

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

INFORMATION

meeting date: TUESDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2021
title: HAWESWATER AQUEDUCT RESILIENCE PROGRAMME (HARP)
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING
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1 PURPOSE

1.1 To receive an update on the Haweswater Aqueduct Resilience Programme (HARP)

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Community Ambitions-
 - To sustain a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley
 - To help make people's lives safer and healthier
 - To protect and enhance the existing environmental quality of our area
- Corporate Objectives –
 - To be an environmentally sustainable area, prepared for the future

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Haweswater Aqueduct Resilience Programme (HARP) is a scheme to replace sections of the Haweswater Pipeline that runs from Cumbria to Greater Manchester. The proposals, along with various options, were subject to extensive pre-application consultation.

2.2 The existing Haweswater Aqueduct comprises a series of single and multi-line underground water supply pipelines taking water from the Haweswater Reservoir in the Lake District National Park to customers in Cumbria, Lancashire, and Greater Manchester. Following detailed inspections of the aqueduct, several the sections of pipeline showed evidence of poor condition that could lead to leakage or water quality risk. Therefore, United Utilities has decided to replace the single line sections to protect future water quality and provide a more resilient supply of clean drinking water.

2.3 The replacement aqueduct (HARP) would comprise the replacement of six single line tunnel sections with five, which United Utilities is proposing to construct as five separate developments. These are listed below, from north to south:

- 2.3.1 Proposed Docker Section in the South Lakeland District area
- 2.3.2 Proposed Swarther Section in the South Lakeland District and the Yorkshire Dales National Park areas
- 2.3.3 Proposed Bowland Section in the Lancaster City and Ribble Valley Borough areas (The Proposed Bowland Section would comprise of approximately 16.9 km of replacement pipeline, including connections to existing United Utilities infrastructure, between the Proposed Newton-in Bowland tunnel launch compound to the south (in the borough of Ribble Valley) and the Proposed Lower Houses tunnel reception compound to the north (in the district of Lancaster City). The tunnel would be constructed using a tunnel boring machine (TBM).)
- 2.3.4 Proposed Marl Hill Section in the Ribble Valley Borough area

(The Proposed Marl Hill Section would comprise of approximately 4.3 km of replacement pipeline, including connections to existing United Utilities infrastructure, between the Proposed Braddup Compound (the tunnel launch compound) to the south and the Proposed Bonstone Compound (the tunnel reception compound) to the north and be constructed by a tunnel boring machine(TBM).)

2.3.5 Proposed Haslingden and Walmersley Section in the Hyndburn Borough, Rossendale Borough and

2.3.6 Bury Metropolitan Borough areas.

2.4 Members are aware that the proposed two replacement pipelines within the Ribble Valley are currently subject to the following planning applications:

2.4.1 **3/2021/0660:** Bowland Section. From land near the convergence of the Hornby Road, the Roman Road and Shooters Clough to land west of Newton in Bowland; with highway works at various locations from Pimlico Link Road, Clitheroe to Hallgate Hill, Newton in Bowland via Chatburn Road, Ribble Lane, Grindleton Road and Slaidburn Road; a haul route from land south of West Bradford Bridge to West Bradford Road, west of Healings Farm, West Bradford; a vehicle marshalling facility on land at the Ribblesdale Cement Works, West Bradford Road, Clitheroe and a park and ride facility at the existing Ribblesdale Cement Works car park to the west of West Bradford Road. Proposed works for and use of replacement section of aqueduct, including earthworks and ancillary infrastructure including: a new valve house building within fenced compound with permanent vehicular access provision. With the installation of a tunnel portal and an open cut connection area within a temporary construction compound, to include site accesses, storage areas, plant and machinery, and drainage infrastructure and a temporary haul route with bridge over the River Hodder. In addition, a temporary haul route with bridge over the River Ribble (as one of two options for vehicular access to the temporary construction compound); a series of local highway works together with a temporary satellite park and ride facility and a vehicle marshalling area.

2.4.2 **3/2021/0661:** Marl Hill Section. From land northwest of New Laithe Farm off the B6478 Slaidburn Road; and land north of Cross Lane, near Sandy Ford Brook, off the B6478 Slaidburn Road; with highway mitigation works at various locations from Pimlico Link Road, Clitheroe to Slaidburn Road, north of Waddington, via Chatburn Road, Ribble Lane and Grindleton Road; a haul route from land south of West Bradford Bridge to West Bradford Road, west of Healings Farm, West Bradford; a vehicle marshalling facility on land at the Ribblesdale Cement Works, West Bradford Road, Clitheroe and a park and ride facility at the existing Ribblesdale Cement Works car park west of West Bradford Road. Proposed works for and use of replacement section of aqueduct, including earthworks and ancillary infrastructure including: new valve house buildings within fenced compounds with permanent vehicular access provision. With the installation of tunnel shafts; open cut connection areas at either end of the replacement section within temporary construction compounds, to include site accesses, storage areas, plant and machinery, and drainage infrastructure. In addition, a temporary haul route with bridge over the River Ribble (as one of two options for vehicular access to the temporary construction compound); a series of local highway works together with a temporary satellite park and ride facility and a vehicle marshalling area.

