

# Gull Wing Key Stakeholder Group Agenda

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020, 10:00-12:00 | Microsoft Teams



Attendees	Apologies
Peter Aldous MP - Chair Amanda Frost – Lowestoft Town Council Andrew Pearce – Suffolk County Council Bryn Griffiths – Suffolk County Council Cllr Alison Cackett - East Suffolk Council Cllr Craig Rivett - East Suffolk Council Desi Reed - East Suffolk Council Cllr James Reeder - Suffolk County Council Karen Staples - East Suffolk Council Katherine Potts - Suffolk County Council Cllr Matthew Hicks - Suffolk County Council Paul Ager – Associated British Ports Cllr Peter Byatt - East Suffolk Council Phil Harris - East Suffolk Council Richard Perkins – Lowestoft & Waveney Chamber of Commerce Tamzen Pope - East Suffolk Council Warren Hoskins-Davies - East Suffolk Council Andrew Jarvis - East Suffolk Council Jennifer Cushion – Suffolk Chamber of Commerce Christos Galanopoulos – Highways England Kate Ellis – East Suffolk Council	Chris Starkie - NALEP Laura Waters – NALEP Mark Bee Philip Ridley - East Suffolk Council Carolyn Barnes - East Suffolk Council Gary Bellward - East Suffolk Council Sue Meeken - East Suffolk Council Paul Mackie - East Suffolk Council Cllr Norman Brooks - East Suffolk Council Ben Matthews – Suffolk County Council Matt Brennan - Network Rail (new contact Charles Baker)

	Description	Lead
1	<b>Welcome, apologies &amp; introductions</b>	Peter Aldous MP
2	<p><b>Political Update</b></p> <p>If there are any issues we need addressing to progress the consideration of the Full Business Case for the project, Peter will follow this up with Government. Peter will be lobbying for Gull Wing to be included as an infrastructure project that is ready to start to assist the UK economic recovery. It was noted that the lobbying will be to secure a timely decision as the Secretary of State must be left to make his actual decision independently.</p> <p>Bryn noted that SCC were invited to submit the full business case to DfT with the understanding that as long as SCC uphold the original outline business case and deliver the items outlined, we should receive the funding. The Government is keen to progress infrastructure projects in present circumstances.</p>	Peter Aldous MP
3	<p><b>Project Progress Update</b></p> <p>The Local Partnerships review – LP's are a body set up by Government to support public sector organisations. They began some years ago out of concerns surrounding spiralling costs for infrastructure projects. The benefit of reviews are that organisations who have delivered similar infrastructure projects are the reviewers so they can ensure that we're on track and will share their learning experiences.</p> <p>Bryn read the Local Partnership Reviews summary from their report, noting the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gull Wing is the largest SCC infrastructure project the council is undertaking and is taking up a significant proportion of the SCC Capital programme.</li> <li>It is the greatest capital investment Lowestoft has seen for many years, and it is hoped that it will unlock significant business and community benefits, creating a catalyst for economic</li> </ul>	Bryn Griffiths/ Andrew Pearce

revival. SCC recognise the need to maximise social value throughout the project.

- The review team found that SCC's decision to evoke the design and build clause and go back to market had led to two high quality tenders.
- The review noted that once the full business case had been submitted to DfT and tender had been accepted, the project team would need to focus on project delivery including resources and governance.
- As a result of the review, the LP announced that the project should have an Amber DCA rating on the basis that there were still key staff appointments needed to set up the SCC Delivery Team needed for a successful outcome during the construction contract.

The tenders have now been evaluated, and a tender has now been chosen and contractor contacted. The 10 day cooling off period for other applicants to object has now passed. Once the tender is accepted, the project team will focus on project delivery.

Clr Reeder thanked Andrew and Bryn for the successful outcome of full Cabinet approval which was a significant milestone, despite the challenges faced. At the Cabinet meeting on 25 August SCC agreed to the following key outcomes:

- Set Budget including comprehensive risk/contingency
- Agree to submit Full Business Case to DfT
- Agree to award the new construction contract
- Agree to a new timetable for delivery
- Advise the new name

The project has encountered some setbacks - no-one could have anticipated a general election, Covid-19, and the appointment of a new transport minister which have caused a delay to the planned start date.

#### **New Name – Gull Wing. Update from Katherine Potts**

- 22 schools were invited to submit ideas for naming competition from Lowestoft and surrounding area. The competition was open to Year 5 pupils (age 9/10)
- 7 schools entered
- The panel consisted of Peter Aldous MP, SCC, East Suffolk Council and Lowestoft Town Council
- The winners were a group of three students from Somerleyton Primary. The pupils received a book token each, and SCC are now looking at substantial STEM funding for the school.

Generally, there has been a positive response to the name, and we are now rolling out the logo, social media, new email and website. A domain name for the Gull Wing has been secured. Bryn asked that the group do not abbreviate the name and stick to Gull Wing.

Comments:

Paul Ager ABP - has heard some negative comments towards the name but nothing too much to concern anyone.

Clr Frost LTC - feedback in Kirkley is very positive about the name. There is a lot of optimism in Kirkley for the project.

