

WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY AN OFFICER

**DECISION TITLE: Centre Park Link – Transfer of Slutchers Lane Railway
 Bridges from Network Rail**

Executive Board Decision No and/or Forward Plan No (Executive decisions only)	EB158/ EB163 of 12 th March 2018
Directorate Ref No (Non Executive decisions only) If applicable	N/A
Decision detail	<p>That the Director of Environment and Transport, following consultation with the Executive Board Member, Highways, Transportation and Public Realm, the Director of Corporate Services and Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer to the Council, approves the detail of the transaction with Network Rail which is in accordance with the Executive Board report of 12th March 2018 and authorises the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer to conclude the necessary agreements with Network Rail on that basis'</p>
Reason for Decision	<p>On the 12th March 2018 Executive Board considered a report regarding the Centre Park Link project.</p> <p>The project will provide traffic relief and network resilience for both Brian Bevan and Bridgefoot junctions and the wider highway network consequently allow further development within these areas, particularly the Southern Gateway. It will promote a residential housing scheme of circa 500 homes in a location close to the Town Centre encouraging use of the Town Centre and complementing other town centre regeneration projects. It is the first step in the development of the overall waterfront programme and indicates to our partners that the Council is capable of delivering strategic infrastructure aligned to the overall development of Warrington. To meet the current programme for the delivery of the Centre Park Link project it is necessary to progress and complete the acquisition of all necessary land and property interests.</p> <p>The Executive Board approved the report and recommendations and, amongst other decisions it:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“vii) Granted delegated authority to the Executive Director, Economic Regeneration, Growth and Environment, following consultation with the Executive Board Member, Highways, Transportation and Public Realm, the Director of Corporate Services and Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer to the Council, to enter in to all necessary</p>

	<p>Agreements with Network Rail relevant to the delivery of the project, including the transfer of the Slutchers Lane bridge and accept the agreed £327k commuted sum payment from Network Rail”.</p> <p>[NOTE: The Director of Environment and Transport is successor to the Executive Director, Economic Regeneration, Growth and Environment and is now the officer responsible for exercising this delegation].</p> <p>Officers have been in dialogue with Network Rail over the agreements to transfer the structures to the Council in conjunction with the payment to the Council of a dowry of £327,000. This is required to enable the Centre Park Link scheme and ensure that all necessary land and property assets have been acquired and any points of potential objection to the scheme are removed.</p> <p>This process has now concluded and the agreements are in their final form and agreed by both parties.</p> <p>Therefore it is necessary to enter in to these agreements and hence action the transfer of the structures and payment of the dowry prior to the end of financial year which is also Network Rail’s final date within this control period (CP5).</p>
Decision Maker/Responsible Officer	David Boyer, Director
Directorate	Environment and Transport
Lead Executive Board Member consulted (if applicable)	Cllr Hans Mundry – Executive Member Highways Transportation and Public Realm
Decision Date	18 March 2019
Date Decision was published / notified (normally within 2 clear working days of decision being made)	26 March 2019
Summary of options considered	<p>Not taking ownership of the structures has been considered previously however this would lead to potential challenge to the progression of the Centre Park Link project due to the required change in classification of the highway to an ‘A’ road which they carry.</p> <p>Also the ability to draw down a dowry at the point of transfer which has been calculated based on the future inspection and maintenance needs of the structures in question has significantly lessened the residual liability on the Council.</p>
Interests declared	None
Background Papers (if applicable)	Executive Board Report and Minutes EB158/EB163 of 12th March 2018.

<i>(period expires after 4 years from date of decision)</i>	
Confidential / exempt information Category (if applicable)	Not applicable

NB. This form expires after 6 years.