

## PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Forder Valley Link Road: Construction Contract Award</b>
<b>Committee:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date:</b>	05 March 2019
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Mark Coker
<b>CMT Member:</b>	Anthony Payne (Strategic Director for Place)
<b>Author:</b>	Steven Flaxton (Strategic Transport Programme Co-ordinator)
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<b>Ref:</b>	FLVR/01/Approvals/Cabinet
<b>Key Decision:</b>	Yes
<b>Part:</b>	I

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### **Purpose of the report:**

This report is in relation to the procurement and award of contract for the main construction contractor for the Forder Valley Link Road (FVLR) scheme. The works involve a range of civil engineering activities including road widening, bridge construction, construction of retaining walls, drainage works, traffic signal installations and carriageway reconstruction and surfacing.

The accompanying Part II Contract Award report sets out the procurement strategy and identifies the key contractual and project risks along with the Council's approach to managing this contract.

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### **Corporate Plan**

#### **A Growing City**

##### ***An efficient transport network:***

This scheme will improve journey times and reduce congestion while improving the resilience of the transport network in the north of the city. The scheme will add capacity into the transport network, which will give reassurance to key partners such as Highways England that the planned growth, as set out in the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan (JLP), is deliverable and will reduce the risk of decisions of the Local Planning Authority not being able to follow recommendations of Highways England and having them referred up to the Secretary of State to intervene..

##### ***A broad range of homes:***

The FVLR will provide a key piece of infrastructure required to deliver the 4,200 new homes planned for the northern corridor. This scheme is will provide improved transport links which will give confidence to developers and create the conditions for growth. It will directly unlock 500 new homes at Seaton Neighbourhood.

##### ***Economic growth that benefits as many people as possible:***

This scheme will provide a key piece of infrastructure required to deliver 26,000 sq. m of employment space (including a new district shopping centre) planned for the Derriford area.

### **A green, sustainable city that cares about the environment**

The scheme, being built within the Derriford Community Park in Forder Valley has been subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment. It includes a comprehensive landscape plan and environmental management and enhancement plan which not only mitigate its impact but will provide a net gain in biodiversity.

### **Quality jobs and valuable skills**

The scheme has a keen focus on providing local construction job opportunities as well as delivering infrastructure which will facilitate employment development sites in the north of the city. It is expected to directly deliver 1,800 jobs.

### **Plymouth Plan**

The project contributes to part of the strategic transport infrastructure required to support the significant numbers of new homes and jobs that are planned for both the north and east of the city over the lifespan of the JLP. The scheme directly supports the following JLP policies:

- Policy SPT8 – Strategic connectivity
- Policy SPT9 – Strategic principles for transport planning and strategy
- Policy SPT10 – Balanced transport strategy for growth and healthy sustainable communities
- Policy SPT12 – Strategic infrastructure measures to deliver the spatial strategy
- Policy PLY47 – Strategic infrastructure measures for the Derriford and Northern Corridor Growth Area
- Policy PLY57 – Strategic infrastructure measures for the Eastern Corridor Growth Area

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### **Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications: Including finance, human, IT and land**

This contract award is for the main construction works for the Forder Valley Link Road scheme. The total contract value under this award is up to a target cost not exceeding the figure identified in the Part II report.

The funding for this award has already been accounted within the capital allocation of funding for the project through [Executive Decision L22 18/19](#) in December 2018.

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### **Other Implications: e.g. Child Poverty, Community Safety, Health and Safety and Risk Management:**

- Child Poverty – Not applicable.
- Community Safety – Not applicable
- Health and Safety - The Part II Contract Award report identifies the risk management and mitigation strategy used and identifies the key residual risks.
- Risk Management - The Part II Contract Award report identifies the risk management and mitigation strategy used and identifies the key residual risks.

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### **Equality and Diversity**

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been undertaken? Yes

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**Recommendations and Reasons for recommended action:**

It is recommended that Cabinet delegate authority to the Strategic Director for Place to issue a notice to proceed to Balfour Beatty Civil Engineering Ltd. through the SCAPE Framework for the Forder Valley Link Road scheme subject to a target cost not exceeding the figure identified in the Part II report.

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**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

Not to award the construction. Rejected.

