

## A4173 SAFER ROADS FUND; PITCHCOMBE JUNCTION IMPROVEMENT

### £640K CONTRACT PROCUREMENT

<b>Cabinet Date</b>	19 June 2019
<b>Highways and Flood</b>	Cllr Vernon Smith
<b>Key Decision</b>	Yes
<b>Background Documents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopted Local Transport Plan (LTP 3 2016)</li> <li>• A4173 Funding for Local Transport; Safer Roads Fund, Application Form</li> </ul>
<b>Location/Contact for inspection of Background Documents</b>	<a href="http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ltp3">http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ltp3</a> Department for Transport Safer Roads Fund; Application Form (Please see Appendix A)
<b>Main Consultees</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Member (Cllr K Rippington for Bisley &amp; Painswick)</li> <li>• Stroud District Council</li> <li>• Highways England</li> <li>• MP David Drew (Stroud)</li> <li>• Wide range of consultees as part of the statutory consultation exercise (Police/Ambulance/Freight &amp; Haulage associations)</li> <li>• Public meetings have been held, which have included a cross section of residents and the general public</li> </ul>
<b>Planned Dates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue tender documents – June 2019</li> <li>• Tender assessment and award – July 2019</li> <li>• Construction start – August 2019</li> <li>• Scheme complete and open to the public – November 2019</li> </ul>
<b>Divisional Councillor</b>	Cllr K Rippington for Bisley & Painswick
<b>Officer</b>	Richard Lloyd - Senior Engineer, Major Schemes. Highways Commissioning <a href="mailto:richard.lloyd@gloucestershire.gov.uk">richard.lloyd@gloucestershire.gov.uk</a>
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To seek Cabinet approval for the Lead Commissioner; Highway Authority, to be authorised to conduct a compliant competitive tender process and to award a contract in respect of the A4173 Safer Roads Fund; Pitchcombe Junction Improvement Scheme</li> </ul>

<p><b>Recommendations</b></p>	<p>That Cabinet authorise the Lead Commissioner; Highway Authority to:</p> <p>(1) conduct a compliant competitive tender process for the award of a contract to a single supplier for the construction of the A4173 Safer Roads Fund; Pitchcombe Junction Improvement Scheme</p> <p>(2) upon conclusion of the competitive tender process, and in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Flood, to enter into a contract with the preferred provider evaluated as offering the Council best value for money for delivery of the services. In the event that the preferred provider for the contract is either unable or unwilling to enter into that contract with the Council then the officer is authorised to enter into such contract with the next willing highest placed suitably qualified provider</p>
<p><b>Reasons for recommendations</b></p>	<p>The decision will enable the council to pursue the contract award for the scheme, which will provide the best opportunity to meet the timescales for project delivery.</p>
<p><b>Resource Implications</b></p>	<p>The total scheme cost of the A4173 Improvements Scheme is £2.4m. The scheme scope includes the work completed in 2018 with the extensive drainage repairs, vegetation clearance, safety improvements, resurfacing works and the Pitchcombe Junction Improvements, which will form the basis of the competitive tender process included in the scope of this report. The scheme has been funded through; £2.16 million from the Safer Roads Fund, secured from the Department for Transport (DfT) and £240k from the Highways Capital programme.</p> <p>It is anticipated that Pitchcombe Junction improvement works tender sum will amount to in the order of £640,000.</p>

## **MAIN REPORT CONTENTS**

### **1. Background**

The proposed project is at the junction of the A4173 and A46, known as Pitchcombe Junction.

The A4173 had previously been identified by Department for Transport's (DfT) Road Safety Foundation as one of England's local 'A' road sections where the potential risk of serious collisions is high. This scheme is the final phase of a wider package of safety improvement works along the A4173 corridor between Pitchcombe and Gloucester.

The scope of the proposals has included route treatment along the A4173 including drainage repairs, vegetation clearance, safety improvements and junction improvements at Pitchcombe Junction. A majority of the smaller packages of work were completed in 2018/19 with the substantive Pitchcombe Junction Improvements planned for 2019/20.

