

**Divisions Affected – Didcot & East Hagbourne, Didcot West, Didcot Ladygrove, Wallingford**

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

**23 May 2024**

**Didcot Northern Perimeter Road (Section 3) Scheme – Appointment  
of Contractor**

**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 appoint Galliford Try to provide design, planning, ECI, target cost setting, surveys and investigation / enabling work support services in relation to the Didcot NPR3 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 appointing Galliford Try to provide design, planning, ECI, target cost setting, surveys and investigation / enabling work support in relation to the Didcot NPR3 scheme. The estimated value of the required support services is c£1.3m (including VAT), with an additional 'contingency/risk' allowance that is held by the County Council and available to be used / drawn upon, if required.

**Background**

4. The Didcot NPR3 scheme represents a 'missing link' in terms of the strategic transport infrastructure within Didcot and will extend the existing A4130 Didcot Northern Perimeter Road – and, in doing so, link the A4130 Abingdon Road and A4130 Hadden Hill corridors. The scheme will include walking and cycling infrastructure in line with County and District Council priorities to help support and encourage a shift to more sustainable forms of travel. Furthermore, the Didcot NPR3 scheme represents an essential part of an overall strategy in Didcot to accommodate housing and wider economic growth, whilst also enabling the Didcot Garden Town aspirations to be realised.

5. Didcot and the surrounding area will see significant growth in housing and employment in the coming years. Investment in the Didcot NPR3 scheme is needed now so that the transport network can meet the demands that will be placed upon it in the future.
6. The Didcot NPR3 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:
  - Provide a much-needed alternative route around the town
  - Help to reduce congestion
  - Deliver high quality pedestrian and cycle infrastructure
  - Promote and accommodate active travel
  - Improve air quality in the area
  - Support planned growth in housing and employment in the region while following the policies set out in Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP, 2022)
  - Minimise the impact on the landscape and provide a betterment to the local environment
6. The County Council will enter into the following contracts with Galliford Try via a Sub-Regional Call-Off through the Midlands Highways Alliance (MHA) Medium Schemes Framework (MSF4):
  - An NEC4 Professional Service Contract (PSC) Option A for design, planning, ECI and target cost setting
  - An NEC4 Engineering Construction Short Contract (ECSC) for any enabling works, surveys and/or investigation works, if required
7. The purpose of this report is to obtain a delegation to the Corporate Director of Environment & Place to approve the County Council appointing Galliford Try during May 2024 to provide design, planning, ECI, target cost setting, surveys and investigation / enabling work support services in relation to the Didcot NPR3 scheme.
8. The estimated value of the required support services is c£1.3m (inc VAT), with an additional 'contingency/risk' allowance that is held by the County Council and available to be used / drawn, if required

## Key Issues

9. It is essential that this decision is made so that the County Council can proceed to enter into contract with Galliford Try for the provision of the aforementioned support services in respect of the Didcot NPR3 scheme. The time-efficient appointment of Galliford Try will ensure that the programme for obtaining planning consent and completing the detailed design during Summer 2025 will not be adversely affected.

## Financial Implications

11. There are no new budgetary implications as the budget for the scheme has already been agreed by Cabinet.
12. Any unnecessary delay in commencing and completing the planning and design-related work would result in loss of time in the programme and a potential delay to the intended opening of the scheme in Summer 2026 (subject to the granting of planning consent).

**Comments checked by:** Rob Finlayson, Strategic Finance Business Partner (Environment & Place)  
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## Legal Implications

13. The Procurement Strategy for the Didcot NPR3 scheme that was fully approved in March 2024 and endorsed at the South & Vale Programme Board held on 19 March 2024 is in accordance with the County Council's procurement objectives and is in full compliance with the Public Contracts Regulations (PCR) 2015.
14. The recommendations set out within the fully-approved Procurement Strategy includes the Sub-Regional Call-Off of Galliford Try via the MHA MSF4 in respect of the following:
  - An NEC4 Professional Service Contract (PSC) Option A for design, planning, ECI and target cost setting
  - An NEC4 Engineering Construction Short Contract (ECSC) for any enabling works, surveys and/or investigation works, if required
15. This decision is required to enable the County Council to finalise and complete all relevant contractual documentation associated with appointing Galliford Try to provide design, planning, ECI, target cost setting, surveys and investigation / enabling work support services in relation to the Didcot NPR3 scheme.
16. Prior to letting the main construction works contract to Galliford Try following satisfactory completion and delivery of the aforementioned support services, an application for delegated authority will be submitted under a separate CMD report.

17. The Council will be delivering the Didcot NPR3 scheme A4130 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 and Conveyancing)  
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## **Staff Implications**

18. There are no staff implications.

## **Risk Management**

19. A detailed risk register has been devised for the project; it will be maintained and updated up until full completion/delivery of the scheme. All identified risks, as well as any future potential risks, will be included in the risk register and managed by designated officers in close collaboration with OCC's partners and stakeholders. There will be regular risk review meetings.

### **Bill Cotton**

#### **Corporate Director of Environment & Place**

Annex:	Nil
Background papers:	Nil
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