

Record of Operational Decision

Decision title:	Hereford Western Bypass. AECOM Scope Development
Date of decision:	27 September 2024
Decision maker:	Corporate Director – Economy and Environment
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>Cabinet’s decision to progress the Hereford Western Bypass including the allocation of budget was taken on 28 March 2024 and can be found here:</p> <p>HC Global Template (herefordshire.gov.uk)</p> <p>Cabinet’s decision delegated authority to take all operational decisions during the development of the schemes to the Corporate Director for Economy and Environment in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure and the Section 151 Officer.</p>
Ward:	Countywide
Consultation:	The Hereford Western Bypass Steering Group is chaired by Cllr Price and comprises members of Cabinet and senior officers, including the s151 officer. The steering group has been consulted on the proposals for consultancy support and has confirmed its support for the award of workstreams to AECOM.
Decision made:	To underwrite the costs to be incurred by AECOM in producing the scope, fees and programmes associated with their intended commission for the Hereford Western Bypass, estimated to be up to £65,000.
Reasons for decision:	<p>AECOM is required to develop the detailed scopes, fee estimates and programmes for the three workstreams associated with their intended award through the Midlands Highways Alliance PSP4 framework. The scopes will be based on outline briefs issued to AECOM by the council.</p> <p>These workstreams are referred to as Phase 1 Development, Outline Business Case and Phase 2 Review.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that producing the detail of the scopes is more complex and involved than would normally be expected. The cost to AECOM to prepare the scopes is therefore significantly more costly than is usual under the PSP4.</p> <p>It has been agreed to underwrite AECOM’s preparation costs up to £65,000.</p> <p>Contracts are only awarded once the scopes, fees and programmes are agreed.</p>

Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	<p>The MHA+ PSP4 framework is a compliant framework to which the council, along with 30 other highway authorities, has access and 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 the various workstream is critical. The PSP4 framework has been set up to include brief development within the overall commissioning process which assists in producing clear project scopes and responsibilities.</p> <p>The risk of not covering the costs of AECOM's preparation work is that the resulting scope would be less comprehensive than currently expected. This would raise the likelihood of the fee estimates being inaccurate and to a significant number of future compensation events to cover unexpected additional work.</p>
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	<p>To not agree to underwriting the costs of scope development was rejected for the reasons outlined above.</p>
Details of any declarations of interest made:	<p>None.</p>

Signed: Ross Cook, Corporate Director Economy & Environment Date: 11/10/2024