

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board

**DATE:** 13 June 2024

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Executive Director Environment & Regeneration

**PORTFOLIO:** Environment and Urban Renewal

**SUBJECT:** East Runcorn Connectivity (ERC) Project  
A56 Construction Gateway

**WARDS:** Daresbury, Moore & Sandymoor

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 A report was considered in October 2022 recommending that approval to procure contractor input via the scape process into the ERC Project up to and including preconstruction stage which was agreed.
- 1.2 This report seeks Executive Board approval to now enter into a delivery agreement and commence Stage 5 of the Scape framework process awarding a contract to deliver the A56 major maintenance works to Balfour Beatty. The contract will commence in July subject to approval and is programmed to complete September 2025.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That**

- 1. The Board approves Halton awarding a contract the contractor named in 1.2 via the SCAPE framework to complete the A56 Major Maintenance Scheme;**
- 2. The Director Planning and Transportation, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder Environment and Urban Renewal, be delegated to accept the Grant Funding Agreement and enable timely delivery of the contract; and**
- 3. Director Planning and Transportation, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder Environment and Urban Renewal, be delegated to deal with any matters relating to procurement and operation of this contract.**

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 Since the last report, much work has been completed by our designers, Mott MacDonald, Balfour Beatty as potential contractor and internal Halton officers to design and develop this scheme and complete outline

and final business cases to the satisfaction of the Liverpool Combined Authority (LCA) to secure the necessary funding.

- 3.2 The final business case (FBC) was submitted in April 2024 and has passed the officer sign off stages. It is due to be formally approved by the LCA on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024 which is subsequent to the deadline for submitting reports to Haltons June Exec Board. Consequently this report has been drafted on the assumption that approval and therefore funding has been secured. The reporting officer will provide a statement to confirm this position.
- 3.3 The reason for making the approval process as efficient as possible with regard to time is to enable a mobilisation period prior to the Creamfields event due to be held on 22 – 25 August at Daresbury adjacent to the site. Whilst some preparatory works will take place prior to the event, the main works programme needs to start in earnest once Creamfields is complete to ensure substantial completion for Creamfields 2025.
- 3.4 In line with current capital funding arrangements through the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA), and HBC's proposed match funding it is anticipated that the value of the contract in total is likely to be in the region of £18m. This figure is above the Public Contract Regulations 2015 thresholds and the Scape process has followed the necessary procedures.
- 3.5 The cost of the works will in the main be met from approved budget allocations for capital funding received via LCRCA in the form of the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) which has replaced the historic capital funding streams including the Integrated Transport Block and Highway Maintenance Block.
- 3.6 It is proposed that mobilisation of the contract will be necessary as described above and with the substantive start date fixed due to the Creamfields event contracts are proposed to be signed in July once the Grant Funding Agreement (GFA) has been received and secured from the LCA.
- 3.7 The Major Maintenance works involve the resurfacing of the entire length of the A56 Chester Road from M56 J11 to the Borough boundary with Warrington. There will also be substantive reconstruction works to remove the underlying issues creating the ridges in the surfacing.
- 3.8 In addition, a new traffic signal controlled junction will be installed at Delph Lane which will provide a pedestrian link from the existing footway to a new footway to be constructed from Delph Lane to Keckwick Lane. This will provide residents of the new Daresbury Garden Village safe passage into the existing facilities within Daresbury village. A new bus layby is also to be created adjacent to the Delph Lane junction to service any future bus routes passing through Daresbury village in addition to those that utilise A56 Chester Road.

## **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The method of procurement has complied with the Public Contract Regulations, 2015 and the Council's own Procurement Standing Orders being carried out in conjunction with the Procurement Centre of Excellence.

## **5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The work to be covered by this Contract will mainly be funded from the CRSTS Capital funding alongside HBC match funding.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

### **6.1 Children and Young People in Halton**

The completion of the new signal controlled junction at Delph Lane and the adjoining footway will enable children living in the Daresbury Garden Village and beyond safe passage to the Daresbury Primary School.

### **6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

Well maintained Highways ensure that the public can travel quickly and easily on the highway network.

### **6.3 A Healthy Halton**

The new footway will encourage residents of the Daresbury Garden Village to utilise the existing facilities within Daresbury Village for this short journey improving their health and hence develop healthier lifestyles as well as the heling the environment.

### **6.4 A Safer Halton**

The traffic signal controlled crossing will enable safe passage across the existing dual carriageway providing a safe link in and out of Daresbury Village.

### **6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

The existing road surface has a undulating and poor ride quality which isn't attractive to visitors and businesses looking to invest in East Runcorn. Well maintained highways help to ensure the borough remains attractive to inward investment and existing businesses.

## **7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

- 7.1 Failure to proceed with the works would be detrimental to the Growth Plan for East Runcorn and would mean that a long standing issue buried within A56 Chester Road since its construction would remain unsolved requiring ongoing maintenance that cures the symptom but not the cause.

## **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 There are no direct equality and diversity issues associated with this report.

**9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATION**

None

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

**10.1** Report to Executive Board on October 2022

**10.2** Appendix 1 – Scape Framework Process Map

# Appendix 1 – Scape Framework Process Map