The main focus of the A4173 Safer Roads Fund; Pitchcombe Junction Improvement Scheme is to improve road safety at the junction which has seen a high number of 'slight' collisions – the severity of which could have been higher.

Further scheme information can be found at:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/major-projects-list/a4173-improvements/>

### **2. Proposed improvements**

The scheme has been developed to improve forward visibility at the junction. Currently, the topography of the site causes problems to motorised users (1 uphill approach, 1 downhill approach, 1 at grade approach).

The existing junction will be realigned to increase forward visibility in all directions and improved signing and lining will be less confusing than the existing arrangement. In addition, de-vegetation works and a reduced 40mph speed limit along this section of the A46 will improve safety at this junction for all users.

Several scheme options were considered and the option of a Give way T-junction with right turn lane was selected as the preferred solution on the basis of:

- Simplifying the existing junction layout, making it safer and easier to manoeuvre
- Improvements to visibility and reductions in traffic speeds
- Reduction in noise and pollution

### **3. Procurement**

Tender submission will include Pre-Qualification criteria which will be used to select up to 5 tenderers. The works will be procured via ProContract and this will include prior notifications of the tender approximately 4 weeks before the formal tender. The successful 5 tenders will

be assessed and a preferred supplier identified. A 10 day 'standstill' period will be adopted, during which unsuccessful tenderers may challenge the intention to award to the preferred contractor.

#### 4. Funding breakdown

##### **External Contributions:**

The entire A4173 Highway Improvements scheme will be funded through £2.16 million from the DfT Safer Roads Fund and £0.24m from the Highways Capital Programme. The Pitchcombe Junction Works will be funded from the £700k of DfT and Local Authority Contributions in 2019/20

##### **Reserves:**

Nil

##### **Funding breakdown:**

£000s	2018-19	2019-20
DfT funding	1,700	460
Local Authority contribution	0	240
TOTAL	1,700	700

#### 5. Options

The options for Cabinet are as follows:

- Option A: To authorise the Lead Commissioner; Highway Authority to progress the scheme as set out in this report's recommendations or;
- Option B: To authorise the Lead Commissioner; Highway Authority to seek an alternative procurement route

#### 6. Risk Assessment

An up to date risk register for the scheme exists and is regularly updated in line with the GCC Risk Management process, in order to investigate, manage and mitigate key risks.

The key risks can be summarised as follows:

- 1) The tender prices received from Contractors exceed the budget available to construct the scheme.
- 2) Delay in progression of TROs/legal processes required to enable scheme construction.

Overall, the risks are well understood and are being eliminated or mitigated as the project moves forward. There are, however, a number of outstanding risks that could have an impact on the design and cost of the project. Risks will continue to be actively monitored and any significant changes affecting the scope of the project will be reported to the Lead Cabinet Member.

## **7. Officer Advice**

That Cabinet approve the recommendations as set out in this report.

## **8. Equalities considerations**

To date, no specific analysis has been carried out with regard to the protected characteristics; however, the detailed design of the final scheme will be undertaken in accordance with relevant guidance in relation to equalities and safety. The Equality Act 2010, states that service providers have a continuing duty to consider impacts on groups with protected characteristics and therefore monitoring of users once the scheme is operational will be required to ensure that equality issues pertaining to age, disability, sex and ethnicity, are being considered and evolved after opening. Additionally any information on incidents/accidents or in the area around the scheme will be analysed according to the characteristics of the victim if the information is available.

## **9. Consultation feedback**

Consultation was undertaken in the form of two meetings with affected Parishes which were well received, this was followed up with a Public Meeting with Pitchcombe Parish Council in 2018 attended by members of public, the Local Member, Councillor Rippington and affected stakeholders. Comments were encouraged as part of the exercise and were incorporated into the final design. To date, consultation has included the Local member, local Town and Parish Councils, access and rights of way groups, scheme users and emergency services.

## **10. Performance Management/Follow-up**

Scheme costs and delivery will continue to be managed in accordance with business case objectives and the monthly meetings of the Local Transport Plan Management Board, attended by the relevant Lead Commissioner and Commissioning Director.

