

Cabinet

7th September 2020

Wards: Ravensbury

Procurement of the new Bishopsford Bridge

Lead officer: Director of Environment and Regeneration, Chris Lee

Lead member: Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Housing and Transport, Cllr Martin Whelton

Contact officer: Deputy FutureMerton Manager, Tara Butler

Recommendations:

- A. That Cabinet delegate authority to the Director of Environment and Regeneration and the Director of Corporate Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Housing and Transport to approve the award of the construction contract for the new Bishopsford Bridge
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. The purpose of the report is to recommend that Cabinet accelerate progress on the reopening of the new Bishopsford Road bridge by delegating authority to the Director of Environment and Regeneration and the Director of Corporate Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Housing and Transport to approve the award of the construction contract for the new bridge.
- 1.2. This approach is in line with Merton's Cabinet resolution in February 2020 to recognise the urgency and importance of reopening Bishopsford Road Bridge.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1. In February 2020, Merton's Cabinet resolved to select the demolition of the existing structure and the erection of a new bridge as the preferred option to reopen the bridge.
- 2.2. Merton's Cabinet also resolved to continue to recognise the urgency and importance of reopening Bishopsford Road Bridge and reaffirms its commitment to holding special meetings where necessary.
- 2.3. Since then the following progress has been made:
- 2.3.1 April – July 2020 - The damaged structure has been safely demolished
- 2.3.2 May-June 2020 – Pre-application public consultation took place on the designs for the new bridge
- 2.3.3 June - July 2020 – The selection questionnaire for the procurement of the new bridge contractor was published

- 2.3.4 August 2020: The Invitation to Tender for the procurement of the new bridge was published
- 2.3.5 August 2020: The planning application for the new bridge was submitted to the council and public consultation took place

Procurement

- 2.4. The council needs to procure a specialist construction company to build the new Bishopsford Bridge. The design of the bridge is part of a separate contract and is currently being considered by the council in its role as Local Planning Authority as part of a planning application.
- 2.5. Procurement is close to completion; the Invitation to Tender is due to conclude in late September and be evaluated with final award due from Monday 28th September 2020. As this contract is not at the level of OJEU, a procurement standstill period is not required which also helps to speed up progress towards mobilisation and starting construction on site.
- 2.6. If authority to award the construction contract is delegated to the two Directors in consultation with the Cabinet Member, then award can take place as soon as the procurement process concludes from Monday 28th September. This will speed up the timetable by about two weeks.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1. The alternative option is that Cabinet receives a report at their meeting on 12th October 2020 recommending the award of the construction contract for Bishopsford Bridge. This option has been rejected as it adds two weeks to the timetable for procurement, thereby extending the timescales for successfully awarding the contract mobilising the contractor and starting to rebuild the bridge. This approach is not in the spirit of Cabinet's resolution in February 2020 to recognise the importance of this project and help accelerate the timetable where possible.
- 3.2. At the time of writing (August 2020) no disruption to the procurement process is anticipated due to Covid19. However delegated authority would also allow for a more nimble and flexible date for contract award, should there be any Covid19 disruption.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1. None for the purposes of this report.

5 TIMETABLE

- 5.1. Progress to date is set out in the body of the report. Should Cabinet resolve to agree to delegation of the contract award, the future timetable is considered as follows:
 - 5.1.1 By w/c Monday 28th September: evaluation of ITT and award of contract. Contractor mobilisation starts.
 - 5.1.2 22nd October 2020 – Merton's Planning Applications Committee consider case.
 - 5.1.3 By w/c 9th November 2020 – works start on site.

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

6.1. In February 2020 Merton's Cabinet were updated with the indicative costs of rebuilding Bishopsford Bridge, with the preferred option chosen having an estimated total cost of £2.69million, subject to final design, successful procurement and planning permission details.

<https://democracy.merton.gov.uk/documents/s31478/2020-02-24%20Cabinet%20report%20Bishopsford%20Bridge%20FINAL.pdf>

6.2. The final total value of the construction contract is unknown, as the ITT procurement is still running at the time of consideration of this report. There may also be amendments to the project arising from planning permission that have a bearing on the costs. Merton's Planning Applications Committee may consider this report at their meeting on 22nd October 2020.

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

7.1. Notwithstanding that the Council's standing orders requires that contracts of the value of £2,000,000 and above be approved by Cabinet for approval, the Cabinet is empowered to arrange for the discharge of any of its functions by officers (under section 9E of the Local Government Act 2000). The delegation requested in this report is therefore permissible under that legislation.

7.2. The Decision, will remain subject to call in under the constitution. Therefore sufficient time should be built in to the programme to allow for this period.

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

8.1. None for the purposes of this report.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

9.1. None for the purposes of this report.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

10.1. To mitigate procurement risks, the Assistant Director of Sustainable Communities has chaired meetings every two weeks with representatives of the council's procurement service, legal teams and the Bishopsford Bridge project team.

11 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

- None for the purposes of this report.

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

12.1. Merton's Contract Standing Orders

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