

Cabinet Meeting: Monday, 02 June 2025

Question from: Councillor Dickenson

Question to: Councillor Courtney, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Regeneration and Transport

QUESTION

Local Halifax businesses have said the disruptions caused by Phase 2 of the A629 Halifax Town Centre Western Corridor Project are severely impacting their livelihoods. They report a significant drop in footfall, with fewer visitors coming into Halifax due to the ongoing congestion. The Western Corridor Project is due for completion in late 2025. Whilst the Conservative Group supports this important investment to revitalise Halifax, please provide reassurances that the Western Corridor Project remains on track to finish by that date and confirm that work on subsequent phases will not begin until the current phase is fully completed as initially promised, because overlapping construction works would only exacerbate the challenges faced by local businesses and residents.

Response

The works on the A629 Phase 2 scheme present a number of logistical constraints and technical complexities, including navigating uncharted statutory undertaker assets (the utilities below the ground), localised historic anomalies such as concrete slabs protecting shallow services, historic setts, buried structures, unexpected voids, and legacy drainage systems.

Despite these challenges, the current programme remains deliverable with the careful planning, continuous risk review, and ongoing coordination with relevant third parties. Work is planned carefully to minimise disruption as much as possible. The contractor's team is in regular contact with businesses and surrounding properties to provide updates and listen to concerns. During more disruptive activities, such as surfacing, staff have been there to help pedestrians and motorists to get around safely. The Project team will continue to work with and update Members and stakeholder on progress.

On the phasing of the scheme, there have been exploratory and investigatory works outside the Western Corridor to derisk future works, generally carried out overnight, but will not detract from the team's core focus on delivering the Western Corridor efficiently.

The project team are also working with the contractor and specialist consultants to identify further opportunities for efficiencies in the works programme, which could include bringing forward some offline works from subsequent phases, for example on old Church Street between the Hughes Corporation Building and the Eureka Car Park wall.