

QUESTION BY A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12

Council Meeting: **Wednesday, 23 July 2025**

Question from: **Penny Hutchinson**

Question to: **Councillor Sarah Courtney, Lead Member for
Regeneration and Transport**

QUESTION

Roadworks across Halifax have spiralled out of control, causing major disruption, gridlock, and serious damage to local trade. The owner of one of Halifax's most iconic stores has publicly raised alarm, others are reporting lost business. Businesses are struggling, and residents are losing patience—more closures and traffic controls keep being added. This reflects a failure of project management and planning. Who is taking political responsibility for this chaos, and what is the Council doing to hold contractors properly to account for keeping to timescales and doing the job right first time? Our town, residents and local economy are struggling.

RESPONSE

We understand and share your concerns regarding the disruption experienced by local businesses, and we want to assure you that robust measures are in place to ensure and manage the performance of the works contractors.

The works currently underway to the west of the town centre are part of the A629 phase 2 Halifax town centre project which is a multi-million pound investment that will bring a wide range of benefits to businesses and people; living, working, visiting and travelling around the town centre once complete

The A629 Phase 2 Town Centre project is being delivered by a single integrated team, with the Project Manager, Council representatives, and the contractor all working together to ensure that the programme is delivered safely, efficiently and with due consideration to local stakeholders.

Under this contract, the contractor's performance is reviewed and challenged rigorously by an independent Project Manager. Where performance issues arise, the contract enables formal interventions to be undertaken, and where necessary, trigger financial and contractual consequences.

We continually monitor activity on site and challenge wherever work appears to have slowed or been paused. We remain committed to effective communication and

transparency so that issues impacting businesses and residents are pro-actively identified and managed.

The Council is developing and delivering an ambitious Capital delivery programme across the borough, as well as accommodating third party emergency and essential works. The difficulty we encounter with historic towns and being situated in the valley means that works will generally impact locals and road users. However, we endeavour to work with partners and supply chain to pro-actively best manage the arising impact.