

RESPONSE TO ACTION POINT

AUDIT COMMITTEE	
21 SEPTEMBER 2015	PUBLIC

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015

ACTION POINT – 29 JUNE 2015		
To provide a briefing note to Members of the Audit Committee which will outline the implications of the Bourges Boulevard developments completion delay to include:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimated completion date for the works; • How the project was being financed, including which external grants had been secured; and • Whether the additional timescale had impacted on the cost of the scheme. 		
Contact Officer (s)	Simon Machen Corporate Director Growth and Regeneration	453475
Response:		
1	Bourges Boulevard/Crescent Bridge improvements were included as a priority in the Council's adopted Long Term Transport Strategy 2011-26 and Local Transport Plan 3 (2011-16). It was recognised that the dual carriageway represented a major barrier to movement between the city centre and the train station, and the city centre and residential areas to the east, with limited cycle and pedestrian crossings.	
1.1	As with all major transport schemes, the Council identifies and bids for potential sources of external funding to offset the need for corporate funding. Phase 1 of the Bourges Boulevard improvement scheme (the area between the train station and Queensgate) successfully secured grant funding of £2.1m through the Greater Cambridgeshire and Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership and £600k from the new Waitrose development through a S106 agreement attached to the planning consent. The scheme is an integral part of the regeneration of this part of the city centre and directly supports current proposals for the regeneration of North Westgate and improvements to Queensgate shopping centre.	
1.2	The scheme was completed on 21st July 2015, and includes two pedestrian crossings, a right turn junction out of the station and significant enhancements to public realm which complements other works in the city centre (Cowgate, Cathedral Square, Long Causeway, Wentworth Street and Bridge Street). These enhancements to public realm have been a significant contributory factor in recent investment decisions in the city centre and our low high street retail vacancy rate.	
1.3	The construction contract with Eurovia is approximately £3.86m which is within the CMDN £4.0m allocation, and the overall scheme cost (including design and supervision) is approximately £4.5m, which is within the original £4.7m budget. Where possible local supply chain has been used and the planters and railings were manufactured in Stilton by Darke's.	

1.4	The scheme has taken longer than expected due to a combination of the decision to close down the works during the lead up to Christmas, to minimise disruption to shoppers and businesses, and Anglian Water improvement and diversion works. The latter resulted in a time delay 92 days and an additional cost of £241,975, but the scheme is still within budget. It is essential that utilities are upgraded as part of any major road scheme to limit the need to undertake further works in the future.
-----	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------