

ASHCHURCH BRIDGE OVER RAIL (ABOR)

APPROVAL TO PROVIDE HIGHWAY CONSULTANCY SERVICES

Cabinet Date	29 January 2020
Environment & Planning	Cllr Nigel Moor
Key Decision	Yes
Background Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• https://www.tewkesburygardentown.co.uk/• ARB01 GCC Project Proposal• Atkins Project Plan• Joint Core Strategy
Location/Contact for inspection of Background Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• https://www.tewkesburygardentown.co.uk/• https://www.jointcorestrategy.org/
Main Consultees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• GCC Strategic Communities and Infrastructure Members Board (SCIMB) – Colin Chick, Cllr Vernon Smith, Cllr David Norman, Cllr Nigel Moore, Cllr Patrick Molyneux• Tewkesbury Borough Council• Worcestershire County Council• Homes England• Highways England• Network Rail
Planned Dates	Conclusion of options selection (Technical Appraisal Review) - January 2020 Public consultation - Spring 2020 Design complete - July 2020 Planning - Spring 2020 Construction - July 2020 to December 2021 HIF funding deadline - 31st March 2022
Divisional Councillor	Cllr Vernon Smith

Officer	<p>Jen Dorman; Infrastructure & Improvements Lead, Highways</p> <p>Jennifer.dorman@gloucestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>01452 582515</p>
Purpose of Report	<p>To ask Cabinet to delegate authority to GCC’s Lead Commissioner, Highway Authority in consultation with Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning, for the purpose of implementing the recommendations set out below.</p>
Recommendations	<p>That Cabinet delegates authority to the Lead Commissioner, Highway Authority [in consultation with Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning] to authorise GCC, as Highways Authority, to enter into a Consultancy Services Agreement with Tewkesbury Borough Council (“TBC”) under which GCC shall provide Project Management, Design, Planning and Construction Supervision in connection with the Ashchurch Bridge over Rail (the “ABoR Project”) and the wider Garden Town Project.</p>
Reasons for recommendations	<p>The decision will enable GCC, as Highway Authority, to provide technical expertise to Tewkesbury Borough Council in order to facilitate the delivery of the ABoR Project which is intended to unlock the land east of Ashchurch for the development of the proposed Garden Town.</p>
Resource Implications	<p>The ABoR Project will be funded in its entirety by TBC using a grant to them of £8m from the Housing Infrastructure Fund, through Homes England. TBC will be the “client” for the purposes of this project; hence it will itself procure construction works in respect of the ABoR Project and contract directly with the successful tenderer thereunder. Both Atkins and GCC staff shall provide guidance and supervision in relation to Project Management, Design, Planning and Construction Supervision.</p> <p>Costs incurred in the provision of Project Management, Planning Application, Design and Construction Supervision by Atkins Ltd (as professional services consultants on GCC’s behalf) will be commissioned by the GCC Highways Commissioning Team as Lump Sum values, agreed in advance with TBC. All costs shall be payable in full by TBC to GCC</p> <p>GCC expenditure in respect of GCC staff time will be recovered from TBC on a time charge basis based on individual staffs rechargeable rate.</p>

MAIN REPORT CONTENTS

1. Background

Tewkesbury Borough Council (TBC) has been awarded funding from Homes England through the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) to build a bridge over the railway in Ashchurch. The aim of the bridge is to unlock the Garden Town development opportunity to the north east of Tewkesbury.

Tewkesbury Borough Council has requested assistance from Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), as the Highways Authority, and their partners Atkins Ltd (through GCC's Highways Professional Services Contract with them) to assist with the delivery of the ABoR Project and the Garden Town Development. GCC, as the Highway Authority, will act as the Client's Representative with Atkins Ltd becoming the Principle Designer leading the technical delivery, planning application and assisting with overall project management on GCC's behalf. The expertise of the Highways Authority will be utilised to design and construct a fully compliant bridge and link roads to the relevant highway standards. It is anticipated the Highway Authority will adopt the highway and the highway structure on completion of the development.

2. Options

- Option A: To authorise the Lead Commissioner, Highway Authority to action all of the recommendations as set out in this report;
- Option B: Decline authorisation for the Lead Commissioner, Highway Authority to action any of the recommendations as set out in this report and consequently suspend the delivery of the ABoR Project.

3. Risk Assessment

An up to date Risk Register for the scheme has been produced and is subject to regular updates 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:

- TBC are the ABoR Project's Budget Holder & the Planning Authority, which could be seen as a conflict of interest. However, this is being mitigated by GCC and Atkins (on GCC's behalf) managing/submitting the planning application in respect of the ABoR Project.
- As a project team we are unable to obtain ideal timing of a Network Rail track possession for the construction of the Bridge within the funding constraints. This is being mitigated through working closely with Network Rail.
- The cost of build exceeds the limit of the budget; all estimates to date are within budget. If an overspend were to occur it would sit with the client which for this project is TBC.

- The programme for the project is tight as the deadline to spend the Homes England HIF grant is March 2022. The programme is regularly reviewed and the end date is achievable. All works are currently on target.

Risks will continue to be actively monitored and any significant changes affecting the scope of the project will be reported to the Project Board and Lead Cabinet Member.

4. Officer Advice

That Cabinet approve Option A (described in Section 2 of this Report) and the recommendations as set out in this report.

