

**A5036 Port of Liverpool Access Scheme Project Team Stakeholder Meeting:  
 Federation of Small Businesses**

Monday 17 December 2018

Arcadis, Warrington

**Attendees:**

'A', Federation of Small Businesses ('A');

'B', Highways England ('B');

'C', Arcadis ('C'),

'D', Arcadis ('D').

Item no.	Notes/actions	Action owner
1	<p>The Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) is the pre-eminent voice of community enterprise, with the majority of its members self-employed. The FSB provide their members with a wide range of core business services including advice, financial expertise, support and an influential voice in government. Their mission is to help smaller businesses achieve their ambitions. They are a not-for-profit organisation, led by a team of members, which exist to serve the small business community across the UK.</p> <p>It is estimated the FSB has approx. 1000 members in in Sefton MBC, which forms part of their Liverpool City Region (LCR) and Cheshire operational area. Their fortunes are a barometer of the resilience of the local economy and often depend on unfettered access to the local and regional highway network, as many are engaged in the export of local goods and services.</p> <p>Apart from maintaining a strong voice on Brexit, the FSB has been involved in a number of high-profile campaigns, in particular promoting the contribution of women in enterprise and advocating action to support community investment.</p>	<b>All to note.</b>
2	<p>Arcadis confirmed its role as assembling research and documentation for the DCO (planning application) for the scheme which would contain three elements: a new bypass through the existing Rimrose Valley, plans for the reconfiguration of the existing Rimrose Valley to contain multiple linkages to retain its unitary status and plans to detrunk the existing Dunning's Bridge Road/Church Road corridor.</p>	<b>'C'/'D'</b>
3	<p>Highways England (HE) noted according to local records a plan to build a road through the Rimrose Valley was not itself new and there were numerous public references over the last thirty years to that effect. Highways England had sought to conduct a positive dialogue about the transport infrastructure needs of the locality in recent times and had previously started a positive relationship with Sefton, together with Network Rail and Port of Liverpool owners, Peel Ports through the Port Access Steering Group. Progress was suspended by Sefton's decision to cease co-operation with Highways England when a decision not to pursue a tunnel option was taken early in 2017. The council instigated a Judicial Review on this basis that recently found in favour of HE. Sefton have subsequently confirmed they will not appeal. It was to be hoped that co-operation with the council can now be reinstated. The present timetable envisages a planning submission being lodged during 2019 that could involve a construction programme commencing in 2021.</p>	<b>'B'</b>
4	<p>The FSB understood the pressing business case of the A5036 Port of Liverpool Access Scheme and noted the role it could play in boosting the local economy. The opportunity to understand at first hand the details of the proposal was welcomed. Given the density of the local built environment, the need the pursue the route option through the Rimrose Valley Park was noted; as the alternative, the upgrading of the Dunning's Bridge corridor would not offer sufficient capacity for future needs and had the potential to have a greater impact on the residential amenity of the locality.</p>	<b>'A'</b>
6	<p>FSB had recently reorganised its regional activities and used to have a consultative panel of local businesses in Sefton. Since branch reorganisation and the transfer of economic</p>	<b>'A'/All to note.</b>

