

**Report to Matt Davey, Director of Highways, Transport and Planning**

**January 2021**

**A24 Robin Hood Junction Improvement – Appointment of Build Contractor**

**Report by Michael Elkington Head of Planning Services**

**Electoral division(s): Broadbridge, Holbrook and Horsham Hurst**

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**Summary**

The A24 Robin Hood Junction Improvement forms part of the West of Horsham Highway Improvement Package. The scheme has been in development since 2016 and has passed through its internal Gateway Stages of preliminary and detailed design.

In July 2020, the Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure [approved](#) the commencement of the procurement process and delegated authority to the Director of Highways, Transport and Planning to appoint the services of the build contractor.

A tender for the scheme was published in September 2020 in accordance with County Council Procurement regulations and using a WSCC framework contractor with pre-qualified Contractors.

This decision is to appoint the contractor to construct the scheme.

**Recommendations**

That the Director of Highways, Transport and Planning approves the appointment of Landbuild Ltd for the construction of the A24 Robin Hood Junction Improvement Scheme, as set out in section 2 of the report.

## Proposal

### 1 Background and context

- 1.1 The West of Horsham highway infrastructure package includes four major schemes to support the delivery of the major housing and employment developments to the east and west of the A24. The four schemes are improvements to the following junctions: Farthings Hill Roundabout; Newbridge Roundabout (and C622 off-road shared surface); A24 Robin Hood Roundabout; and A24 Great Daux Roundabout.
- 1.2 The Newbridge Roundabout and Farthings Hill Roundabout schemes were delivered in 2019/2020 by the County Council. This report addresses the delivery of the A24 Robin Hood Junction Improvement.
- 1.3 A [key decision](#) was taken in July 2020 to proceed with the procurement of a Contractor from the WSCC Highways Maintenance Suite of Contracts 2020 Framework Lot 6 ECC NEC4 Option A form for the construction of the A24 Robin Hood Junction Improvement, and the award of contract was delegated to the Director of Highways, Transport and Planning.

### 2 Proposal details

- 2.1 This is an existing roundabout junction that is to be partially signalised and improved for pedestrian and cycle crossing. Carriageway widening will be required on the A24 approaches to the junction with alterations to the approaches to the junction from Robin Hood Lane and Warnham Road.
- 2.2 The scheme includes widening of highway embankments, reuse and upgrading parts of the existing highway drainage system and introducing some storm water storage / attenuation and water quality treatment. New traffic signals to manage the capacity and movement of traffic on the A24 approaches, the junction circulatory and on the approach from Warnham Road. A new traffic signal crossing will be provided across the A24 Northbound arm and an improved shared surface link between Robin Hood Lane and Warnham Road to the Nature Reserve will be provided where highway width allows. An additional, short, cycle link and crossing has been provided, at the request of Warnham Parish Council, linking the recently upgraded cycle route to Robin Hood Lane travelling west.
- 2.3 The proposed contractor, from the results of the tender process, moderation exercise and procurement review is Landbuild Ltd.
- 2.4 The anticipated construction period is 19 April to 31 August 2021. However, the contractor's tender programme will require review as they had indicated landscape completion works in February and March 2022, so for communications processes 31 March 2022 is recommended to be used as Project Completion.
- 2.5 The contractor's NEC4 Clause 31 Contract Programme will need to be updated and this will be advised to them at the time of appointment. It should be noted that the construction completion date can vary due to unforeseen circumstances or poor weather, and contract management processes require the programme to be kept under constant review and updated on a monthly basis. Strict conditions and processes apply where an extension of time is requested.

Revised completion dates will be updated on the scheme's dedicated webpage and notified to stakeholders through the communications plan contacts.

### **3 Other options considered (and reasons for not proposing)**

- 3.1 The option not to proceed with the Robin Hood junction improvement scheme would result in the County Council:
- a) failing to deliver the transport improvements agreed at Horsham District Council planning committee for the West of Horsham development and thus having a detrimental impact on the transport network;
  - b) being in default of the Section 106 Agreements on funding contributions for the design and construction of these transport improvements and thus may likely require the County Council to repay collected S106 monies;
  - c) there will be a delay to the delivery programme if the services of a Build Contractor are not secured at the appropriate time.

### **4 Consultation and engagement**

- 4.1 Consultation and detailed scheme information and regular updates have taken place during the development of the Robin Hood junction improvement scheme and these included:
- (a) Members – local County member for Broadbridge, Holbrook and Horsham Hurst and District members for Broadbridge Heath and Horsham
  - (b) External – officers at Horsham District Council (including land requirements), Broadbridge Heath Parish Council, Warnham Parish Council, Slinfold Parish Council, Itchingfield Parish Council and Trafalgar Neighbourhood Committee
  - (c) Internal – Highways & Transport Capital Hub (Hub)
  - (d) Public consultation at the time of the planning decisions on the West of Horsham Development.
- 4.2 A pre-start leaflet has been prepared for local residents and business circulation and a dedicated webpage for the scheme has been operational since summer 2020. A communication strategy has been completed and will include weekly update emails on progress and any planned traffic management changes, in addition to the usual notifications required by the County Street Works Co-ordination and Permits team.

### **5 Finance**

The A24 Robin Hood Scheme is part of the West of Horsham Programme of works. West of Horsham has a total budget approved of £8.579m.

The A24 Robin Hood Scheme is funded through Section 106 agreements for the West of Horsham Development. The scheme budget is currently estimated at £3.765m and is included within the current capital programme and the award of this contract is within the budget set aside for the project.

The tender process was undertaken using the WSCC Highways Frameworks Lot 6 agreed through WSCC Procurement Board as the appropriate procurement route.

The published evaluation criteria for Lot 6 stated that the most economically advantageous tender (MEAT) would be recommended for award of the contract. Scoring was based on the Lot 6 mini competitions process which is weighted as 70% Commercial and 30% Technical – 20% carried forward from the framework quality score + 10% project specific question response.

The tender was evaluated by three subject matter experts drawn from within WSCC Major Projects, its PSC support Contract Manager. In independent review of the tender returns was completed by the WSCC PSC contracted Quantity Surveyor.

Following independent evaluation, the evaluators and their scoring were subject to scrutiny and moderation by an WSCC independent Procurement Officer.

## 6 Risk implications and mitigations

Risk	Mitigating Action (in place or planned)
Impacts of utilities unforeseen diversions cause delay and additional costs	Utility diversions have been carefully planned and programmed to reduce impacts on the main construction works – advanced works have shown that Utility diversion risk should be low.
Ecology and Landscape impacts and risks	Detailed ecology surveys and landscape impacts (especially trees) have been completed and mitigation is planned as part of the scheme.
Streetworks Permit and Road Space Booking Clashes and Diversion Route Planning	Simultaneous works on the A264 / Rusper Road are planned from January 2021 to September 2021 which could clash with A24 Robin Hood, close co-ordination between the two schemes and with WSCC Streetworks forms part of the project
Construction Issues	The A24 Robin Hood scheme risks have been through detailed design and Gateway 4 review and a number of risks have been reduced through the design process.

## 7 Policy alignment and other matters taken into account

7.1 The proposed scheme supports the key Corporate Plan objectives of:

- A Prosperous Place

The improvement scheme supports the economy of the area through the reduction in journey times (less congestion) of all users.

- A Strong, Safe and Sustainable place

The improvement scheme assists this objective through the improvement of highway safety that the scheme provides for all users and the additional facilities for pedestrians and cyclists, especially the new signalised crossings linking the new Warnham Public Right of Way with Horsham Town Centre.

### Legal Implications

7.2 The A24 Robin Hood Junction Improvement forms part of the West of Horsham planning approval and there is a S106 legal agreement which requires the County, along with Horsham District Council to deliver the improvement to the

highway. Failure to undertake this would be a default of the legal agreement and require repayment of parts of the S106 funding.

### **Equality Duty and human rights assessment**

- 7.3 An Equality Impact Report has been prepared with consideration that the scheme was agreed at the planning stage and improvements are required. Assessment of users has taken place during the design process, in terms of protected characteristics, including internal feedback from the WSCC Accessibility Group and the inclusion of guard railing to protect visually impaired users on part of the project.

### **Climate Change**

- 7.4 The A24 Robin Hood Junction Improvement scheme aims to improve and manage the traffic flow on the major road network and to assist in the efficient movement of vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists through the junction. This should aid the reduction in release of harmful gases into the atmosphere through improved efficiency of the junction and a reduction in queuing traffic, as well as offering improved connection across the junction for low carbon modes of travel such as pedestrians and cyclists, especially with the introduction of the recent Warnham to Horsham cycle route.

### **Crime and Disorder**

- 7.5 There are no identifiable Crime and Disorder Act implications.

### **Public Health**

- 7.6 The improvement in provision of the shared pedestrian and cycle facilities around and across the A24 with the new signalised Toucan crossings will assist to improve the link between the Warnham village cycle route and Horsham town centre and Warnham Nature Reserve; and should encourage users to cross, what is currently, a busy and intimidating highway corridor.
- 7.7 Improvement in traffic flows and reduced queuing will help contribute to reduced local air quality issues around the junction, as the current area (pre-COVID 19) was quite congested and would have contributed to higher CO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions.

### **Social Value**

- 7.8 The tender process, using the WSCC Highways Maintenance Suite of Contracts 2020 Framework Lot 6, includes local Small and Medium Enterprises on the framework with an opportunity to bid for the works. These construction businesses employ construction teams from the local community within the county.
- 7.9 Improvement to the junction will provide for better, and more predictable, journeys for West Sussex residents and businesses using all modes of travel, especially low carbon modes such as walking and cycling.

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## **Appendices**

Appendix A - Outcome of Evaluation and Moderation Exercise

[Appendix A is exempt from publication because it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) (see Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972).]

### **Background papers**

None