

Delivering the Heysham Link ~ update

PROGRESS is now being made towards the delivery of one of Lancashire's largest transport projects ~ the Heysham to M6 Link.

After much consultation, legal examination and testing, Lancashire County Council is now gearing up to start delivering this £139.4 million investment in a road and public transport scheme.

Contractors will soon be appointed and it is expected that work will begin in late 2010 with completion due during 2014.

Local people will shortly start to see the latest "orders" appear in local newspapers. These orders form part of the legal process and will allow land to be bought, slip roads built and links to the park and ride site to be built.

Although it will be some time before major construction will start, we aim to keep local people up to date with progress.

So, what are the benefits of the scheme?

In short, it will provide a much needed link from the Heysham and Morecambe area to the M6. Crucially, for the city of Lancaster, through traffic will no longer need to cross the Skerton and Greyhound bridges.

More specifically, this means:

- Less congestion, less rat-running and less HGVs using the city centre
- The investment in a major park and ride facility for Lancaster
- Improved conditions for walking and cycling
- Better local air quality especially in areas currently subject to high levels of pollution such as the city centre and the centre of Carnforth
- Opportunities to improve public transport and traffic management in the city centre
- Journey times to popular tourist and recreation areas in the north west will be reduced and be far more predictable
- A chance to boost economic growth and regeneration.

County Councillor Keith Young, Lancashire County Council's new Cabinet member for highways and transport, said:

"This scheme will achieve so much for so many. As far as local people are concerned, journey times and congestion will be reduced in the city centre once the link is built. Rural areas along the route will also benefit from improved access. For business and the local economy the link will improve the viability of existing enterprises, encourage new business and help with the regeneration in Morecambe."

What next?

The next steps include advertising the legal orders as previously described. A contractor will soon be appointed to plan in detail how the link will be built ~ this will involve further discussions with local people and organisations in order to minimise the impact of the construction works.

Lancashire County Council is already speaking with some of the people affected by the link and propose to hold further discussions with the wider community to address any issues or concerns.

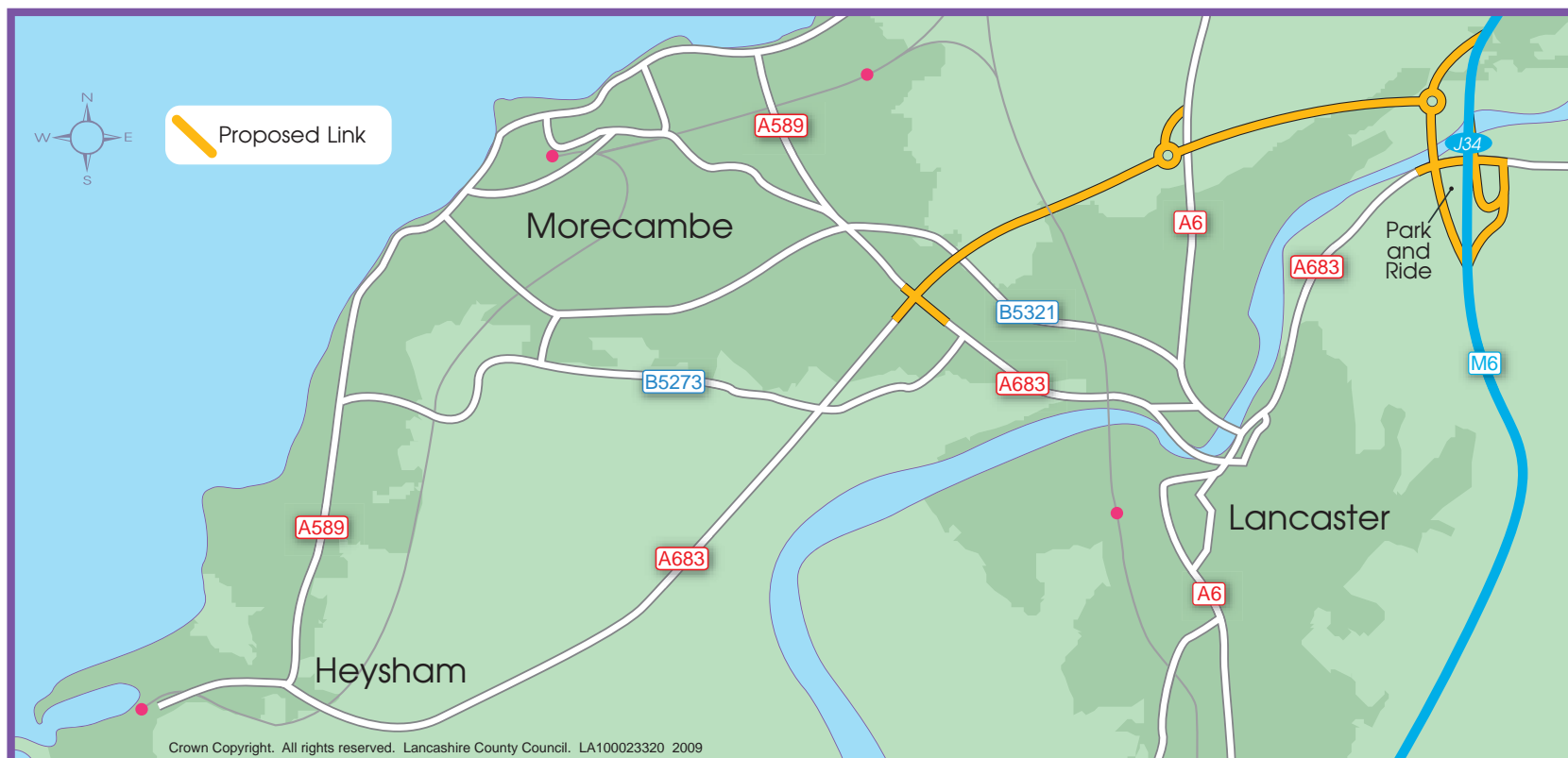
We will continue to look at other possible improvements with the link in place, such as better facilities for cycling, walking and for public transport users.

Want to find out more about the scheme?

Background information on the link is available online at www.lancashire.gov.uk ~ look under "H" for Heysham M6 Link in the A-Z.

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