

Divisions Affected – Hendreds, Harwell, Steventon & Milton

**CABINET MEMBER FOR
INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
16 November 2023**

Delegation to the Corporate Director of Environment & Place to approve the County Council entering into a Stage 1 (detailed design, ECI, enabling works/surveys (if required) and target cost setting) contract with Milestone Infrastructure Limited in respect of the A4130 Steventon Lights Integrated Transport Corridor scheme.

Report by Corporate Director of Environment & Place

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Cabinet Member is RECOMMENDED to

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 and enter into a Stage 1 (detailed design, ECI and target cost setting) contract under the NEC4 PSC Option A and NEC4 ECSC (enabling works/surveys) with Milestone Infrastructure Limited 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 £1 million.
3. This report seeks to ensure that delegated authority is in place for the Corporate Director of Environment & Place to approve the County Council entering into a Stage 1 (detailed design, ECI and target cost setting) contract (under the NEC4 PSC Option A) and NEC4 ECSC (enabling works/surveys) with Milestone Infrastructure Limited in November 2023. The estimated value of the Stage 1 services is £1,194,341.26 ex VAT (£1,433,209.51 inc VAT).

Background

4. 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).
5. 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.

6. 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)
- 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.

6. The County Council will enter into three NEC4 Contracts via the PAGABO 'Civils & Infrastructure' (Lot 2) Framework that will comprise a two-stage process, as follows:

Stage 1

- NEC4 PSC Option A for ECI, detailed design and target cost setting
- NEC4 ECSC if enabling works/surveys or other similar services, if required (optional)

and subject to the Council serving a Notice to Proceed to Stage 2

Stage 2

- NEC4 ECC Option C (without Option X22) for Construction Works.

7. Milestone Infrastructure Limited was identified by the County Council as the 'preferred bidder' for the provision of Stage 1 (detailed design, ECI, enabling works/surveys (if required) and target cost setting) support services following the culmination of a 10-week tender period on 22 September 2023. It is anticipated that Milestone Infrastructure will complete the detailed design for the scheme during Spring 2024, although this would be subject to their prompt appointment during November 2023.

8. The purpose of this report is to obtain a delegation to the Corporate Director of Environment & Place to approve the County Council entering into a Stage 1 (detailed design, ECI, enabling works/surveys (if required) and target cost setting) contract with Milestone Infrastructure Limited during November 2023. The value of the Stage 1 works is £1,194,341.26 ex VAT (£1,433,209.51 inc VAT).as stated above.

Key Issues

9. It is essential that this decision is made so that the County Council can proceed to enter into contract with Milestone Infrastructure Limited for Stage 1 (detailed

design, ECI, enabling works/surveys (if required) and target cost setting) support services in respect of the scheme. The time-efficient appointment of Milestone Infrastructure Limited for the Stage 1 works will ensure that the programme for detailed design is not adversely affected.

Financial Implications

11. There are no new budgetary implications as the budget for the scheme has already been agreed by Cabinet.
12. 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 (and completing) Stage 1 would result in loss of time in the programme.

Comments checked by: Rob Finlayson, Finance Business Partner
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Legal Implications

13. The Council's Procurement Department conducted a mini competition in accordance with the procedures set out in the Pagabo Civils & Infrastructure Framework, Lot 2 and 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.
14. This decision is required to enable the County Council to finalise and complete all relevant contractual documentation associated with entering into a Stage 1 (detailed design, ECI, enabling works/surveys (if required) and target cost setting) contract with Milestone Infrastructure Limited in respect of the scheme.
15. Stage 2 of the Scheme will commence subject to satisfactory delivery of Stage 1 and under a separate CMD Report approving issue of a Notice to Proceed to Stage 2.
16. 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, Principal Solicitor – Contracts and Conveyancing (Legal Services)
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Staff Implications

17. There are no staff implications.

Risk Management

18. If the Council does not enter into a Stage 1 (detailed design, ECI, enabling works/surveys (if required) and target cost setting) contract with Milestone Infrastructure Limited during November 2023 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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