

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Development
2.	Date:	4 February 2013
3.	Title:	Local Pinch Point Fund – Preparation of Business Case
4.	Programme Area:	Streetpride

5. Summary

To seek an exemption from standing order 47.6.3 (requirement to invite three written quotations for a contract with an estimated value of between £20,000 and £50,000) in order that WSP Development and Transportation can be commissioned to undertake the preparation of business cases for submission to the Department for Transport regarding the Local Pinch Point Fund.

6. Recommendations

Cabinet Member is asked to resolve that:

- i) An exemption from Standing Order 47.6.3 (requirement for contracts valued between £20,000 and £50,000) be granted and the Council commission WSP Development and Transportation to undertake the preparation of business cases to submit to the Department for Transport for Rotherham's bid into the Local Pinch Point Fund.**
- ii) The sanction of the Mayor be sought to exempt this recommendation from the usual call in procedure in order to allow the immediate commissioning of the work due to the short timescale set by the Department for Transport.**

7. Proposals and Details

The Council has the opportunity as Local Highway Authority to make bids into the recently announced Local Pinch Point Fund supported by the Department for Transport and designed to promote economic growth through the rapid deployment of schemes that remove transport barriers to facilitate development.

There is a limited time available to initiate a bid, and bids are required to be received by the Department for Transport (DfT) by 5pm on 21 February 2013, which is an extremely tight timescale. The bidding process requires analysis of value for money and scheme impacts. In addition a full appraisal of each scheme is required for each bid to demonstrate that the full range of impacts has been considered.

The Council are anticipating bidding for two schemes from the Local Pinch Point Fund, both requiring less than £5M each from the DfT and a 30% local contribution. These schemes are the replacement of "Old Flatts Bridge" on the A630 Sheffield Parkway and the replacement of the Main Street Roundabout with a signalised junction. Both schemes accord with the types of project that the DfT will be considering funding. It is likely that the overall fund will be heavily subscribed and therefore it is essential that a robust business case is produced to underpin the bid in order for the Council to maximise its potential for a successful bid.

WSP Development and Transportation has undertaken traffic modelling and similar appraisals for works along Rotherham's major transport corridors and in the town centre, most recently the appraisals for the A630 Key route through Mushroom Roundabout and Dalton, and production of the traffic model for the new superstore development proposed on the previous Civic Site. The consultants are therefore best placed to develop the appraisal and business case for the Main Street Roundabout proposal. They have also been involved with analysis and assessment at the A630/M1 Junction 33 intersection and are therefore the most appropriate consultants to prepare the business case and appraisal for the proposed bridge scheme on the A630 Sheffield Parkway.

It is anticipated that the preparation of the two business cases will require funding of between £25,000 and £30,000 and therefore the report seeks an approval for exemption to standing order 47.6.3.. As the work is particularly urgent, with the deadline set for submissions by 21 February 2013, it is requested that the sanction of the Mayor is sought to exempt the recommendation from call in.

8. Finance

It is anticipated that the commission to undertake modelling work, scheme appraisal and the preparation of the business cases will be between £25,000 and £30,000; this funding would be sourced from the current Local Transport Fund allocation for 2012/13.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Failure to undertake a full comprehensive business case and appraisal for the schemes would impact on the likelihood of success in the bidding process to the DfT.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The proposed schemes accord with the policies contained in the South Yorkshire Local Transport Plan 2011 – 2015, the Sheffield City Region Transport Strategy and the Traffic Management Act 2004.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Consultation has taken place with the Director of Legal and Democratic Services and with the Director of Finance.

Contact Name: *Ian Ashmore, Transportation and Traffic Manager ext 22825,
ian.ashmore@rotherham.gov.uk*