<b>Report Title</b>	A4173 Safer Roads Fund; Pitchcombe Junction Improvement Scheme – contract procurement and ancillary orders
<b>Statutory Authority</b>	Highways Act 1980 Traffic Management Act 2004
<b>Relevant County Council policy</b>	Adopted Local Transport Plan (LTP 3) 2016
<b>Resource Implications</b>	<p>The total scheme cost of the A4173 Improvements Scheme is £2.4m. The scheme scope includes the work completed in 2018 with the extensive drainage repairs, vegetation clearance, safety improvements, resurfacing works and the Pitchcombe Junction Improvements, which will form the basis of the competitive tender process included in the scope of this report. The scheme has been funded through; £2.16 million from the Safer Roads Fund, secured from the Department for Transport (DfT) and £240k from the Highways Capital programme.</p> <p>It is anticipated that Pitchcombe Junction improvement works tender sum will amount to in the order of £640,000.</p>
<b>Sustainability checklist:</b>	
Partnerships	Close working with the preferred contractor (when appointed)
Decision Making and Involvement	During the scheme delivery phase, Gloucestershire County Council retains governance and control of the delivery of the Contract. Gloucestershire County Council will act as the client under the contract with a Contractor appointed via a competitive tender process. Representatives from Gloucestershire County Council or their Professional Services Contractor will be appointed to undertake the project management and supervision roles and will be responsible for managing the Contract during the works.
Economy and Employment	The scheme promotes a more resilient road network, providing a safer and more accessible linkage between the A46 and the A4173.
Caring for people	The scheme is also expected to have a beneficial impact by reducing cyclist and pedestrians' accidents. The widened footways would provide a safe place to cross and navigate the route and in turn avoid crossings occurring at random points which would increase the risk of a collision.
	(The scheme design will promote the safety of all users.)

<p>Social Value</p>	<p>This scheme has the potential to increase physical activity. The improved crossing points will provide a safe place for pedestrians to cross this will reduce severance for potential users and improve confidence in using the route via such method.</p>
<p>Natural Environment' including Ecology (Biodiversity)</p>	<p>The key impacts relate to the loss of habitat, in particular the loss of unimproved and semi-improved neutral grassland within the roadside verges Pre-construction species surveys and checks to existing badger setts should be undertaken for badgers, and vegetation clearance undertaken outside of the bird breeding season if possible or under ecological guidance. Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) should be employed regarding amphibians and reptiles. Work should be undertaken in accordance with 'BS5873:2012 Trees' in relation to design, demolition and construction to ensure that mature trees, hedgerows and tree belts in close proximity are not harmed.</p>
<p><b>Education and Information</b></p>	<p>As part of any quality tender evaluation, the successful Contractor will need to outline their strategy for community engagement, (school visits/weekly site bulletins/social media and comms plan).</p>
<p><b>Tackling Climate Change</b></p>	<p>Carbon Emissions Implications? Positive The impact produced by the implementation of the scheme is beneficial (CO2 reduction) due to the reduction in waiting times at the junction Vulnerable to climate change? No</p>
<p><b>Due Regard Statement</b></p>	<p>Has a Due Regard Statement been completed? No</p> <p>No specific analysis has been carried out with regard to the protected characteristics. However, this scheme is included in the County Council's adopted Local Transport Plan (2016) which includes analysis of data in regard to user needs. The detailed design of the final scheme will be undertaken in accordance with relevant guidance in relation to equalities and safety.</p> <p><b>Monitoring of Service Users</b> The Equality Act 2010 states that service providers have a continuing duty to consider impacts on groups with protected characteristics and therefore monitoring of users once the scheme is operational will be required to ensure that equality issues pertaining to age, disability, sex and ethnicity, are being considered and evolved after opening. Additionally any information on incidents/accidents or in the area around the scheme will be analysed according to the characteristics of the</p>

	victim if the information is available.
<b>Human rights Implications</b>	N/A
<b>Consultation Arrangements</b>	Pre-consultation included engagement with key stakeholders and interest parties included the Local member, Parish Councils, access and rights of way groups, scheme users and emergency services.