

ROYAL PARADE BUS IMPROVEMENT SCHEME – CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARD



Briefing Report for Executive Decision

Summary

This contract award is for the appointment of the construction contract which will enable the Royal Parade Bus improvement scheme to be delivered.

This scheme is key element of the Transforming Cities Fund programme funded by Department for Transport. It is also funded by Department of Transport Bus Grant 2025/2026 and Plymouth City Council's Better Places funding.

The Royal Parade scheme aims to improve the public transport infrastructure, improve bus journey times and reduce congestion and emissions. The scheme works focus on the eastbound side of Royal Parade between Derry's Cross and St. Andrew's Cross and include:

- Redesigning the road with a shallow saw-tooth layout to increase the number of bus stops from twelve to fifteen, to prevent double stacking, unnecessary idling and improve air quality. This will improve bus manoeuvrability and safety by reducing the need for buses to reverse out and ensure passengers can get on and off from the pavement.
- Clearer and easier information about where and what bus to get in the new shelters and upgraded Real Time Passenger Information displays.
- New, bigger shelters to make it easier for people with pushchairs or wheelchairs to use them. They will have living roofs to support biodiversity.
- An upgraded toucan crossing at Armada Way for both pedestrians and cyclists.
- Average speed camera system to replace existing static cameras, supporting a safe environment for pedestrians.
- New granite paving to replace the existing concrete slabs that have become worn over time and are slippery in places.

Delivery timescales

The scheme is planned to start in Spring 2025, with completion in Winter 2025. The specific dates and further information on the scheme will be publicised in detail in due course. Specific communications will be targeted to bus users and businesses on Royal Parade.

Finance and risk

This contract award is for the appointment of Morgan Sindall for the construction contract up to a maximum value of £5,000,000 (excluding VAT)

Risks

If the construction contract is not awarded by the TCF deadline, funding could be withdrawn. With the award of the construction contract, this will be mitigated (subject to approval)

Costs may increase due to unforeseen circumstances e.g ground conditions etc . Surveys and preparatory works have been undertaken and a risk budget is included which will mitigate against this

Duration of programme may increase which will lead to dissatisfaction of the public and businesses. This will be managed by minimising the impact of stakeholders as much as possible and keeping them fully informed of changes.

Procurement

Options for the procurement of this contract have been fully explored. It was not possible to progress to contract award with the original planned contractor therefore a suitable alternative contractor and procurement route was identified to secure contract award by the deadline (subject to approval).

The SCAPE Construction Framework is being utilised to procure this requirement, which is available for public sector use. This procurement route is compliant with Public Contract Regulations 2015. The chosen framework delivery partner is Morgan Sindall, via a direct award appointment. Morgan Sindall is a delivery partner on the construction framework for projects valued up to £75 million. This framework enables construction works suited to the requirement of this project.

SCAPE has gateways/agreements to be completed to allow a compliant direct award call off under the framework if required.

Member and stakeholder engagement

Public and stakeholder consultation was carried out in September 2021. The results of the consultation is available at [Royal Parade and Mayflower Street Public Consultation | PLYMOUTH.GOV.UK](https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/royal-parade-and-mayflower-street-public-consultation)

Details of the scheme were publicised in November 2024 and public engagement sessions were held. Local stakeholders have been kept updated through the City Centre company and direct communication with Plymouth City Council.