



ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

6 October 2021

Report Title:	Sustainable Transport and Green Infrastructure Contract Award
Cabinet Portfolio	Environment & Transport
Cabinet Member	Councillor Andy Bowden
Exempt Report	Yes – Appendices
Reason for Exemption	exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any person (including the Authority holding that information)
Key Decision	Yes
Public Notice issued	7 th September 2021
Wards Affected	Moss Bank, Town Centre, Parr & Bold
Report of	Jonathan Edwards Director of Operations - Place Services JonathanEdwards@Sthelens.gov.uk
Contact Officer	Paul Lawrenson Assistant Director – Highways & Infrastructure PaulLawrenson@sthelens.gov.uk

Borough priorities	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	
	Promote good health, independence, and care across our communities	
	Create safe and strong communities and neighbourhoods for all	X
	Support a strong, thriving, inclusive and well-connected local economy	X
	Create green and vibrant places that reflect our heritage and culture	X
	Be a responsible Council	

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report outlines investment into two projects to deliver the LCR Sustainable Urban Development Strategy. The projects are improvements to Gerrards Bridge and Canal Greenway and Sankey Valley to Colliers Moss Greenway.
- 1.2 The report is seeking to award a construction contract for the St Helens Council Sustainable Transport and Green Infrastructure scheme. Contract Procedure Rules require the Cabinet to approve tenders £500,000 and above. The value associated with this contract for which approval is sought is above this figure.

2. Recommendations for Decision

Cabinet is recommended to:

- i) Award the contract for the construction of St Helens Council Sustainable Transport and Green Infrastructure works to the successful Tenderer.**
- ii) Delegate authority to the Executive Director of Place Services in consultation with the Executive Director of Corporate Services to enter this construction contract.**

3. Purpose of this Report

- 3.1 To advise Cabinet Members on the progress of the above project, the recent procurement undertaken for the construction contract and to recommend acceptance of the tender for the construction works to the contractor who provided the most economically advantageous bid for this work to be undertaken.

4. Background

- 4.1 At its meeting on 6th March 2019 a report (Item 134) was submitted which informed Cabinet that the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA) at its meeting held on 14 December 2018, approved the acceptance of £10,308,260 from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to be invested in the LCR Sustainable Urban Development Strategy (SUD), to create green walking and cycling corridors across the City Region which would equate to over 55 km of improved cycling and walking paths and 49 hectares of green space.

- 4.2 This enabled St Helens to deliver a series of complementary activities in relation to:
- The further development of the LCR wide cycling and walking network, which facilitates access to economic and employment growth areas and to educational and training opportunities; and
 - Complementary green infrastructure, linked to innovative ways of remediation and use of brownfield land and enhancing biodiversity.
- 4.3 For St Helens Council, a capital grant to a value of £0.757m match funded with £0.757m of the LCR Transforming Cities Fund making the total funding available £1.514m to deliver two projects:
- Gerrards Bridge and Canal Greenway (£868,500); and
 - Sankey Valley to Colliers Moss Greenway (£646,500)
- 4.4 Cabinet resolved that £1,515,000 be accepted from the LCR Combined Authority for the Liverpool City Region (LCR) Sustainable Urban Development (SUD) 2018/19 to 2020/21 scheme, the award of this contract will commit all the remaining monies.
- 4.5 The overall scheme has 3 main elements.
- Watercourse improvement works to Rainford Brook to improve biodiversity and alleviate flooding at College Street. (Works completed).
 - New footbridges over Rainford Brook/Sankey Canal and repairs to damaged canal wall and towpath. (Funding committed and tender to be published on The Chest e-procurement portal).
 - New and improved on and off-road footways/cycleways connecting to the existing network across the Borough. See below for details. (A procurement exercise has been completed and award is subject of this Cabinet report).
- Gerard's Bridge & Canal Route
- Footpath construction with timber edgings on brook side. 1km of 3m wide footway/cycleway between College Street and Merton Bank Road.
 - Path upgrade on Merton Bank to Park Road. Link to residential area. Upgrade and widen existing tarmac path.
- Sankey Valley Colliers Moss Route
- Signage Sankey Valley Greenway to Newton Road via Havannah.
 - Waring Avenue to Fleet Lane off road cycleway and on road cycle route - Footways through park.
 - Fleet Lane to Colliers Moss Railway Bridge-off Road cycle path.
 - Proposed Link to Broadway.
- 4.6 A tender process was conducted as an open tender using the Northwest procurement framework referred to as the Chest.
- 4.7 The assessment of tenders was conducted on a 70% price: 30% quality ratio, with compliant tenders evaluated on this basis.
- 4.8 The outcome of this process is to appoint the highest scoring tenderer (Tenderer H in exempt Appendix 1, tender evaluation report) to carry out the works.