If the contract were not to be awarded this would result in a delay to the programme which would not only result in additional costs due to increased inflation exposure but would also jeopardise the external funding of £22.5m from the Department for Transport and the £4.6m from Highways England. The city would not be able to deliver the growth for the north of the city as set out in the JLP

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**Published work / information:**

[Forder Valley Link Road Executive Decision Reference Number L24 15/16](#)

[Forder Valley Link Road Executive Decision Reference Number L34 14/15](#)

[Forder Valley Link Road Business Case Update. Executive Decision Number L19 16/17](#)

[Forder Valley Link Road Business Case Update 2. Executive Decision Number L4 17/18](#)

[Forder Valley Link Road Business Case Update 3. Executive Decision Number L52 17/18](#)

[Forder Valley Link Road - Business Case Update Note 4. Executive Decision L2 18/19](#)

[Forder Valley Link Road - Placing of Orders with Statutory Undertakers. Executive Decision L9 18/19](#)

[Forder Valley Link Road – Final Business Case. Executive Decision L22 18/19:](#)

**Background papers:**

Title	Part I	Part II	Exemption Paragraph Number						
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Contract Award Report. Forder Valley Link Road: Construction		✓			✓				
Contract Award Report. Forder Valley Link Road: Construction - Summary	✓								
Equality Impact Assessment	✓								

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**Sign off:**

Fin		Leg		Mon Off		HR		Assets		IT		Strat Proc	
Originating SMT Member Paul Barnard													
Has the Cabinet Member(s) agreed the contents of the report? Yes													

## **1.0 Scheme Description**

- 1.1 The Forder Valley Link Road (FVLR) is a new direct route to Derriford from the east of the city and the A38 for all traffic, including future Park and Ride services that will operate between the proposed Deep Lane Park and Ride (Sherford) and Derriford.
- 1.2 The scheme includes a new one kilometre road that will connect Forder Valley Road and Novorossiysk Road to William Prance Road in Derriford, supported by a bridge over Bircham Valley. There will be an enlarged signalised junction connecting the new bridge to the Forder Valley Road and Novorossiysk Road junction. This junction will be relocated and enlarged enabling it to increase capacity and therefore reduce delays and improve traffic flow.
- 1.3 Novorossiysk Road is to be widened to allow the removal of the existing merge south of the Miller Way (Asda) junction, further improving journeys times to and from the North East of the city including the Estover industrial estate and business parks.
- 1.4 The scheme complements the proposed schemes on the A386 at Derriford and at Manadon Interchange, with assessment work showing that the scheme is required to deliver development on the northern corridor in addition to the proposed transport schemes for the north of the city as set out in policy 47 of the JLP. For example the Derriford Transport Scheme has been designed to have sufficient capacity to accommodate the traffic flowing from the new Forder Valley Link Road, showing that in combination, the schemes provide essential, reliable and sustainable access to these key growth areas.
- 1.5 The scheme will offer new walking and cycling facilities throughout, including a shared off-road facility to accommodate different types of cyclists travelling at different speeds. Segregated facilities will also be provided where possible to provide greater separation between pedestrians and cyclists. Other facilities will also be provided to link into all other approaches to the junction.
- 1.6 Construction of the scheme is anticipated to start in the summer of 2019 and is expected to be completed by spring 2022.

## **2.0 Business Need**

- 2.1 FVLR is identified as being critical infrastructure within the JLP. It is perhaps the largest and most vital part of the infrastructure of the Northern and Eastern Corridors, directly unlocking development at Seaton Neighbourhood, and supporting development in the north of the city of 4,200 new homes and 13,200 new jobs citywide. This scheme will support the economic prosperity of the city, leading to wider economic benefits, and increases in Council Tax and Business Rate income for the Council. Without this important new connecting link, development in these two growth areas will be severely restricted.
- 2.2 This scheme will support the long term economic prosperity of the City, leading to wider economic benefits within the region.

## **3.0 Financial Implications**

- 3.1 This contract award is for the main construction works for the Forder Valley Link Road scheme.

The funding for this award has already been accounted within the capital allocation of funding for the project through [Executive Decision L22 18/19](#) in December 2018.

- 3.2 There are therefore no new financial implications resulting from this contract award.

## **4.0 Approvals**

- 4.1 A full planning application and reserved matters application were approved by the Local Planning Authority in July 2018 after having only received three objections from two individuals. All pre-commencement planning conditions were discharged on 15 February 2019 enabling works to start on site.
- 4.2 A Stopping up Order was made by the Department for Transport in December 2018 for the existing sections of Highway which will be redundant following the construction of the scheme.
- 4.3 The Final Business Case was submitted to the Department for Transport on 11 January 2019 and approved on the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019.
- 4.4 The only remaining approvals to obtain are the Traffic Regulation Orders and the Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders which will be undertaken at the appropriate points within the construction programme.

## **5.0 Equalities Impact Assessment Summary**

- 5.1 The scheme has been assessed using the Council's Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit. The result of this found the scheme had no adverse impact on protected characteristics groups for age; disability; faith, religion or belief; gender, including marriage, pregnancy and maternity; gender reassignment; race; or sexual orientation, including Civil Partnership. The assessment also found that the scheme will have positive outcomes for local priorities including to reduce the inequality gap particularly in health between communities; good relations between different communities; and human rights.