

## Briefing Note for Elected Members

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**Service:** Place

**Division:** Engineering Design

**Officer:** Gary McGregor, Acting Engineering Design Manager

**To:** All Elected Members

**Date:** 10 January 2023

**Subject:** Champany Junctions, Bo'ness

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At the Falkirk Council meeting on 14 December 2022, a request was submitted by Councillor Ann Ritchie for an update on the Champany Junctions project, Bo'ness. The purpose of this briefing note is to inform Members of the current progress on these Road Safety Improvements.

This project supports the strategic priority "Supporting stronger and healthier communities" within the 2022/27 Council Plan.

The Council has issued a brief to our Engineering Design partners, WSP for the development of an optioneering report for the A904/A803 & A904/B903 junctions at this location. The optioneering report is due for completion in March 2023 and will provide a fully evidenced recommendation on both junctions.

The optioneering report itself will consider the following when assessing the options: Road Safety & Accident statistics, Active Travel, Environmental & Biodiversity and Construction costs & impacts.

There are various other factors that will be considered by officers in the Engineering Design Unit (EDU) alongside the optioneering report such as land purchase and public utility analysis.

Parallel to this activity, West Lothian Council applied for Levelling-Up Funding (LUF) for the M9 Junction 3 upgrade proposals in early August 2022, with a decision due in early 2023. Falkirk Council worked collaboratively with West Lothian Council on this, and an application was included for the Champany junctions as the proposed M9 works could affect the design of the A904/A803 & A904/B903 junctions. The design of the junctions will take the M9 J3 upgrade proposals into consideration, with the associated changes to traffic movements, as well as future development in the area. Once the funding bid is confirmed, detailed design will progress thereafter alongside other necessary elements such as land purchase if design requires. If this funding bid is not successful, Engineering Design will reconsider the way forward and return to Council with a Capital bid for funding of the project.

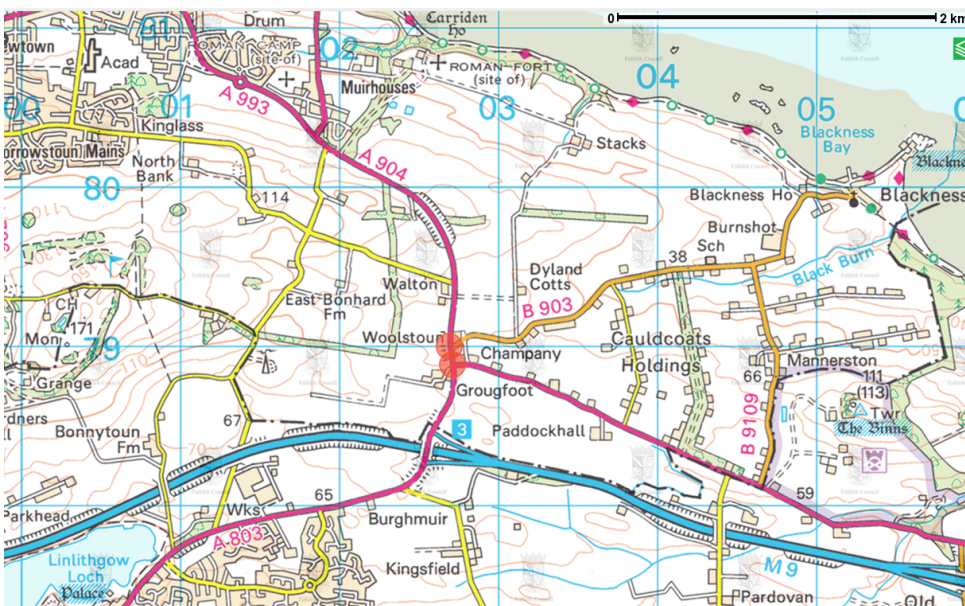
The Council's Capital Plan previously had funding for this scheme, split to future financial years. At its meeting on 28 September 2022 Council agreed to re-allocate this £1.8m funding between the Learning Estate Investment Programme (LEIP) bid and the Denny Eastern Access Road (DEAR) scheme which both had an urgent requirement for funding. This recommendation was in the expectation of a successful LUF bid.

It is likely that land purchase will be required and therefore a detailed and accurate timescale is unable to be provided at this time, however the following is a provisional timeline (dependent on various factors including successful LUF funding);

- March 2023 – completion of the Optioneering Report for the Champany Junctions
- April 2023 – commencement of preliminary then detailed design of the junctions (assuming funding is in place)
- April 2023 – provisional commencement of land purchase / utility diversion discussions
- Winter (late) 2023 – completion of design for the junctions
- Winter (early) 2024 – commencement of procurement exercise (in line with our Contract Standing Orders) for the project (Dual-stage Tender)
- Spring 2024 – site commencement (dependent on land purchase / utility provision)

This provisional timetable is dependent on funding allocation being approved for the LUF bid. There is a likelihood of a delay of several months if the LUF bid was rejected and Engineering Design are required to proceed to Council for approval and funding of the scheme. There would also be discussions to be had with West Lothian Council on phasing of the construction works if the LUF bid for the full area was accepted.

Consultation will be issued to all Local Members & Community Council prior to project commencement on site as per the Engineering Design Unit's Quality Management System.



Author - Gary McGregor, Acting Engineering Design Manager  
Date – 10 January 2023