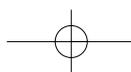
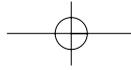


 the
mersey
gateway
A BRIDGE TO PROSPERITY

The Mersey Gateway Project





Building a bridge to prosperity

We have known for many years that there is a need for a new crossing over the River Mersey in Halton to ease growing traffic congestion across the region. That is why for over a decade we have led a campaign to secure the Mersey Gateway.

The Mersey Gateway will be the first major estuary crossing built in the 21st century and will relieve the traffic bottleneck caused by the Silver Jubilee Bridge – the only crossing on the 30km stretch of the river between the Mersey tunnels and Warrington.

The project will also act as a major catalyst for regeneration across the borough of Halton and the wider Liverpool city-region bringing the opportunity for new jobs, investment and improvements to public transport.

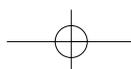
In March 2006, the Government approved the terms under which the project could be funded.

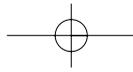
These terms made it clear that the only way that we can deliver the project and the benefits it will bring is to toll both the new bridge and the existing Silver Jubilee Bridge.

Our achievements in bringing this project to this point have only been made possible by the strong alliance of public and private sector organisations from across the region that make up the Mersey Crossing Group. I would personally like to thank all these supporters

The Mersey Gateway really is a bridge to prosperity and we are determined to deliver the vision set out in this brochure. You can find out more about the project and register your support by visiting our website at www.merseygateway.co.uk or by using the details at the back of this brochure.

Cllr Tony McDermott MBE
Leader, Halton Borough Council





The NEW Mersey Gateway Bridge

The Mersey Gateway is a £390 million project that will provide a new bridge over the River Mersey between the towns of Runcorn and Widnes.

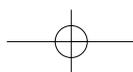
The Mersey Gateway will enable modifications to the existing Silver Jubilee Bridge to make it a local bridge with improved facilities for public transport, walking and cycling.

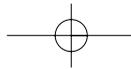
The Mersey Gateway will be a catalyst to transform the borough of Halton, improve the lives of local people and create new opportunities for business and investment in Halton, Cheshire, the Liverpool city-region, the north west and beyond.

At 2.4km in length and with the towers rising over 100m from the river, the Mersey Gateway bridge will be a landmark structure and recognisable symbol for the borough of Halton.

Three cable-stay towers will support the 1000m river crossing, including two 300m long main spans of the bridge, which will have three lanes of traffic running in each direction over the river.

The new Mersey Gateway Bridge would cross the river around one kilometre to the east of the Silver Jubilee Bridge. It will be a tolled crossing and will link the Central Expressway in Runcorn with the Eastern Bypass and Speke Road in Widnes.





The Need for a New Bridge

The Mersey Gateway is needed to bring about much needed traffic relief for the congested Silver Jubilee Bridge.

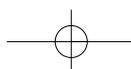
Mersey Gateway is a Transformational Project for the north west.

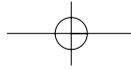
The project is more than just a bridge – the Northwest Regional Development Agency's (NWDA) regional economic strategy identifies Mersey Gateway as a transformational project. It is the catalyst that will connect communities and lead regeneration and investment throughout Halton and the north west.



The key project economic outcomes are:

- The direct creation of over 1600 permanent jobs
- New opportunities for local and regional businesses
- An estimated £650 million worth of net benefits to road users over a 30-year period
- Increased economic performance across the region
- Creation of additional new commercial floorspace
- A catalyst to the development of new homes, shops, offices and leisure facilities
- Better links between Halton, the north west and the rest of the country making it faster and more reliable to reach customers
- A new landmark attraction raising the profile of Halton across the country and the world.



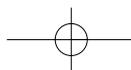
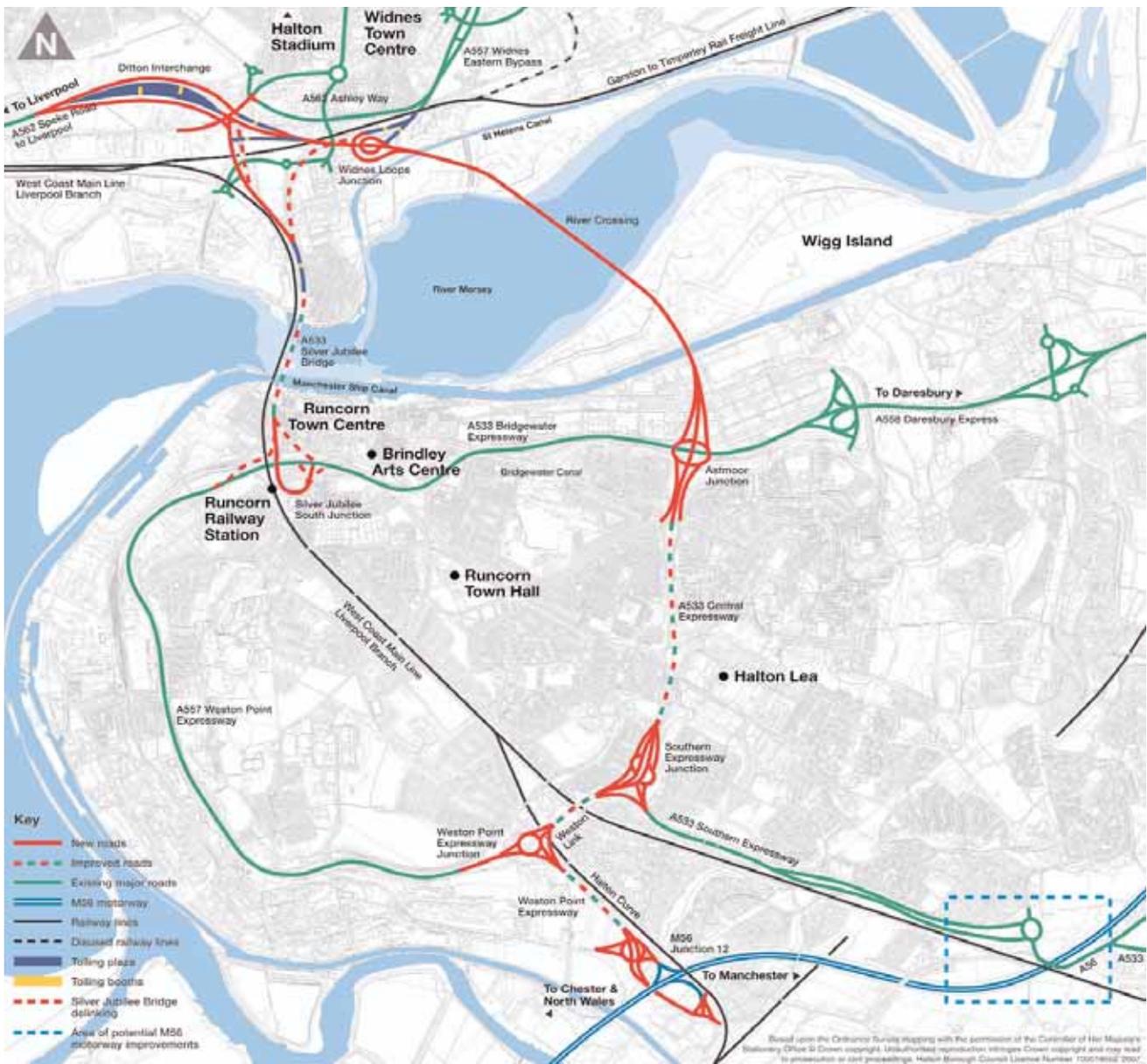