5. Community Impact Assessment

The Community Impact Assessment identified the following key implications:

- 5.1 The works provide new and improved on and off-road footways/cycleways that connect to the existing network across the Borough and encourages active travel through a switch to more sustainable modes of transport. (Improving the economy, employment, and skills; Improving air quality and greenhouse emissions).
- 5.2 The works provide new and improved on and off-road footways/cycleways that access green space and local heritage (Sankey Canal). (Improving the liveable environment).

6. Consideration of Alternatives

- 6.1 Alternative procurement routes were considered (SCAPE framework; other frameworks; Council Engineering Works framework) but as the works are relatively simple and as the scheme is part ERDF funded an open tender procurement was considered to have less risk and be more auditable.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 Cabinet is advised to support the recommendations set out in this paper. The submission by Tenderer H was compliant and was evaluated to provide the most economically advantageous bid.

8. Implications

8.1 Legal Implications

- 8.1.1 The contract has been procured in accordance with Corporate Procurement Rules. The contract will be executed under seal due to the value.

8.2 Community Impact Assessment (CIA) Implications

8.2.1 Social Value

- 8.2.1.1 The proposed contractor for the scheme has demonstrated a strong commitment to providing added social value as part of their tender.

8.3 Sustainability and Environment

- 8.3.1 The tender process evaluated Environmental Sustainability. (The response from Tenderer H is provided in exempt Appendix 2).

8.4 Health and Wellbeing

- 8.4.1 The scheme creates green walking and cycling corridors to support health and wellbeing.
- 8.4.2 Unite Construction Charter recommendations in relation to health and safety and general working conditions were part of the tender evaluation criteria.

8.5 Equality and Human Rights

8.5.1 The routes are designed to provide access for all. Road crossings are pedestrian signal controlled. The scheme will adhere to Government guidance to make provision for people with disabilities such as tactile paving at crossing points and compliant footway gradients.

8.6 Customers and Resident

8.6.1 Residents and businesses in locations that will be disturbed by the works will be kept informed of the start and end dates and of any planned disruptive activities such as road closures.

8.6.2 Benefits include improved access to green spaces using new and improved on and off-road cycling and walking routes.

8.7 Asset and Property

8.7.1 The scheme will provide new and improved paths across existing Council land. There are an additional 3 pedestrian/cycle crossings that will be additional Highway Assets and will need to be maintained in future years.

8.8 Staffing and Human Resource

8.8.1 There are no HR implications. The project will be led by an in-house team and delivered with external consultant support as required.

8.9 Risks

8.9.1 Possible loss of ERDF funding if the contract is not awarded. Retendering would result in a delay that could extend beyond the funding timescale. Timely award of this construction contract will mitigate this risk.

8.9.2 Cost overruns will be contained within the overall ERDF/TCF budget figure. A Project Cost Consultant has been engaged throughout the scheme to manage costs. The bid is lower than the project estimate, but project engineers will monitor works to ensure costs are controlled.

8.10 Finance

8.10.1 The project has an agreed budget of £1,515,000. This was agreed by Cabinet in March 2019.

8.10.2 The funding is a capital grant from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) match funded on a 50:50 basis by the LCR Transforming Cities Fund. There is no Council contribution required.

8.10.3 The approved funding package is shown in Table 1 below;

Table 1. Scheme funding breakdown

Funding Source	£
European Regional Development Fund	757,000
LCR Transforming Cities Fund	757,000
Total	1,515,000

8.10.4 The funding delivers two projects:

- Gerrards Bridge and Canal Greenway (£868,500); and

- Sankey Valley to Colliers Moss Greenway (£646,500)

8.10.5 The funding has already delivered several project elements and with the proposed award of this contract all monies are now either spent or committed to be spent in compliance with funding requirements.

8.11 Policy Framework Implications

8.11.1 Recommendations within this report are in line with existing council policies.

9. Background papers

9.1 Community Impact Assessment

10. Appendices

10.1 Appendix 1: Tender evaluation report.

10.2 Appendix 2: Bidder's Environmental Sustainability response.