2.5 The standard 21-day notification/ consultation period for both applications has expired however given the significant nature of both applications comments will be accepted up to the date of consideration at Planning and Development Committee and it is expected that the consultees will take longer than the standard 21 days to respond to the Local Planning Authority given the complex nature of the scheme.

2.6 Members will also be aware that Lancaster City Council are dealing with an application for the section of replacement pipelines within their Borough (ref: 21/00792/FUL) and Lancashire County Council are dealing with an application for revised and enhanced quarry restoration scheme incorporating tunnel arisings from the Bowland and marl hill tunnel sections (ref: LCC/2021/0015). The Planning Officers are working closely with Lancaster City Council and Lancashire CC given the fact that all the applications are intrinsically linked.

2.7 Officers from the Planning Section meet with United Utilities on a weekly basis to discuss progress and any matters which have arisen.

2.8 It is expected that amended plans/ details will be submitted during the coming months to seek to address comments received to date. These amendments are likely to be subject to re-consultation/ notification depending on the extent of proposed amendments.

3 RESPONSES TO DATE

3.1 To date the following consultees have responded to the planning consultation, these responses are available to view on the Council's website (further consultee comments will be provided in due course):

- RVBC Environmental Health
- SABIC UK
- Ribble Fisheries Consultative Association
- Natural England
- Bowland Forest Parish Council
- Office for Nuclear Regulation
- Lancaster City Council
- Lancashire County Council Highways (initial response)
- Grindleton Parish Council
- Craven District Council
- Lancashire County Council (Archaeology)
- Health and Safety Executive
- River Ribble Trust
- West Bradford Parish Council

3.2 As Members are aware the proposals have generated significant public interest and numerous comments have been received from interested residents within the Borough/ third parties all of which are being redacted and uploaded onto the Council's website. Comments are still being received however to date the main comments relate to:

- Traffic generation
- Highway safety
- Noise
- Pollution
- Damage to roads from large vehicles
- Impact on daily life
- Unsuitable infrastructure

3.3 The submissions include options in respect of traffic routing associated with the construction period (with option 2 involving a proposed temporary haul road crossing the River Ribble adjacent to existing West Bradford Bridge) and several of the comments received are constructively setting out which option route is preferable to them. United Utilities will take these comments into account in respect of which option is chosen in the event of a positive recommendation and decision.

4 NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 In November 2018, the National Policy Statement (NPS) for Water Resource Infrastructure was published for consultation by Defra. The Draft NPS sets out the need and government's policies for the development of projects for water resources in England. Specifically, the NPS will be used as the primary basis of assessment for projects examined under a separate regime - the Planning Act 2008. Under the Planning Act 2008, projects classified as 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects' are required to apply for a Development Consent Order, and decisions are made by a Secretary of State.
- 4.2 The Proposed Programme of Works is not a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project and as such requires planning applications to local planning authorities under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. As such the Local Planning Authority will be required to determine the applications at a future Planning and Development Committee. The date of this Committee is unknown at this stage as we work in conjunction with Lancaster and Lancashire CC in respect of the timescales for determination of their applications. However, all interested parties will be advised when the two applications are put on an agenda.

5 POST-APPLICATION

- 5.1 It is important to note that if planning permission is granted for the proposed pipeline replacements the construction period will take several years. Whilst suitable planning conditions/ planning obligations have not yet been considered in detail, as the LPA are not yet in a position to make a recommendation on the proposals, in the event that Members approve the proposals it is considered that, given the significant nature of the works involved, there will be a requirement to formally establish a liaison group for all post application activity.
- 5.2 Such a group will involve United Utilities and their representatives along with officers of Ribble Valley Council and any statutory consultees who are integral to the successful completion of the project (e.g. LCC Highways). The group will meet every two months (although this timescale can be changed where necessary) to consider, discuss and seek to resolve any issues associated with the construction of the replacement pipelines. Following meetings of the group Members will be updated accordingly on progress of the scheme.

6 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

- 6.1 Note the update



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