

Divisions Affected - Didcot, Hendreds & Harwell, Sutton Courtenay & Marcham, Berinsfield & Garsington

CABINET MEMBER FOR TRAVEL & DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

-21 June 2023

Approval to enter into HIF1 agreements

Report by Corporate Director of Environment and Place

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Cabinet Member is RECOMMENDED to

delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Environment and Place in consultation with the Head of Legal and Deputy Monitoring Officer to negotiate and complete all contracts and agreements which are required in relation to the HIF1 programme referred to in this report including, but not limited to:

- a) Detailed design – Culham River Crossing
- b) Detailed design – Didcot Science Bridge (including A4130)
- c) Detailed design – Clifton Hampden Bypass
- d) Early works – Culham River Crossing
- e) Early works – Didcot Science Bridge (including A4130)
- f) Early works – Clifton Hampden Bypass
- g) BAPA/APAs with Network Rail
- h) Land agreements with multiple landowners
- i) Agreements with Hanson and FCC

Executive Summary

- 2.** This report seeks to ensure authority is in place to enter into all forthcoming contracts and other such agreements for the HIF1 programme.

Background

- 3.** Procurement of the major design and build contracts for the HIF1 scheme has been underway and the Council is now ready to enter into the first of these contracts, for the detailed design of the Culham River Crossing scheme. Similar contracts for the Clifton Hampden Bypass and Didcot Science Bridge (incorporating the A4130 Widening) will soon also be ready.
- 4.** Once detailed design is underway, it is anticipated that early works contracts will be let to accommodate any surveys, ground investigations and other similar

works that are required to inform the design process and/or ensure the ecological mitigation works are progressing.

5. Furthermore, the Council continues to liaise with landowners to secure the land required for the scheme by private treaty rather than CPO powers. This process is likely to result in multiple landowner agreements including option agreements, coming forward in summer/autumn 2023.
6. Agreements with Hanson, FCC and Network Rail are also being developed to accommodate site specific issues such as access and planning requirements.
7. The current set of anticipated decisions is as follows. Please note that this does not include the construction contracts for the three projects, which will be considered separately:
 - a) Detailed design – Culham River Crossing
 - b) Detailed design – Didcot Science Bridge (including A4130)
 - c) Detailed design – Clifton Hampden Bypass
 - d) Early works – Culham River Crossing
 - e) Early works – Didcot Science Bridge (including A4130)
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Key Issues

8. Since 2019 a number of key decisions and approvals have been made for the HIF1 programme, including those summarised below:
 - Cabinet Oct 2019: Approval of heads of terms and inclusion of all four projects in the Capital Programme
 - Cabinet Jul 2020: Approval of preferred scheme alignments
 - Cabinet Jun 2021: In principle use of statutory powers
 - Cabinet Mar 2022: Amendments to the GDA
 - Cabinet Jun 2022: Revised GDA
 - Cabinet Jul 2022: CPO and SROs
9. The terms of the revised Grant Determination Agreement were agreed in principle in February 2022, and the Deed of Variation was completed in May 2023.
10. Outline Business Cases were approved in 2020 and updated Outline Business Cases based on the revised GDA were approved on the 3rd February 2023.
11. It is essential that this decision is made urgently to enable the formal and prompt completion of the contracts for the Culham River Crossing. The Design and Build contractor has commenced early design work for this element of the project at risk so that the wider programme is not adversely affected.

12. There are no budgetary implications as the budgets for the programme have already been agreed.
13. It is anticipated that completion of contracts will be subject to the scheme progressing sufficiently through the planning process.

Financial Implications

14. There are no new budgetary implications as the budgets for the programme have already been agreed by Cabinet.

Comments checked by: Rob Finlayson, Finance Business Partner
(rob.finlayson@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Legal Implications

15. This decision is required to enable the Council to finalise and complete all relevant contractual documentation arising from the HIF1 project.

Comments checked by: Paul Grant, Head of Legal and Deputy Monitoring Officer.

Staff Implications

16. There are no staff implications.

Risk Management

17. There is a risk of reputational damage if the Council does not complete the contract sealing process expediently. There is also the risk that the contractor will not continue the work until the contract is in place, which would have financial and time implications.

Bill Cotton, Corporate Director of Environment and Place

Annex: Nil.

Background papers: Nil.

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