

**Divisions Affected – Hendreds, Harwell, Steventon & Milton**

**DELEGATED DECISIONS BY CABINET MEMBER FOR  
INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**

**23 May 2024**

**A4130 Steventon Lights Integrated Transport Corridor Scheme –  
Approval to Issue a Task Order for the Construction of the Scheme**

**Report by Corporate Director of Environment & Place**

**RECOMMENDATION**

1. The Cabinet Member is **RECOMMENDED** to
  - a) **Delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Environment & Place in consultation with the Director of Finance and the Head of Legal Services & Deputy Monitoring Officer to award an NEC4 ECC Option C (with Option X22) contract to Milestone Infrastructure Limited for target cost setting, market testing (ECI) and the construction works in respect of the A4130 Steventon Lights Integrated Transport Corridor scheme.**

**Executive Summary**

2. The Council's Constitution states that key decisions are required prior to entering into any contracts with a capital spend of over £1m.
3. This report seeks to ensure that delegated authority is in place for the Corporate Director of Environment & Place to approve the County Council directly appointing Milestone Infrastructure Limited via a NEC4 ECC Option C (with Option X22) in respect of the A4130 Steventon Lights Integrated Transport Corridor scheme under the Pagabo Civils & Infrastructure Framework (Lot 2). The NEC4 ECC Option C (with Option X22) contract provides for Stage 1 (ECI) and subject to issue of a notice to proceed to Stage 2 (construction works).
4. The estimated value of the construction works (and associated activities set out above) is c£6.5m (inc VAT), with an additional contingency/risk allowance that is held by the County Council and available to be used / drawn upon for the scheme, if required.

**Background**

5. The A4130 Steventon Lights Integrated Transport Corridor scheme includes the section of the A4130 Abingdon Road corridor between Steventon Lights and the Milton Interchange (inclusive of the junction with Trenchard Avenue).

6. Didcot and the surrounding area will see significant growth in housing and employment in the coming years. Investment in the A4130 Steventon Lights Integrated Transport Corridor scheme is needed now so that the transport network can meet the demands that will be placed upon it in the future.
7. The A4130 Steventon Lights Integrated Transport Corridor scheme will support planned growth in both housing and employment and, importantly, support/facilitate sustainable and active travel in the local and wider area. The scheme will:
  - Facilitate and incentivise the use of public transport as an alternative to private car travel by improving bus journey time reliability
  - Provide suitable infrastructure and encourage use of all active travel modes
  - Support planned growth in housing and employment in the region while following the policies set out in Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP, 2022)
  - Aim to reduce congestion by enabling modal shift from private vehicles to sustainable and active modes
  - Improve safety for all road users, and
  - Minimise the impact on the landscape and provide a betterment to the local environment.
8. During Summer/early Autumn 2023, the County Council undertook and completed a mini competition through the Pagabo Civils and Infrastructure Framework in relation to the 'design' and 'build' of the A4130 Steventon Lights Integrated Transport Corridor scheme. The price for the 'design' element of the scheme was notably greater than what was forecast by the project team. In consideration of this, the project team re-assessed the scope of the design and identified sections that have since been developed by OCC technical officers and/or was no longer required within the scope of the proposed design package. In a further drive for cost efficiencies, the project team elected to contract directly with the designer (rather than through the contractor) using the Delivery Partnership with AtkinsRéalis. Consequently, OCC cancelled the mini competition and is seeking to directly award the Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) and construction works to Milestone Infrastructure Limited.
9. The purpose of this report is to obtain a delegation to the Corporate Director of Environment & Place to approve the County Council directly appointing Milestone Infrastructure Limited via a NEC4 ECC Option C (with Option X22) contract for target cost setting, market testing (ECI) and the construction works in respect of the A4130 Steventon Lights Integrated Transport Corridor scheme.
10. The County Council will enter into an NEC4 ECC Option C (with Option X22) with Milestone Infrastructure Limited via the Pagabo Civils & Infrastructure Framework (Lot 2) for the construction works (and associated services).
11. The estimated value of the construction works (and associated services set out above) is c£6.5m (inc VAT), with an additional contingency/risk allowance that is held by the County Council and available to be used / drawn upon for the scheme, if required.

## Key Issues

12. It is essential that this decision is made so that the County Council can proceed to enter into an NEC4 ECC Option C (with Option X22) with Milestone Infrastructure Limited via the Pagabo Civils & Infrastructure Framework (Lot 2) for the construction works (and associated services). The time-efficient appointment of Milestone Infrastructure Limited will ensure that the programme for construction (and opening in Spring 2025) is not adversely affected.

## Financial Implications

13. There are no new budgetary implications as the budget for the scheme has already been agreed by Cabinet.
14. There is a requirement to ensure that the £6m of LEP (City Deal) and £4.8m of Housing Growth Deal funding that has been allocated to the scheme is spent by the end of March 2025. Any unnecessary delay in entering into an NEC4 ECC Option C (with Option X22) with Milestone Infrastructure Limited would result in loss of time in the programme and a potential delay to the opening of the scheme in Spring 2025.

**Comments checked by:** Rob Finlayson, Strategic Finance Business Partner (Environment & Place) ([rob.finlayson@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:rob.finlayson@oxfordshire.gov.uk))

## Legal Implications

15. The Council's Procurement Department conducted a mini competition in accordance with the procedures set out in the Pagabo Civils & Infrastructure Framework (Lot 2) in compliance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, Regulation 33 Frameworks (and related regulations) where Milestone Infrastructure Limited was determined to be the preferred bidder. This mini competition was abandoned for the reasons stated in paragraph 8 of this report. Pursuant to a revised Procurement Strategy that was approved on 1 March 2024, it is now proposed that Milestone Infrastructure Limited be appointed under the Pagabo Civils & Infrastructure Framework (Lot 2) under NEC4 ECC Option C (with Option X22) by way of a direct award in compliance with the direct award procedure in this Pagabo Framework and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.
16. This decision is required to enable the County Council to finalise and complete all relevant contractual documentation associated with the County Council directly appointing Milestone Infrastructure Limited via a NEC4 ECC Option C (with Option X22) contract for target cost setting, market testing (ECI) and the construction works in respect of the A4130 Steventon Lights Integrated Transport Corridor scheme.
17. The Council will be delivering the A4130 Steventon Lights Integrated Transport Corridor scheme in its capacity as the highway authority for Oxfordshire under the Highways Act 1980.

**Comments checked by:** Jayne Pringle, Head of Law & Legal Business  
Partner (Contracts & Conveyancing)  
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## **Staff Implications**

18. There are no staff implications.

## **Risk Management**

19. If the Council does not enter into an NEC4 ECC Option C (with Option X22) with Milestone Infrastructure Limited during June 2024 then this will put pressure on the County Council's ability to spend the £6m of LEP (City Deal) and £4.8m of Housing Growth Deal funding that has been allocated to the scheme by the end of March 2025.

**Bill Cotton**  
**Corporate Director of Environment & Place**

Annex:	Nil
Background papers:	Nil
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