

Response to Request for Information

Reference: FOI-2025 - 7212

Date: 04/12/2025

A605 Ralph Butcher Highway Remedial Work

On 20th November 2025, CCC issued an update on the A605 Ralph Butcher Highway Remedial Work at <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/kings-dyke-update>. Eleven reports on the progress of the works had preceded the one on the 20th November, issued at regular two-weekly intervals.

Prior to the start of the remedial works, an update on 18th June 2025 stated “The work will begin on Monday 7 July and will last 22 weeks, until 8 December.”

NONE of the earlier reports mentioned any slippage to the projected end date. However, the 20th November stated that the work was extended to the end of January 2026. To suddenly move the end date of a project by two months just 18 days before the original programme was due for completion.

Could you please answer the following questions:

1. On what date (as closely as can be determined) did CCC officers become aware that the programme was unlikely to be completed on 8th December?
2. How long did CCC officers wait before informing the public?
3. Was there a process in place to examine the progress reports from the contractor and determine their accuracy or were they simply taken at face value?
4. Was the contractor asked for confirmation of the end date at any time, and did they confirm the 8th December date, or admit to some slippage in their programme?
5. Is there a plan for a review of the Project Management of this contract by CCC, given the adverse effect on Whittlesey and the A605 transport route?
6. If the answer to q.5 is 'Yes', will the results of this review be made public?

Cambridgeshire County Council has now considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

We can confirm that we do hold the information requested by you. Please find our response as set out below.

Our Response:

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January 2026. To suddenly move the end date of a project by two months just 18 days before the original programme was due for completion.

Could you please answer the following questions:

1. On what date (as closely as can be determined) did CCC officers become aware that the programme was unlikely to be completed on 8th December?

At the progress update meeting, attended by County Council Officers and the contractor Jones Bros, on 30 October 2025, it was discussed that the main embankment works would be completed on 19 December 2025 and all works would be complete by 21 January 2026. However, this was based on the sub-contractors October Progress Programme, which was then incorporated into the main contractors programme and issued formally to the County Council by Jones Bros on 3 November 2025. This programme identified a planned date to open up to two way running on 21 January 2026. Further discussions were then held on 14 November to consider whether it was possible to open the carriageway ahead of completion of works.

2. How long did CCC officers wait before informing the public?

The public update on 20 November provided the revised dates for completion of the works, 12 working days from receipt of the programme.

3. Was there a process in place to examine the progress reports from the contractor and determine their accuracy or were they simply taken at face value?

Officers at the County Council have been meeting weekly with the contractors, and the Council has an appointed external NEC (New Engineering Contract) Project Manager and NEC Supervisor, provided through consultant Tetra Tech. Progress reports are provided through Jones Bros and our own project team following regular site visits.

4. Was the contractor asked for confirmation of the end date at any time, and did they confirm the 8th December date, or admit to some slippage in the programme?

The programme is discussed each week at the progress update meetings. As noted under point 1, the contractor issued their programme with the revised end date on 3 November 2025.

5. Is there a plan for a review of the Project Management of this contract by CCC, given the adverse effect on Whittlesey and the A605 transport route?

There is currently no planned formal review of Project Management of this contract. There is planned internal audit on Project Assurance (Capital) in Quarter 1 of 2026/27 as published in the Internal Audit and Risk Management Update Report, available here [Document.ashx](#).

Complaints

We hope this information is helpful but if you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review, you should write to Information Management, at either foi@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or by post at Information Governance Team - SCO2306, Cambridgeshire County Council, PO Box 761, Huntingdon PE29 9QR within 40 days of the date of this e-mail.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner (ICO) can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF, or via their website: <https://ico.org.uk>.

Generally, the ICO will not undertake a review or make a decision on a request until the internal review process has been completed.