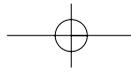
The Route

The Mersey Gateway will run from the Central Expressway in Runcorn to the Eastern Bypass and Speke Road in Widnes, crossing the river and canals around 1.5km east of the Silver Jubilee Bridge.

As well as building the new bridge, the project also involves making extensive changes and improvements to the road network in Widnes and Runcorn to channel traffic over the new crossing and away from the Silver Jubilee Bridge – a process known as ‘delinking’.

The route that the Mersey Gateway will take has been carefully chosen to ensure that it offers the greatest benefit, while minimising the environmental impact of the project.





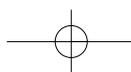
Environmental Studies

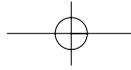
The project attaches great importance to ensuring that the environmental impact of the Mersey Gateway is minimised. Given the unique nature of the Mersey estuary in Halton, detailed Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) are being carried out on all issues surrounding the project.

The detailed findings of the EIA will be presented in the Environmental Statement (ES), which will be submitted with the planning application.

The ES will contain studies looking at 17 separate environmental disciplines. These are:

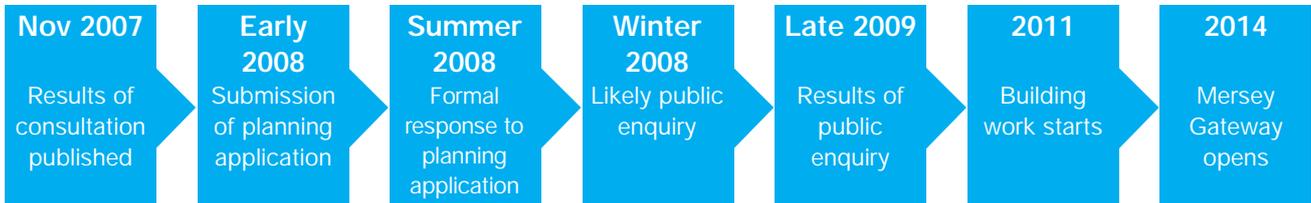
- Land Use
- Terrestrial (land-based) Ecology
- Aquatic (water-based) Ecology
- Estuary Processes (hydrodynamics and sediment movement)
- Water Quality (surface water quality)
- Visual Impact (landscape and visual amenity)
- Cultural Heritage (archaeology and historic features)
- Contamination (contamination of soils, sediments and ground-water)
- Waste and Materials
- Transport
- Navigation (river and canal users)
- Air Quality (air quality and climate)
- Noise and Vibration
- Social
- Economics
- Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA)
- Planning Policy and Guidance.





Project Timetable

If approved, the Mersey Gateway is due to open to the public in 2014. Before then, there are a number of important stepping stones along the way.



About Us

The Mersey Gateway Project team is a dedicated unit set up within Halton Borough Council.

It is led by an experienced Project Director, Steve Nicholson, and supported by a range of specialists in areas like consultation, engineering, highways and environmental management, all of which are essential for a project of this scale and complexity to succeed.

The project is also supported by the following bodies:

Mersey Crossing Group

This is made up of supporters from regional government, other local authorities and the private sector from across the region. It provides a regional perspective to the project and ensures that it will bring broad benefits across the north west.

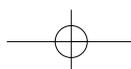
Mersey Gateway Advisory Panel

This is made up of public and private sector representatives from across Halton and around the north west. It provides vital experience and scrutiny to ensure that the project continues to meet its targets.

Mersey Gateway Executive Board (MGEb)

This provides approvals, strategic direction and investment authority for the project. The MGEb is a sub group of, and has delegated authority from, the Halton Borough Council Executive Board.

The logos to the right show the broad backing the project has in the region.





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