

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Environment and Highways Cabinet Board

16 February 2017

Joint Report of the Head of Engineering and Transport

D. W. Griffiths

and the Head of Property and Regeneration

S. Brennan

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: Port Talbot & Margam

Port Talbot Integrated Transport Hub **Material Change Proposal**

Purpose of Report

1. To obtain authority for the Director and Head of Engineering and Transport to enter into a Material Change Proposal with Network Rail, Arriva Trains Wales and Great Western Railway (“the Material Change Consultees”) in relation to land adjacent to Port Talbot Parkway Station. The Material Change Proposal is a requirement of the Department for Transport.

Executive Summary

2. Members will already be aware of the proposals to construct an Integrated Transport Hub adjacent to Port Talbot Parkway.
3. This report sets out the requirement for a Material Change Proposal as set out in Appendix A for the Council’s proposed design which affects Railway land and assets.

Background

4. The redevelopment of Port Talbot Station by Network Rail provides opportunities to promote economic development, connectivity, the integrated transport strategy and the rail electrification process.

5. This has enabled the proposals to construct an Integrated Transport Hub at the lower end of Station Road, adjacent to the Parkway Station.
6. The new bridge has been designed with sufficient span to enable Heilbronn Way to be diverted beneath it as a single carriageway.
7. The Hub is identified in the Vibrant and Viable Places programme for Port Talbot to make the area more attractive and encourage investment, hence, economic viability and growth. It will also complement the Station as an attractive gateway into the Town and the Region.
8. The Hub is also identified as a priority in the Joint Transport Plan for South West Wales approved by the Council, Welsh Government and the Swansea Bay City Region Board.
9. It forms a fundamental part of the Integrated Transport Strategy and part of the Swansea Bay Priority Transport Corridor from Margam to Mumbles, supported by the Welsh Government and the City and County of Swansea. The corridor initiative provides public and sustainable transport access and connectivity to significant developments such as the University Campuses, Harbourside and Baglan Energy Park.
10. The Material Change Proposal was served upon the Material Change Consultees back on the 30th September 2016. The Council is waiting for the Material Change Consultees to confirm their acceptance of the Material Change Proposal. If the Proposal is accepted by the Material Change Consultees, then the Council will submit the Proposal for approval to the Office of Rail Regulation ("ORR"). Once approved by the ORR, the Proposal would then be Registered and the Council would issue an Implementation Notice to all relevant Consultees and to the ORR within 3 years and implement the Proposal.

Financial Impact

11. There are no direct financial impacts associated with implementing the Material Change Proposal.

Equality Impact Assessment

12. A Screening Assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010. After completing the assessment it has been determined that this proposal does not require an Equalities Impact Assessment.

Workforce Impact

13. There are no workforce impacts associated with this report.

Legal Impact

14. The Material Change Proposal needs to be implemented to allow the transfer of land between Network rail and NPTCBC.
15. The Proposal, once accepted, obliges the Council and the Material Consultees to enter into Co-operation Agreements & Financial Undertakings which are set out at Appendices 6 and 7 of the Proposal.
16. Under the Material Change Proposal, acceptance of the Proposal will bind the Council enter into any ancillary agreements as may be reasonably required in relation to alternative facilities to be made available during the carrying out of the scheme of works, in accordance with the Co-Operation Agreement. It will also bind the Council and the Material Change Consultees to enter into any other document that is legally necessary to give full effect to the Proposal.

Risk Management

17. Implementing the Material Change Proposal will allow the transfer of land between Network rail and NPTCBC allowing the works to be completed.
18. The Material Change Proposal details responsibility for assets within the area on completion of the works.

Consultation

19. There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that:-

20. Authority is given retrospectively for the service of the Material Change Proposal dated the 30th September 2016.
21. Authority is delegated to the Director of Environment and the Head of Engineering and Transport to carry out all further necessary steps to implement the Material Change Proposal as set out in the circulated report, including negotiating and agreeing changes to the appended Material Change Proposal with the Material Change Consultees or any other relevant consultees, subject to the proviso that any such changes do not significantly alter the basis of the Proposal.
22. Authority is delegated to the Head of Property & Regeneration to negotiate and agree the terms of any required licence to do works, land exchange agreements and transfers of land required to give effect to the Material Change Proposal.

Reason for Proposed Decision(s)

23. The Material Change Proposal will satisfy the requirement of the Department for Transport.
24. To promote the aims and objectives of the Economic Regeneration, Planning and Transport strategies and the Single Integrated Plan – Prosperity for All.

Implementation of Decision

25. The decision is an urgent one for immediate implementation, subject to the consent of the relevant Scrutiny Chair (and is therefore not subject to the call-in procedure).

Appendices

26. Material Change Proposal (Available on request from David Phillips).

List of Background Papers

27. Material Change Proposal.

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