

**At an Extraordinary meeting of the CABINET held in the CIVIC CENTRE (COMMITTEE ROOM NO. 1) on Wednesday 28 January 2015 at 11.30 a.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor P. Watson in the Chair

Councillors Gofton, Kelly, G. Miller, Mordey, P. Smith, Speding and H. Trueman

**Also present:-**

Councillor Wiper

**Part I**

**Receipt of Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

**Sunderland Strategic Transport Corridor (SSTC) – New Wear Crossing Preferred Bidder Stage and Project Update**

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) on the progress made in respect of the procurement process for the main works contract for the design and construction of the New Wear Crossing scheme and to the next steps to enable the award of the Contract and the commencement of the construction phase for the Scheme subject to confirmation of the Government funding contribution. In addition, the report also advised of the appointment of the Site Supervision team to administer the proposed Contract.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Mordey presented the report and highlighted the following:-

- the progress made in respect of procuring the main works contract for the design and construction of the New Wear Crossing;
- the next steps to enable the award of the Contract and commencement of the construction phase, which was subject to confirmation of the Government funding contribution; and
- the appointment of the Site Supervision team to administer the proposed Contract.

Cabinet Members were advised that following approval at a previous meeting, the Council had undertaken a new OJEU procurement process for the appointment of a contractor for the design and construction of the Scheme using the competitive dialogue process, which resulted in compliant Final Tenders from the following three Bidders:

- FCC Construcción S.A. (FCC);
- A joint venture comprising Northstone (NI) Ltd and Victor Buyck Steel Construction N.V (FVB); and
- A joint venture comprising Hochtief (UK) Construction Ltd and Dragados SA. (HD JV).

Councillor Mordey drew attention to the details of the evaluation criteria used to evaluate the Final Tenders in section 4 of the Report. He explained that further details in support of the outcome of the tender evaluation, including the recommendation to appoint a Preferred Bidder, and the key features of the Preferred Bidder's submission, were provided in the Part II report to Cabinet.

Councillor Mordey reported that the design was within the terms of the revised planning permission which was granted in August 2014. He advised that in parallel to the procurement process, the following steps had also been undertaken to ensure that the Scheme programme remained fully deliverable and to facilitate the proposed start on site in April 2015:

- a minor material amendment application to the Scheme planning permission, was applied for during the summer of 2014 in respect of the simplified cable stay bridge form of design and this was approved by the Local Planning Authority in August 2014;
- the Section 106(3) Bridge Scheme was confirmed in a decision by the Secretary of State for Transport on Monday 12 January 2015, ensuring all statutory approvals required to commence the works were now in place; and
- following previous Cabinet approval, implementation of the Compulsory Purchase Order commenced in August 2014, by the making of the General Vesting Declaration, which would ensure all land interests required for the Scheme were vested in the Council on 27 February 2015.

Cabinet Members were advised that in addition to the procurement process for the main works contract, a separate procurement process had been undertaken to appoint an organisation to carry out the Works Supervision and Contract Administration in respect of the construction of the Scheme. Three tenders were received, which had been evaluated and the successful tenderer had been notified.

Councillor Mordey then reported that subject to Cabinet approving the appointment of a preferred bidder for the Scheme as recommended, Bidders would be notified in writing of the Council's decision, and subject to the operation of the mandatory standstill period, and confirmation of the Government funding contribution, the Council would then enter into the Contract for the design and construction of the Scheme in spring 2015. He added that the key next step was to secure final approval from Government of its funding contribution for the Scheme, which would be considered by DCLG's Finance Sub-Committee on 24th February 2015, with the outcome anticipated within two weeks. The proposed award of the Contract would follow in March, with a start on site soon thereafter, with construction completion scheduled for the end of 2017.

Cabinet Members were pleased with the progress made and stated that they were looked forward to the construction beginning. The scheme would be another key development for the city in addition to St. Mary's Way and Keel Square, the new Washington Leisure centre and the seafront developments which would all make a huge contribution to the economy and the regeneration of the city.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

1. RESOLVED that the contents of the report and the substantial progress made to date, in respect of the procurement process for the Scheme leading to a recommendation for the appointment of a preferred bidder in the separate Part II report and the next steps in order to undertake the construction phase for the Scheme, be noted.

## **Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006**

At the instance of the Chairman it was: -

2. RESOLVED that in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 the public be excluded during consideration of the remaining business as it was considered to involve a likely disclosure of information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) and in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, Part 1, Paragraphs 3 and 5). The public interest in maintaining these exemptions outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

(Signed) P. WATSON,  
Chairman

### **Note:-**

The above minutes comprise only those relating to items during which the meeting was open to the public.

Additional minutes in respect of other items are included in Part II.