

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Eastern Access Road – Feasibility Study (Stage 1)
Date of decision:	24 May 2022
Decision maker:	Corporate Director, Economy and Environment
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>Cabinet’s decision relating to the development of the transport strategy including allocation of budget was taken 24 June 2021 and can be found here.</p> <p>Cabinet’s decision provided delegated authority for all operational decision to be taken by the Director (Transport Strategy) in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Transport and Chief Finance Officer.</p>
Ward:	Countywide
Consultation:	<p>The Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure has been consulted on this decision and has confirmed that he is content for this work to be progressed by the service rather than the Delivery Director Transport Strategy in order for the technical feasibility work to progress alongside the overarching masterplan.</p> <p>The Chief Finance Officer has been consulted on this decision and has confirmed that he is content for it to progress and for it to be taken by the Corporate Director of Economy and Environment.</p> <p>Legal, finance and procurement have been consulted on this decision and feedback incorporated.</p>
Decision made:	<p>To procure the services of Aecom through the Midlands Highways Alliance Professional Services Framework to progress initial feasibility for the Hereford Eastern Access Road (EAR).</p> <p>The quoted cost for the delivery of this work is £36,902.92. However, additional contingency funds are required to cover potential changes / additions to the scope as work progresses. This amount will also need to cover an assessment of the Hereford Transport Model which is managed on the Council’s behalf by WSP. A total of £45,000 therefore needs to be made available for this work.</p> <p>This work will be funded from the New Homes Bonus.</p> <p>The EAR scheme initial feasibility work, which is the subject of this decision, will comprise the following outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence base review - this will ensure that the evidence base is refined where needed and at the right time providing a robust basis for the scheme to progress • Preparation of a comprehensive gap analysis across all of the key elements of the scheme and assessment of the Hereford Transport Model - to help inform next

	<p>stage priorities and programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-technical summary of programme and future work stages for members and other stakeholders and, at the request of the cabinet member commentary on how the programme could be accelerated noting any associated risks • Commentary on potential funding options for scheme implementation
<p>Reasons for decision:</p>	<p>To progress a key element of the council's transport strategy in line with the Cabinet's decision of 24 June 2021.</p> <p>Cabinet agreed budget allocations to progress its preferred transport strategy for Hereford including provision of £400k for the development of the eastern access road (eastern link road).</p>
<p>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</p>	<p>The Midlands Highways Alliance Professional Services Partnership Framework 3 (MHA PSP3) is compliant framework to which the council, along with other midlands highway authorities, has access. This approach complies with the council's contract procedure rules.</p> <p>The council's limited internal capacity and expertise means that consultancy support to help develop and then deliver the brief for this first phase of technical work to progress the eastern access road is critical. The MHA PSP3 framework has been set up to include brief development within the overall commissioning process and this has assisted the council in progressing this work quickly and in accordance with Department for Transport guidance for major transport scheme development.</p> <p>A contingency amount has been identified to cover potential changes in scope, including additional technical support required (from WSP) to assist Aecom in its review of the Hereford Transport Model (HTM). The HTM has been developed and is managed by WSP on the council's behalf.</p> <p>Client capacity has been increased by appointment of a PMO (Project Management Office) Senior Project Manager to support the delivery of the project. The project will be overseen by the appropriate project delivery board to provide additional assurance and oversight.</p> <p>Aecom, in assisting with the development of the brief for the initial feasibility work for the scheme have advised a step-wise approach which will help limit financial risks and potentially abortive technical work. Hence this first stage of the EAR scheme feasibility will focus on reviewing the evidence base for the scheme and comprehensive gap analysis which will inform future feasibility work.</p> <p>Funding for this work is available from the £400k allocation agreed by cabinet 24 June 2021.</p> <p>Any subsequent work on the EAR following the completion of this Stage 1 study will be subject to a further officer decision in consultation with the cabinet member and chief finance officer.</p>
<p>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</p>	<p>For the eastern access road scheme to be developed as part of the city masterplan project. This is rejected as the eastern access road scheme will need targeted specialist resources to</p>

	progress and these are best commissioned through a focused study rather than a part of a wider masterplan. It is noted that the overall principle of the eastern access road scheme will, however, be assessed as part of the master planning project.
Details of any declarations of interest made:	None

I am an officer delegated to make the decision

Signed:

Print Name: Ross Cook

Job Title: Corporate Director Economy and Environment