Clr Hicks SCC – thank you to the officers who have done all the work to get us to the full business case. There was no doubt in the room at Cabinet about the benefit the bridge will bring to Lowestoft and indeed the region.

Clr Byatt SCC – would like to emphasise how welcome the project was to schools to be engaged in such a project.

Katherine noted that the naming competition was designed to be a longer term relationship – Eyes

	<p>On... was our first 'in' to the schools – we had positive relationship with Lowestoft Rising and ECC throughout the project and are interested in further engagement</p> <p>Construction Contract Award - Bryn advised that the new contract for the build was raised in November 2019 and the procurement continued until 26<sup>th</sup> May followed by a long and comprehensive evaluation period. There were two very close bids, and SCC reported that in excess of £12m has been saved based on the prices put before us previously. However, there was a lot of risk associated with the proposal, and costs could have easily exceeded that. The new tender puts SCC at a more advantageous commercial position than previous contract.</p> <p>The 10 Day Standstill period when 'legal challenge' could delay project ended on 14<sup>th</sup> September, and no challenges were raised. We will now hold initial meetings with the new contractor and make a public announcement w/c 28th September.</p> <p>The full business case was submitted soon after County Council Cabinet approval. Initial queries and technical assessment by DfT underway. The DfT target is to process in 8-10 weeks but there is no legal requirement for this, and there was a need for a prompt decision to award the contract on time.</p> <p>CLlr Cackett noted that some contractors are struggling to get materials due to Covid – is there a contingency for this? Andrew explained that there has been a lot of work to quantify and address the risk. The overall budget has a good allowance to cover additional costs for materials.</p>	
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>Project next steps</b></p> <p>Complete tender evaluation – August 2020</p> <p>Cabinet meeting – August 2020</p> <p>Anticipated confirmation of preferred contractor – September 2020</p> <p>Full business case submission to DfT – September 2020</p> <p>DfT full business case funding approval – November 2020</p> <p>Contract execution and commencement – November 2020</p> <p>Construction phase start on site – Spring 2021</p> <p>Bridge construction complete and open for public use - 2023</p>	
<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>Comms</b></p> <p>We received widespread press coverage following the Cabinet decision, which was generally positive. Archaeology work is due to take place on site in the coming week, and the newsletter will be sent out once the contractor has been announced.</p> <p>The group are to note that there will be new branding and guidance to follow for this. A new email address, website and social media channels will be established.</p> <p>Comments:</p> <p>Peter Aldous enquired as to whether there would be a time-lapse camera will be in place to capture the build. This was confirmed that this would be the case.</p> <p>CLlr Byatt - Concerns have been raised by Nexen about commercial viability - have these been addressed? Bryn advised that SCC are still in negotiations with Nexen and no commercial agreement in place as yet, but our land negotiation specialist and contractor will work with them to find a solution.</p> <p>CLlr Cackett felt it was important to note that whilst the project is important to Lowestoft, it also affects those in the South who have to get to Norwich and JPH so perhaps we can make comms wider.</p> <p>CLlr Byatt - noted that previously there was mention of an observation area for the public.</p> <p>Peter Aldous MP - With Covid-19 this is a big value project, a lot of money will circulate and we need</p>	<p>Katherine Potts</p>

	to keep this within the local economy and having a social and community value.	
7	<p><b>Future Meetings format, frequency and attendance.</b></p> <p>Peter asked the group if we need to meet more regularly when construction starts, review who attends the meeting, and how we meet. Peter is conscious that Highways England and Network Rail have some distance to travel so a virtual meeting means it is easier to be engaged. Peter suggested a hybrid meeting and opened the topic to comments.</p> <p>ABP and ESC offered their conference rooms, although these have limited capacity given Covid social distancing restrictions. Many preferred the idea of retaining the virtual meetings which seem to have a higher attendance rate and saves time on travelling. There will be further opportunities for site visits. The group agreed that hybrid or virtual meetings should continue.</p>	Peter Aldous MP
	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>Jennifer Cushion (Suffolk Chamber) asked about meet the buyer sessions – Bryn advised that we need to have an event that launches the construction phase with the contractor. There is a section in the business case about how we will work with the local supply chain. Jennifer noted that the Chamber is happy to support with any event that takes place.</p> <p>Cllr Byatt wanted to know if the group would be meeting with the new contractor at the next meeting. Bryn advised the contractor will be a regular guest, and at the least the relationship manager would attend.</p> <p>Cllr Frost wanted to note her excitement for the benefits and opportunities Gull Wing will bring to Kirkley and Lowestoft!</p> <p>Bryn wanted to add his thanks to the key stakeholders in the group – the positive support was noted throughout all the consultations and reviews and the project could not have progressed without this support.</p> <p>Cllr Reeder –understand that there has been a change of role at Network Rail. Bryn is arranging a meeting with Mark Ash and the key senior landowners – including ABP, Network Rail etc. Andrew has been engaging with Network Rail regarding with the technical approval, which is always a nervous topic, but we do have a good working relationship. Peter added that from an MPs perspective, who has to work with Network Rail regularly, he felt Matt Brennan had been proactive in previous years.</p> <p>Meeting was closed.</p> <p>Next meeting - <b>Friday</b> 11 December, 15:00 - 17:00</p>	All