

Divisions Affected – *Bicester North, Bicester West, Chesterton & Launton*

**DELEGATED DECISIONS BY CABINET MEMBER FOR PLACE,
ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION**

23 JANUARY 2026

North West Bicester Strategic Link Road – Detailed Design

Report by Director of Environment and Highways

RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet Member is RECOMMENDED to

- (a) Authorise the procurement of a contract for the detailed design of the North West Bicester Strategic Link Road using the Scape National Consultancy Framework with Perfect Circle JV Ltd; and
- (b) Delegate authority to the Director of Environment & Highways, in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and the Head of Legal and Governance (Deputy Monitoring Officer) to award the Professional Services Contract.

Executive Summary

2. This report recommends that the Cabinet Member delegates authority to the Director of Environment and Highways to award and enter into a contract for professional services for an estimated value of £1.9m with Perfect Circle JV Ltd (pursuant to the Scape National Consultancy Framework (Lot 2)) for the Detailed Design of the North-West Bicester Strategic Link Road Scheme.

Background

3. Phase 1 of the scheme, which included the construction of a new railway bridge near Bucknell Road, was successfully completed in Summer 2021, following planning approval granted in August 2019. The approved application also encompassed proposals for the realignment of the A4095 and the creation of a Strategic Link Road to connect the development to the A4095.
4. The A4095 North-West Bicester Strategic Link Road scheme seeks to unlock the remaining residential development at North-West Bicester, which includes 6,000 homes in the current Local Plan. At least 3,500 jobs are also to be provided with the masterplan area. A proportion of the housing and economic growth is now in place.
5. The scheme will include:

- The realignment of the A4095 along a new Strategic Link Road (SLR) through the site, originating at the junction of A4095, B4030 Middleton Stoney Road, Vendee Drive and Howes Lane and running parallel to the existing A4095 (Howes Lane/ Lords Lane), cutting through the North West Bicester development site before passing through the completed railway bridge near the junction of Bucknell Road, Howes Lane and Lords Lane junction, finishing back on the existing A4095 on Lords Lane, to include:
 - Compliant walking, wheeling and cycling facilities in line with the Bicester LCWIP, including crossing points.
 - Bus infrastructure.
 - A design that recognises the role of the A4095 as part of the peripheral road system around Bicester which also needs to have a sense of place within the North-West Bicester housing area.
- Provide necessary upgrades to the Middleton Stoney Road / A4095 / Vendee Drive junction

6. The Detailed Design phase is anticipated to commence in Early 2026. This report and approval is required due to the financial value of the design commission, with delegation given to the Director of Environment and Highways to enable award and entry into a Professional Services Contract in a timely manner based on Council policy, regulations and professional judgement.

Key Issues

7. There are no key issues identified.

Financial Implications

8. There are no new budgetary implications. The contract value is within the approved budget envelop.

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

9. When procuring goods, services or works, the procurement must be conducted in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and, where applicable, the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR 2015). The Procurement Act 2023 (PA 23) permits contracting authorities to continue calling off contracts under Framework Agreements that were established under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, such as the Scape National Consultancy Framework Agreement.

10. The estimated cost of the Detailed Design is above the PA 23 threshold for services which currently stands at £214,904 incl. VAT.
11. In accordance with the Procurement Strategy, the proposed call-off contract between Perfect Circle JV Ltd and the Council will be a NEC4 Professional Service Contract, Option C. If agreement is reached between the Parties on the terms and conditions of the contract (including limitation of liabilities, insurances, target price and programme), the Council will proceed to award the contract and issue the contract for execution.
12. The Council will be delivering the North-West Bicester Strategic Link Road scheme in its capacity as the highway authority for Oxfordshire under the Highways Act 1980.

Comments checked by: Jayne Pringle, Principal Solicitor – Contracts
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Staff Implications

13. There are no additional staff implications as a result of this decision.

Risk Management

14. There are no material risk implications to consider as a result of this decision. Project risks are recorded on the project risk and managed as part of the capital programme governance.

Paul Fermer
Director of Environment and Highways

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