

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods
2.	Date:	01 December 2014
3.	Title:	Consultant support to assist the Council to make a funding application to Sheffield City Region Investment Fund for the Waverley Link Road.
4.	Directorate:	Environment and Development Services

5. Summary

To seek an exemption to Councils Standing Orders in accordance with Standing Order 38 (exemptions) so that Systra can be commissioned to assist the Council to make a funding application to the Sheffield City Region Infrastructure Fund for the Waverley Link Road.

6. Recommendations

Cabinet Member is asked to resolve that:

- i) An exemption from Standing Order 47 (requirement for contracts valued at less than £50,000) be granted and the Council commission Systra to support the Council to make a funding application to the Sheffield City Region Investment Fund for the Waverley Link Road**
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7. Proposals and Details

The Council together with Sheffield City Council (SCC), as lead authority, had an OJEU procured Strategic Multi Modal Transport Modelling Framework Agreement with MVA Consultancy Ltd (now Systra) which expired on 23 December 2011. This agreement was the subject of a report to Cabinet Member on 4 April 2011, minute number 118 refers.

Given the uncertainty around Central Government guidance on developing major transport schemes and the proposal to devolve funding for such schemes to Local Enterprise Partnerships no decision was made on a replacement Framework Contract for Multi Modal Transport Modelling. This means that the Council does not currently have access to the Multi Modal Transport Model.

Major scheme transport funding has now been devolved to the Local Economic Partnership (LEP) for the Sheffield City Region (SCR) and has been incorporated into the Sheffield City Region Infrastructure Fund (SCRIF). This aim of this fund is to deliver essential strategic infrastructure to increase economic growth and jobs in the Sheffield City Region.

In July 2013 the SCR Local Transport Body published a list of prioritised schemes which would have the biggest impact on jobs and economy in the SCR. The Waverley Link Road (WLR) is one scheme of two schemes in Rotherham which appear on this list. The total funding available for our Lower Don Valley Waverley package is £51.1 million, which it is anticipated that we can start to draw down to implement the scheme from 2017 onwards.

The next step in the SCRIF process is to make a Full Business Case application for the WLR. The information required for the application is similar in scope to that required for a Major Scheme funding bid to the Department for Transport and as such requires expertise in the modelling of major schemes which the Council do not possess.

Systra currently host the Multi Modal Transport Model and until a decision is made on the future of the Framework Contract for Multi Modal Transport Modelling they are the only organisation who can currently operate and interrogate this model.

Systra's performance under the expired Framework Contract has been satisfactory and the contract was let under the OJEU procedure and represented value for money at the time. As Systra are the only organisation who can currently undertake this work no further assessment of value for money has been undertaken.

It is therefore requested that an exemption from Standing Order 47 (requirement for contracts valued up to £50,000) be granted and the Council commission Systra to support the Council to make a funding application to the Sheffield City Region Investment Fund for the WLR.

8. Finance

It is anticipated that the commission to undertake work in support of the funding application would cost in the region of £30,000. Funding for this work has been is available from the Local Transport Plan.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

As the Waverley New Community development progresses there will be increasing pressure on the surrounding highway network. WLR is proposed to relieve this pressure and if no bid is made traffic problems in the area would become worse.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

None.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

None.

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