

## **Email Update for the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work, dated 7 September 2017**

### **Programme implications**

We are now concerned that the delay to the project in trying to get this process underway is over a year. Given the promotion from the group's events held in June, there is now a local expectation that the co-creative process will start soon and recent loss of momentum will lead to reputational problems for all involved. We have shared this concern with the group and they also recognise the issue. Whilst acknowledging that the group wish to process to be designed as well as it can be, we have set out that we feel it is now more important to start the process and iron out any inevitable wrinkles as we go.

The group felt the process may take until April 2018 with an October 2017 start date and TS is keen to try and adhere to that timescale. We intend to start the design of the process with the group with a view to commencing events in October as previously agreed. Once that work is underway, the group will be able to add in any additional items or resource they feel necessary but it is vital that we maintain momentum.

In terms of overall impact on the dualling programme, if we can conclude the co-creative process in April 2018, the timeline for completion of the project by 2025 [REDACTED]. Further slippage beyond April would increase the risk of not achieving 2025.

### **Recommendation**

Given the programme implications and the protracted response times from the group in general, we recommend that we start the design of a co-creative process to commence in October 2017 and the Cabinet Secretary is invited to confirm he is content to proceed on this basis.

Regards

[REDACTED]