

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Commission to provide development cost estimates for transport schemes from Hereford Transport Strategy Review
Date of decision:	28 April 2021
Decision maker:	Director for Economy and Place
Authority for delegated decision:	This is an operational decision with regard to Part 3 Section 7 para 3.7.5 of the constitution. Chief executives scheme of delegation Appendix 1 SA50 Highways and Transportation
Ward:	Countywide
Consultation:	<p>Cabinet member for infrastructure and transport has been briefed on the requirement to undertake this work.</p> <p>The Interim Deputy Solicitor Economy and Place has no objection to the decision being taken.</p> <p>The Finance Manager has raised no objection to the decision being taken.</p> <p>The Solicitor to the Council and Deputy Chief Executive has confirmed support for this decision and requested that the works be progressed quickly to inform future cabinet decision making.</p> <p>The S151 officer and Deputy Chief Executive has formally raised concerns with the Director regarding the value for money of this decision but recognises that the Director is able to exercise his judgement in this area and make this decision.</p>
Decision made:	<p>Commission WSP via the Public Realm Contract to develop cost estimates for the likely revenue development costs required to progress cabinet's preferred transport proposals confirmed following the Hereford Transport Strategy Review.</p> <p>This will provide additional financial information to the scheme implementation cost estimates which were provided in the Technical Report of the Hereford Transport Strategy Review and is required to ensure that cabinet understands the financial consequences of taking forward the proposals.</p> <p>The value of the commission is up to £21,516 (£18,696 with contingency for risk of £1,820)</p>
Reasons for decision:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cabinet confirmed its preferred transport options for Hereford following the completion and findings of the Hereford Transport Strategy Review 2020 (HTSR). 2. Cabinet was able to make its determination based on the technical information included in the HTSR. This included high level costings of options alongside technical assessment of impacts (carbon, economic, environmental and societal). 3. The total capital cost estimate for cabinet's preferred transport strategy is £131m and annual revenue operating costs are £5.5m. 4. Further technical work is now required to identify the revenue development costs of the 11 individual options selected by cabinet to

	ensure that cabinet understands the financial consequences of any decision it takes to progress any or all of these options.
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	<p>It is proposed that WSP is commissioned through the public realm contract to undertake this work noting that it continues on from the original commission for the Hereford Transport Strategy Review (HTSR) completed 2020/21.</p> <p>It is recognized that this is proposed as a direct award through the public realm contract whilst the council currently has concerns regarding value for money in this regard. This route to procuring the work is proposed as WSP undertook the original commission and was responsible for developing the high level cost estimates for all of the options considered by cabinet in the Review. This work was considered sufficiently detailed and robust for cabinet to make its determination, recognizing that options were developed to a level of detail required to identify a preferred strategy. In addition, it is noted that cabinet is keen to make progress at pace on taking forward transport proposals identified in the Review. Hence, it is considered that commissioning WSP through the PRC would capitalize on WSP's technical appreciation of the 11 options having developed the high level scope and cost estimates for each as part of the original technical work for the HTSR notwithstanding the concerns regarding value for money in making a direct award.</p> <p>A proposal and methodology for undertaking this work has been provided by BBLP and reviewed by officers. The proposal sets out a proportionate approach to undertaking the assessment with allocation of a range of technical consultant staff with expertise relevant to the range of proposals included in cabinet's preferred strategy. This comprises expertise covering business case development, active travel measures, public transport, highways, parking and environmental issues.</p> <p>The value of the commission is up to £21,516 (£18,696 with contingency for risk of £1,820) which will be funded through H&T revenue budget (S38 Income - CO7213).</p>
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	Officers could set out cost estimates for the development of the scheme proposals identified in the Hereford Transport Strategy Review. This was rejected as it was considered that these would not be as robust as those which would be developed by the consultants who had undertaken the original review. It is considered that robust development costs will add rigour to the advice provided to cabinet when it determines funding allocations to progress work.
Details of any declarations of interest made:	None

Signed

Director for Economy & Place

Date 28 April 2021