

BRIEFING REPORT

Woolwell to The George: WSP Phase 1 and Phase 2
Project Manager Support



I. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This Executive Decision approves the appointment of WSP UK Limited to act as project manager on Phases 1 and 2 of the Woolwell to The George (WTTG) transport scheme.
- 1.2. The work will involve WSP undertaking a project management role for Phase 1 pre-construction and construction and Phase 2 pre-construction, as well as acting as the main client interface, including day to day management of all stakeholders.
- 1.3. The proposed procurement approach is to direct award to WSP via the NHS Framework.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The Woolwell to the George (WTTG) Transport Improvements Scheme will alleviate congestion at the notorious pinch-point between Woolwell and The George junction, on the A386 Tavistock Road. More than 30,000 vehicles use this section of road each day and there are regularly queues and delays at peak times, caused by traffic having to merge over very short distances. The impact of this congestion extends far beyond the immediate Woolwell area, affecting the A386 Tavistock Road as far south as Manadon Roundabout and also disrupts the reliability of the bus network. The route also has poor provision for pedestrian and cyclists and crossing the A386 in particular is very difficult in busy periods.
- 2.2. With significant growth planned for the north of the city and traffic forecast to increase along this route, it is vital to provide improvements that will encourage more walking, cycling and bus travel, as well as minimise congestion and delays for general traffic. The scheme is needed to ensure that the additional travel demand generated by future developments can be accommodated. It will deliver targeted capacity improvements to address existing congestion problems and ensure that the transport network does not become a constraint to new developments coming forward.
- 2.3. The WTTG scheme will be delivered in three phases:
 - Phase 1 – New signal junction at Woolwell Crescent/Tavistock Road, cycle facilities on Tavistock Road (north of Woolwell Roundabout) and pedestrian/cycle improvements on Woolwell Road. Phase 1 has secured £5m from the Transforming Cities Fund (TCF)
 - Phase 2 – Woolwell Roundabout upgraded to a signalised junction and widening of the existing carriageway between Woolwell Roundabout and The George Junction in order to provide two lanes in each direction. Phases 2 and 3 have secured over £19m from the Levelling Up Fund (LUF)
 - Phase 3 - Increased parking capacity at the George Park and Ride site (500 additional spaces); including 100 spaces with Electric Vehicle charge points.
- 2.4. The carriageway widening to be delivered as part of Phase 2 will require the acquisition of a number of land plots from third party land owners and occupiers. Vickery Holman's services are being secured to assist the Council by undertaking surveys, valuations and negotiations in relation to affected land plots.

3. PROCUREMENT STRATEGY PROCESS

- 3.1. The proposed procurement route is a direct award to WSP via the NHS Framework. The following points set out why a direct award has been chosen as the most appropriate way to award the Woolwell to the George project management support work:

- The NHS Framework is an approved Framework that Plymouth City Council has signed up to and WSP are an approved consultant within the Framework;
- The NHS Framework was chosen over a tender process due to tight timescales on the project which relate to the spending of central Government funding;
- WSP have previously worked on the Woolwell to The George Transport Scheme and therefore have a significant amount of project background and experience;
- WSP's experience means that they have the full history and background, along with an understanding of the sensitivity and confidential nature of the scheme;
- The project is part way through the pre-construction and detailed design phase that WSP have been working on and for consistency and time constraints associated with the project and funding, WSP are the most appropriate to continue working on the scheme.
- Due to the size of the scheme, the other consultant available to undertake the type of work required by the project and listed on the NHS Framework is already undertaking design work on the scheme on behalf of the appointed contractor;
- The project is time critical, due to the funding timescales of TCF and LUF. Therefore having a team on board that already knows the project will allow them to hit the ground running and minimise any time lost in getting up to speed; and
- WSP have already established a good working relationship with the project team, contractor and stakeholders. Continuity through the process for residents/business affected by the scheme is considered to be an important consideration.

4. REQUIRED PROJECT APPROVALS

- 4.1. The WTTG Scheme Approval & In Principle CPO Resolution Cabinet Report was approved at the Plymouth City Council Cabinet meeting on the 9th November 2021.
- 4.2. Cabinet approved:
 - in principle to compulsorily acquire land and rights by way of a compulsory purchase order (CPO) for the Scheme
 - for the progression of documents required to make a side roads order (SRO); and
 - to place the necessary funding required for the Scheme onto the capital programme
- 4.3. Cabinet will be asked to consider a final scheme approval and CPO Resolution report at a future date. The work undertaken by WSP will continue to support the process of finalising the scheme design through the pre-construction phase.

5. CONTRACT PROGRAMME

- 5.1. It is expected that the contract period will run for up to 18 months. This is to allow enough time Phase 1 Pre-construction and construction and Phase 2 pre-construction.

6. CONTRACT MANAGEMENT

- 6.1. WSP have provided a Service Level Agreement setting out the work they will undertake, and the fees charged are the agreed rates set out in the NHS Framework. The Terms and Conditions used by PCC and WSP are those both parties have agreed to when joining the NHS Framework.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. This contract award is for WSP to undertake a project management role for Phase 1 pre-construction and construction and Phase 2 pre-construction, as well as acting as the main client interface, including day to day management of all stakeholders.
- 7.2. The total contract value under this award is £351,458.03.
- 7.3. The funding for this award has already been accounted for within the approved WTTG budget.

8. RECOMMENDED DECISION

- 8.1. It is recommended that the Service Director (SP&I):
 - Approves the appointment of WSP UK Limited to support the WTTG scheme via a direct contract award (NHS Framework).