

Record of operational decision

Decision title:	Delivery of Active Travel Fund 4 (ATF4) Works (Aylestone Hill Feasibility; Barton Road Feasibility; School Streets)
Date of decision:	
Decision maker:	Corporate Director of Economy and Environment
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>The Cabinet Member Transport and Infrastructure took a decision 31 August 2023 which approved the allocation and spending of the ATF4 grant.</p> <p>This decision authorised the Corporate Director of Economy and Environment to take all operational decisions necessary to implement the proposed active travel schemes.</p> <p>Details of this decision can be viewed using the following link: Decision - To allocate and spend the Active Travel Fund Grant on the delivery of various Active Travel Measures - Herefordshire Council</p>
Ward:	Countywide
Consultation:	Consultation of this decision has taken place with Finance, Legal and Communications.
Decision made:	<p>To authorise commissioning works for the following ATF4 schemes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - School Streets Design/Implementation - Barton Road ATM Feasibility Work - Aylestone Hill ATM Feasibility Work <p>These works will be delivered within the approved budget of £300k which includes scope for Programme Management Office (PMO) and consultancy project management costs.</p> <p>These works will be delivered by AECOM through a variation to contract, as per the agreed LUF/ATF4 procurement strategy (see further details below).</p>
Reasons for decision:	<p>Herefordshire Council was offered the opportunity to submit a bid for the ATF4 in early 2023. ATF4 provides Herefordshire Council the opportunity to deliver infrastructure that enables walking, wheeling and cycling within the County, supporting an uptake of active travel for everyday trips. Herefordshire Council was successful in being awarded £306k of grant funding to be used on four active travel schemes;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - School Streets - Barton Road - Aylestone Hill - Dropped Crossings <p>The ATF4 grant funding must be commitment during 2023/24 financial year with works completed as reasonably possible thereafter. Failure to achieve these timescales would result in funds being returned to Active</p>

	<p>Travel England (ATE).</p> <p>AECOM will pick up design, consultation, project management and other relevant work to ensure that each scheme is designed and delivered within the required funding timescales.</p>
<p>Equality Considerations</p>	<p>Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 the ‘general duty’ on public authorities is set out as follows:</p> <p>A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act; b) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; c) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. <p>The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying ‘due regard’ in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services. Our providers will be made aware of their contractual requirements in regards to equality legislation.</p> <p>The Equality Act 2010 established a positive obligation on local authorities to promote equality and to reduce discrimination in relation to any of the nine ‘protected characteristics’ (age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; marriage and civil partnership; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation). This project aims to improve the infrastructure for visually impaired pedestrians, through the dropped kerb scheme, and use of tactile paving.</p>
<p>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</p>	<p>Project delivery is overseen by the LUF Project Board which reports into the Sustainable Transport and Place Making Delivery Board.</p> <p>The LUF and ATF4 procurement strategy report agreed by the project board includes an options analysis for professional services procurement, alongside an additional benchmarking and rates comparison exercise. This strategy was agreed by the Director of E&E, in consultation with the Leader, Portfolio Holder and S151 officer.</p> <p>In line with this strategy, AECOM have been procured via a direct award through The Midland Highways Alliance framework contract. The rates have also been benchmarked against other similar providers to ensure a value for money approach.</p> <p>The Midlands Highways Alliance PSP3 Framework aims ‘to help highway authorities improve highway services in the Midlands area and help them deliver efficiency savings’ and includes all services required for the execution of the design and supervision of highway, civil and municipal engineering works.</p>

	<p>The Midlands Highways Alliance PSP3 Framework is a compliantly let framework in line with Herefordshire Council's Contract Procurement Rules. Assurance monitoring has been provided by Herefordshire Councils Commercial Services and Legal Teams through their involvement with the development of the procurement strategy, membership of the project board and development of the contract documentation.</p> <p>Not to award the contract to AECOM would lose the synergies of having the same designers designing the section linking Commercial Road to Aylestone Hill which will introduce unnecessary risks of incompatible designs and also the loss of potential economies of scale.</p> <p>Responsibility for monitoring the project and managing expenditure within the total spend budget is to be with the Senior Project Manager.</p> <p>For contract monitoring AECOM will be required to provide monthly reporting on project progress, fee forecasts (including the hours charged and rates) in accordance with the NEC4 Professional Services Contract (PSC).</p>
<p>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</p>	<p>The alternative option would be to not commission the ATF4 works to AECOM through a variation to contract and instead undertake a new procurement. This is not recommended as the outlined funding timescales would not be achieved and funding would be returned to ATE. This would also downgrade Herefordshire Council's capability level which will reduce the potential for securing future funding from ATE. The procurement strategy has also demonstrated how the proposed approach provides best value via the options analysis and additional benchmarking.</p>
<p>Details of any declarations of interest made:</p>	<p>None.</p>

Signed..... Date:

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