

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Decision to vary the professional services contract with Weston Williamson + Partners to carry out design for the Station Building upgrade
Date of decision:	22 nd August 2023
Decision maker:	Service Director Transport and Highways
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>22 July 2021 Cabinet decision approved the following delegation:</p> <p><i>“(d) The remaining programme funding be allocated to the development of the transport hub project design and consultation and the Interim Director for Economy and Place (in consultation with the Section 151 officer and the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Transport) is authorised to progress this design and consultation to enable cost certainty to be established and further delivery funding sought; and”</i></p>
Ward:	Aylestone Hill; Central; College; Eign Hill; Widemarsh;
Consultation:	Consultation on this decision has taken place with the Project SRO and HC Finance department.
Decision made:	<p>To vary the professional services contract Weston Williamson + Partners (WWP) and pay reasonable costs for design of the Station Building upgrade up to the value of £65,000 (sixty-five thousand pounds) Initial contract value: £462,697.00 Design of station building upgrade: £65,000 Total new contract value : £527,697</p> <p>Weston Williamson + Partners submitted estimated costs included in their contract award. A small contingency allowance has also been included.</p>
Reasons for decision:	<p>Cabinet’s decision 22 July 2021 authorised that</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>“..Allocate the remaining HCCTP programme funding to the development of the transport hub project design and consultation. - Further public consultation will be undertaken as the transport hub design is developed. ...”</i></p> <p>In April 2022 Weston Williamson + Partners (WW+P) were commissioned to undertake RIBA stages 2 & 3 and they have carried out design, key stakeholder consultation and the recommended “Drive In Reverse Out” (DIRO) design option and cost plan was presented to cabinet for approval on 27 October 2022. The initial contract value was £362,697.00. This was increased to £462,697 to allow for additional surveys and planning submissions.</p> <p>In the meantime, there is budget in the current 2023/24 capital programme to progress the design of the transport hub project using this intervening period to achieve as close to a shovel ready scheme as possible by carrying out designs for upgrading the Station Building.</p> <p>The council’s contract procedure rules and the Public Contract Regulations 2015 allow contract variation to a maximum of 50% of the original contract value where the services remain similar.</p>
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	<p><i>Financial</i></p> <p>The Station Building upgrade forms part of the original submission to the DfT for the LUF bid. The impact of this variation on the budget is to be assessed and considered in a further decision.</p> <p><i>Risk</i></p>

	<p>There is a risk that reaching a consensus on the approach to the transport hub takes more time and design input because of diverging stakeholder aspirations.</p> <p>The design brief has been agreed with members and key stakeholders prior to a consultation exercise by the specialist design team.</p> <p><i>Legal</i></p> <p>There is a risk that agreement with Network Rail on the delivery of the transport hub on their element of the site in their ownership cannot be reached or incurs additional costs. Discussions continue with Network Rail, their requirements are incorporated into the design, and agreement reached on land acquisition and post completion maintenance arrangements.</p>
<p>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not to proceed with the variation to the WW+P contract. This is not recommended as it would result in some package objectives and targets as set out in the 2015 Marches Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) business case not being achieved. This would also contravene the terms of the funding agreement, and would not be consistent with the council's adopted delivery plan. 2. Not to proceed with the ongoing design of the Transport Hub. This will not allow cost certainty to be achieved and further delivery funding to be sought with initial funding now insufficient to deliver the remaining sections of the HCCTP as reported in the July 2021 cabinet report.
<p>Details of any declarations of interest made:</p>	<p>None.</p>

Signed..... Date: