrast, a TWAO would enable the closures to the network to be effected in bulk; the County Council is a statutory consultee but cannot recover its costs.

1.4 Network Rail plans to submit its TWAO application to the Secretary of State in Spring 2017, following which a public inquiry may be held before the decision is made in early 2018. The detailed timeline can be seen online at <http://www.networkrail.co.uk/anglialevelcrossings/>. This is a pilot project for Network Rail which, if successful, will be used as a mechanism elsewhere.

Maps of public rights of way

1.5 Public rights of way links in context of their communities can be seen at the County Council's online mapping at <http://my.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/myCambridgeshire.aspx?MapSource=CCC/AllMaps&Layers=row,row-tab=maps>