

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 and in its table of reasons for the County Council's position on each crossing proposal at Document A of Appendix 3.

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 The draft TWAo was published on 14th March 2017 following application to the Secretary of State. It is likely that a public inquiry will 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

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>

Policy documents

The County Council's Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Plan, Rights of Way Improvement Plan (revised 2016) and the Cambridgeshire Health & Well-Being Strategy 2012-17 are policy documents that have informed the County Council's approved position to date in terms of asset liability and access to a rights of way network that links communities, for the physical and mental well-being of residents (see Appendix 1 for web link).

Web links

Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Plan

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/transport-plans-and-policies/transport-delivery-plan-and-highway-policies/>

Rights of Way Improvement Plan

http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20006/travel_roads_and_parking/66/transport_plans_and_policies and Health & Well-Being Strategy

http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20004/health_and_keeping_well/548/cambridgeshire_health_and_wellbeing_board