

REPORT TO: Mersey Gateway Executive Board

DATE: 14 June 2012

REPORTING OFFICER: Chief Executive

PORTFOLIO: Leader

SUBJECT: Mersey Gateway Bridge -
Procurement Progress

WARDS: All

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report advises members of the progress made in implementing the agreed procurement process.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: no decisions are required but the Mersey Gateway Executive Board are invited to note:-

- (1) that the Competitive Dialogue process has commenced and all three Bidders are actively developing their draft Final Submissions in accordance with the Council programme.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The competitive dialogue procurement process commenced on the 16th March with the issue of the Invitation to Participate in Dialogue (ITPD) documentation to the three Bidders. The complete drafts for the Project Agreement and the Demand Management Participation Agreement that together will form the contracts that the Council awards at Financial Close were issue on 20th April.

3.2 To support the procurement to ensure Bidders can make an appropriate assessment of price and risk the project team have pulled together an archive of information relevant to the bidding process. Around 4,000 documents have been collated and issued to Bidders in electronic format.

3.3 The initial engagement with Bidders took place at the end of March. At the commencement of Dialogue the aim is to consolidate the Bidder's understanding of the project and our requirements. They are challenged to absorb a vast amount of information in a short time and the project team has been available to support dealing with clarification questions. By the end of May the project team had dealt with over 200 clarifications providing a response to each within the two week response target. There have also been 10 dataroom updates.

3.4 The project team has been reorganised to deal with the Competitive Dialogue phase. The organisation is shown in Fig 1.

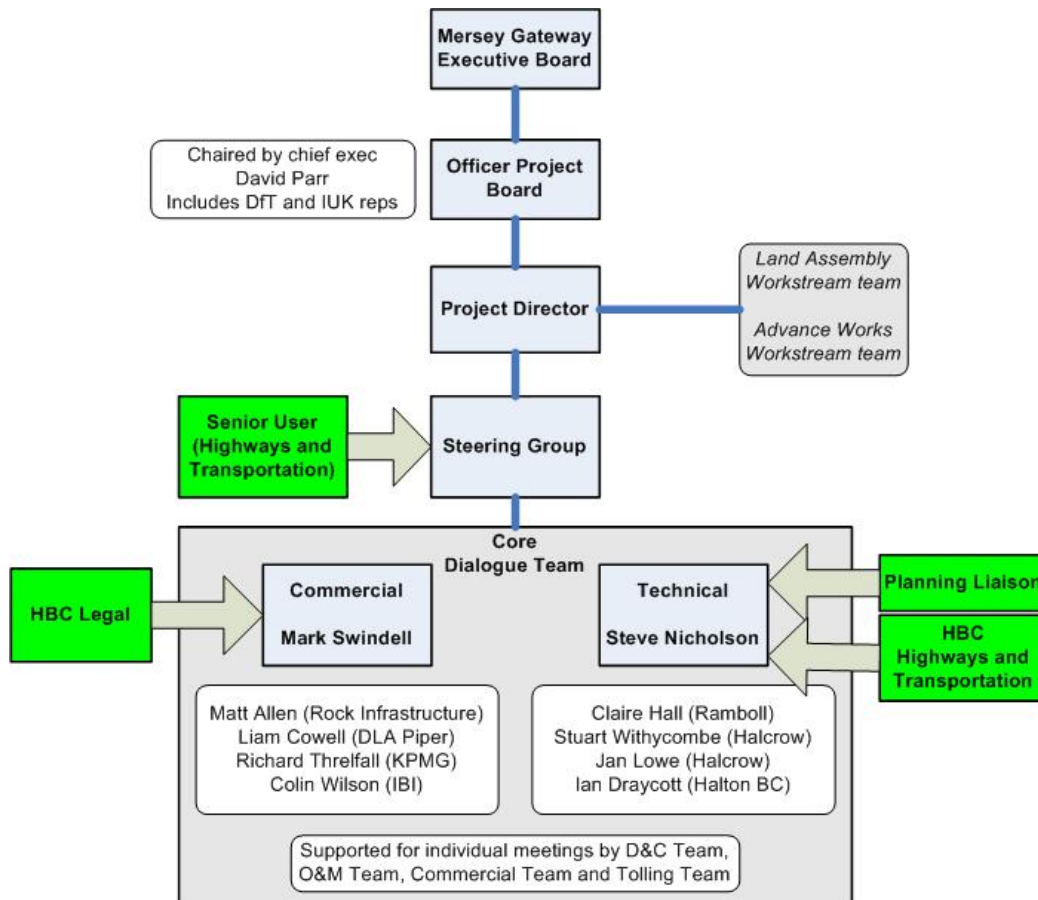


Figure 1 Project Organisation for Dialogue

3.5 The Core Dialogue Teams are following a structure programme of meetings with each Bidder leading to a series of Bidder submissions. The first stage of the Dialogue programme extends over 35 weeks leading to Bidders submitting their Draft Final Tenders in mid November this year. The Dialogue process combined with the Council out put based specifications is intended to allow Bidders to develop innovative schemes and finance that will drive value for money in the submissions we receive in November. It is already evident in the early submissions discussed in Dialogue that Bidders are striving to offer the Council best value by taking every opportunity to innovate drawing on the extensive experience present in each of the prequalified groups.

3.6. Table 1 provides a summary timetable covering the key milestones in the procurement process. The project team remain on target to deliver Financial close in the autumn of next year.

Stage	Date
Stage 4: Issue Invitation to Participate in Dialogue	March 2012
Submission of Draft Final Tenders	November 2012
Evaluation of Draft Final Tenders (and Council submissions to DFT and HMT TAP)	December 2012
Close Dialogue	February 2013
Stage 5: Call for Final Tenders	February 2013
Deadline for return of Final Tenders	March 2013
Stage 6: Evaluation of Final Tenders	April/May 2013
Stage 7: Confirm Preferred Bidder	May 2013
Contracts award and mobilisation	October 2013

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The project is a key priority for the Council which will deliver benefits locally and across the wider region.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 All substantive implications are reported above and in the report annex.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

Mersey Gateway provides an opportunity to improve accessibility to services, education and employment for all.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

Over 500 construction jobs will be required for MG and matters are in hand to ensure the local community has access to these job opportunities. Halton Employment Partnership is engaged with each of the Bidders as part of the project facilitating the maximum opportunity for local jobs being secured. In the longer term, several thousand jobs are forecast to be created in the sub-region due to the wider economic impact of the project.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Mersey Gateway provides an opportunity to improve accessibility to services, education and employment for all, including improved cycling and walking facilities.

6.4 A Safer Halton

The project will produce road safety benefits for road users including improved cycling and walking facilities.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

Mersey Gateway Project is a priority project in the Urban Renewal Programme.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

The project structure supported by the proposed delegation and decision authority will reduce the risk of delay and improve the quality of the project control. A full risk register is maintain as art of the project management system.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

Mersey Gateway provides an opportunity to improve accessibility to services, education and employment for all.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

None under the Meaning of the Act.