5. Equalities considerations

The detailed design of the proposed bridge will be undertaken in accordance with relevant guidance in relation to equalities and safety.

6. Consultation feedback

Given the relative infancy of the scheme, no formal consultation has been undertaken with GCC statutory consultees or the wider public. Early informal consultation with relevant stakeholders is underway.

A communications plan has been prepared in conjunction with TBC and Share Events are being scheduled for February 2020.

Stakeholders for the project are as follows;

- GCC Strategic Communities and Infrastructure Members Board (SCIMB) – Colin Chick, Cllr Vernon Smith, Cllr David Norman, Cllr Nigel Moore, Cllr Patrick Molyneux
- Tewkesbury Borough Council
- Worcestershire County Council
- Homes England
- Highways England
- Network Rail

7. Performance Management/Follow-up

GCC has set up a clear and robust structure to provide accountability and an effectual decision making process for the management of major projects; this ABoR Project will replicate these.

Joint GCC & TBC project boards are scheduled to meet every 6 weeks during the continuation of the ABoR Project; minutes of these meetings will be circulated to Cabinet Members.

Report Title	Ashchurch Bridge over Rail (ABoR) – Approval to provide Highway Consultancy Services.
Statutory Authority	Highways Act 1980 Traffic Management Act 2004
Relevant County Council policy	<p>This project supports the Gloucestershire Joint Core Strategy. The Joint Core Strategy (JCS) is a partnership between Gloucester City Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, and Tewkesbury Borough Council.</p> <p>The JCS was adopted by the three local authorities in December 2017. It is a co-ordinated strategic development plan that sets out how the area will develop between 2011 and 2031.</p> <p>For further information, please see https://www.jointcorestrategy.org/ashchurch-development-project</p>
<p>Sustainability checklist:</p> <p>Partnerships</p> <p>Decision Making and Involvement</p> <p>Economy and Employment</p>	<p>Delivery of the ABoR Project aligns with strategic objectives held by a number of key project partners including: TBC, Network Rail, Highways England and Homes England. Future partnerships will be developed throughout the life of the scheme, including work with partner agencies such as the Environment Agency and Natural England. Involvement with a contractor early in this scheme would promote a productive, progressive partnership which will be required to deliver this project.</p> <p>GCC’s ‘Code of Corporate Governance’ underlines the management and delivery of the ABoR Project. Regular Project Board meetings, which include representatives from the County Council, Tewkesbury Borough Council, Network Rail and Atkins, ensure cross-organisation involvement, clear communication and transparency.</p> <p>In delivering the scheme, Gloucestershire’s local economy will be supported. This will be as a result of the Garden Town Development increasing network capacity, connectivity, and the accelerated delivery of new homes.</p>

Social Value	Assuming an inclusive recruitment approach is adopted, construction of the scheme presents a good opportunity to maximise benefits for those seeking employment locally, including those from protected characteristics groups. It is anticipated that construction of the schemes will facilitate development in the immediate area. The employment land provided may also provide longer term employment prospects. During the scheme's operation it is expected to have a positive impact on the area local to Ashchurch and Tewkesbury East through the creation of long-term, sustainable housing growth.
Built Environment	The proposed infrastructure will enable the accelerated delivery of 826 new housing units and employment land (up to 2032).
Natural Environment' including Ecology (Biodiversity)	To inform ongoing work on options assessment for ABoR Project, ecological surveys on land within 500 metres of the development site have been undertaken. These surveys will ensure that any improvements to the highway network will have a minimal impact on the surrounding natural area, environment and local wildlife. The results of the surveys will help the Council understand the potential impacts of the scheme on the surrounding environment and will inform the final environmental mitigation design of the scheme.
Education and Information	Early engagement with relevant stakeholders is already underway. This will continue throughout the delivery of the scheme and will begin to include a wider range of stakeholders and members of the public. All materials and communications relating to the scheme will be clear and simple to understand to ensure it is accessible for all. Detailed strategies for stakeholder engagement and consultation are detailed in the Communications Plan.
Tackling Climate Change	Carbon Emissions Implications? Positive/ Neutral/ Negative Vulnerable to climate change? Yes/ No/ Maybe
Due Regard Statement	<p>Has a Due Regard Statement been completed? No – see 'Equalities considerations' section in the main body of the report.</p> <p>A copy of the full Due Regard Statement can be accessed on GLOSTEXT via http://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/uuCoverPage.aspx?bcr=1</p> <p>Alternatively a hard copy is available for inspection from Jo Moore, Democratic Services Unit, e-mail: jo.moore@gloucestershire.gov.uk.</p>

<p>Human rights Implications</p>	<p>The Human Rights Act 1998 incorporated into domestic law the European Convention on Human Rights. This project will not affect this convention</p>
<p>Consultation Arrangements</p>	<p>Given the relative infancy of the ABoR Project, no formal consultation has been undertaken with GCC statutory consultees or the wider public. Early informal consultation with relevant stakeholders is underway and work has taken place to identify and begin a collaborative information gathering exercise with key partners and stakeholders.</p> <p>Stakeholders for this project, are as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCC Strategic Communities and Infrastructure Members Board (SCIMB) – Colin Chick, Cllr Vernon Smith, Cllr David Norman, Cllr Nigel Moore, Cllr Patrick Molyneux • Tewkesbury Borough Council • Worcestershire County Council • Homes England • Highways England • Network Rail

