

A595 GRIZEBECK Improvement - PROJECT UPDATE

The Department for Transport on the 27th October 2020, confirmed £12.8m funding for the A595 Grizebeck Improvement subject to Full Business Case approval to deliver the scheme. This together with a contribution of £2.2m from Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership (CLEP), means Cumbria County Council can now continue work to deliver the highway improvement.

The funding from CLEP has allowed us to commence work on the preliminary design and we are working closely with our consultants, Capita, in the delivery of this. Ecological surveys have also commenced, and we are liaising with local landowners to make them aware of these surveys where we need access to their land. Other upcoming surveys include the topographical surveys and the geotechnical investigations, which will commence in March. Again, we are liaising with local landowners on the delivery of these surveys.

Key dates within the current programme include:

- Environmental Surveys (Dec 2020 – August 2021)
- Preparation of the Preliminary Design (Dec 2020 – June 2021)
- Ground Investigation Surveys (March-April 2021)
- Environmental Statement and Planning documentation preparation (March – August 2021)
- Meetings with landowners directly affected by the scheme (May – June 2021)
- Public Consultation on the Preliminary Design (June-July 2021)
- Further landowner engagement including Farm Viability Assessments where applicable (June – July 2021)
- Refinement of the Preliminary design following completion of surveys, public consultation, further landowner engagement (June – August 2021)
- Submission of Planning Application (End of August 2021)
- Statutory Process put in place (Side Roads Order and Compulsory Purchase Order, if required)
- Planning Determination (January 2022)
- A595 Grizebeck Improvement open to the public (autumn 2024)

Further engagement with local interest groups and the local community is also planned for later this month and into March to ensure that the community has the opportunity to comment and feedback on our proposals as the design develops. This is before the formal pre-planning public consultation, which will happen in the summer. It is likely that this will be undertaken virtually given current restrictions, however we will provide you with more information on the method of delivery and timescales when these become finalised. It is anticipated that the planning application will be submitted in August 2021.

Further information on the A595 Grizebeck Improvement is available on the project website: www.cumbria.gov.uk/a595grizebeck. The project team can be emailed directly at A595Grizebeck@cumbria.gov.uk.