



The Mersey Gateway – A Bridge to Prosperity

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Summary

In March 2014 Halton Borough Council reached Financial Close and awarded the contract for the Mersey Gateway Project to the Merseylink consortium. This had been preceded by some 30 months of procurement, and it was with immense pride that the Council made the announcement for award of the 30 year concession contract in time to open the new crossing by 2017. The Project has been procured as a privately financed Public Private Partnership (PPP) project and its financial structure is seen as ground breaking for infrastructure investment in the UK. The procurement delivered impressive savings of £250m on the cost of the concession for the Council under the budget set by Government in 2011.

The centre piece of the project is a spectacular new 6 lane, 1km long, twin span cable stayed bridge over the River Mersey Estuary in the North West of the UK. The crossing will be tolled and includes several km of new and upgraded road. The new crossing will be a transformational project for the regional economic strategy, acting as a trigger for regeneration and investment.

Keywords: cable stay bridge, tolled highway, competitive dialogue, procurement, PPP, planning application, Transport and Works Act.

1. Project Background

1.1 Overview of the Project

The Mersey Gateway project will deliver a new tolled crossing of the river Mersey in Halton in the north west of the UK, connecting the towns of Widnes and Runcorn on the north and south sides of the estuary respectively.



Fig. 1: Silver Jubilee Bridge



Fig 2: Mersey estuary existing crossings