

# BRIEFING REPORT

## Woolwell to The George: Phase 1, 2 and 3 Project Orders



### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This Executive Decision relates to the approval of Project Orders for Phases 1, 2 and 3 of the Woolwell to The George Transport Scheme. The works involve a range of civil engineering activities including road widening, provision of new and improvement of existing cycle facilities, upgrades of pedestrian crossing, drainage works, traffic signal installations and carriageway reconstruction and surfacing.
- 1.2. The agreed procurement approach is to utilise the Scape Procure Civil Engineering & Infrastructure Framework. This approach has been selected due to the very tight timescales for this project, it has proven to be a successful delivery model for other Council schemes, it is a framework which was awarded to Balfour Beatty through a compliant competitive tender, and it involves competitive tendering of works packages and therefore highlights value for money.
- 1.3. This decision approves the project orders and therefore commits the Council to pay the required pre-construction charge. It does not commit the Council to any other contractual stages.

### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The Woolwell to The George scheme aims to alleviate congestion at the notorious pinch-point between Woolwell Roundabout and The George, on the A386 Tavistock Road. More than 30,000 vehicles use this section of road each day and there are often queues and delays at peak times, caused by traffic having to merge over very short distances.
- 2.2. The Woolwell to The George Transport Scheme will be delivered in three phases:
  - Phase 1 – Woolwell Crescent junction, A386 Tavistock Road (north of Woolwell Roundabout) and Woolwell Road
  - Phase 2 – Main A386 Tavistock Road widening and new signal junction at Tavistock Road/Woolwell Road
  - Phase 3 – Expansion of The George Park and Ride site to provide additional parking capacity
- 2.3. The Scape Framework has been selected as the preferred procurement mechanism for design and delivery of the Woolwell scheme.
- 2.4. The pre-construction charge covers the contractor's staff time during the pre-construction stage for activities including design management, costing, programming, buildability, risk management, health and safety, meetings etc.

### 3. PROCUREMENT STRATEGY – SCAPE FRAMEWORK

- 3.1. Following a review of the procurement options with the Council's Procurement and Legal teams in 2022, it was concluded that the Scape Procure Civil Engineering and Infrastructure Framework was the most suitable mechanism to procure the Woolwell to The George Transport Scheme contracts.
- 3.2. The Scape Procure Civil Engineering & Infrastructure Framework is delivered by Balfour Beatty, a leading international infrastructure group with more than 100 years of experience in complex infrastructure projects. Works under the Civil Engineering and Infrastructure Framework are valued from £1m to £40m and above.

- 3.3. This framework enables civil engineering and infrastructure works in sectors such as environmental, engineering, transportation, leisure, recycling and waste, defence, ports, harbours and marine, flood defence and coastal engineering, energy, education, industrial, commercial and other public sector assets.
- 3.4. Although the Scape Framework is a sole supplier award, best value through Balfour Beatty's supply chain is achieved through competitively tendering individual work packages where sub-contractors are required through its extensive supply chain. This approach demonstrates value for money by all of the project spend under this framework being subject to competition.
- 3.5. By fostering collaborative, honest and open relationships, Balfour Beatty can drive performance improvement across all areas of their supply chain.
- 3.6. Project Orders are one of the gateway steps set out in the Framework and therefore the Council is required to agree the Project Orders and preconstruction charge in order to proceed via this procurement route.

#### **4. REQUIRED PROJECT APPROVALS**

- 4.1. The Scape Framework sets out the gateway process for each stage of project development and delivery. This decision relates to the Project Orders for each of the Woolwell scheme phases. Separate Executive Decisions will be required for all other stages including the approval of pre-construction and construction contracts.

#### **5. PHASE I**

- 5.1. Construction of Phase I is due to commence in 2023. A new signalised junction will be created where Woolwell Crescent joins Tavistock Road allowing vehicles to turn right to travel north. A new left turn into Woolwell Crescent will also be provided.
- 5.2. Woolwell Road is to be upgraded to improve pedestrian and cycle facilities. The amendments on Woolwell Road include a proposed signalised pedestrian junction to facilitate a desire line to the Tesco Superstore, shared use cycle/pedestrian facilities on both sides of the carriageway, and amendments to tie into the proposed junction on the A386.
- 5.3. Based on the Feasibility report completed by Balfour Beatty, the agreed Pre-Construction charge for Phase I is £92,866.01.

#### **6. PHASE 2**

- 6.1. Phase 2 will deliver improved capacity on the A386 Tavistock Road by providing dual carriageway between Woolwell Roundabout and The George Junction, enhancing accessibility to The George Park and Ride site for vehicles travelling in from Northern Plymouth and beyond.
- 6.2. Woolwell Roundabout will be upgraded to a signalised junction, increasing capacity and improving pedestrian and cycle crossings. New and improved walking and cycling facilities including dedicated cycle tracks on both sides of Tavistock Road will also be provided.
- 6.3. Based on the Feasibility report completed by Balfour Beatty, the agreed Pre-Construction charge for Phase 2 is £289,852.

#### **7. PHASE 3**

- 7.1. Phase 3 will expand The George Park and Ride site to provide increased parking capacity including electric vehicle chargepoints.
- 7.2. Based on the Feasibility report completed by Balfour Beatty, the agreed Pre-Construction charge for Phase 3 is £324,979.96.