

FENLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE

June 19, 2019

Fenland council leader welcomes assurances over King's Dyke crossing project

The Leader of Fenland District Council has welcomed assurances from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Mayor that he is committed to supporting Cambridgeshire County Council deliver the King's Dyke bridge in Whittlesey as quickly and as cost-effectively as possible. Cllr Chris Boden has held several urgent discussions with Mayor James Palmer in the last few days amid concerns about the delivery of the County Council project.

Last week the Mayor expressed a lack of confidence in how the project was being managed by the County Council following further proposed cost escalations. As the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority was approached by the County Council to provide significant additional funding for the project, the Mayor's insistence that further cost escalations were unacceptable has been taken by many local residents in Whittlesey to mean that the construction project will be abandoned.

But Cllr Boden, who is also a town and district councillor for Whittlesey, and Combined Authority board member, has been assured that is not the case.

Cllr Boden was told by Mayor Palmer that the Combined Authority will use its best endeavors to support the County Council in the delivery of the scheme. Mayor Palmer said the Combined Authority would also consider taking control of the project if they were asked to do so by the County Council.

He said: "I'm pleased to be able to reassure local residents that James Palmer has confirmed to me that he recognises the vital importance of the King's Dyke bridge both to local residents and for the area's economic growth. Mayor James Palmer also confirmed that he is personally committed to supporting the County Council to find a solution for its delivery as quickly and as cost-effectively as possible.

"Mayor Palmer's reassurance that his concerns last week regarding the scheme should not be read as an intention to abandon support for the project will come as a real relief to local residents who just want to see this essential improvement to the A605 at King's Dyke."

Cllr Boden added: "The level crossing at King's Dyke has for years caused increasing delays for motorists travelling into and out of Whittlesey. These delays have been and will continue to be a real drag on economic growth in the wider area unless this vital project is progressed as quickly as possible."

ENDS

For more information contact Fenland District Council press office on 01354 622226