

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 6
13 NOVEMBER 2023	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Adrian Chapman, Executive Director: Place & Economy	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Gavin Elsey, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Climate Change	
Contact Officer(s):	Lewis Banks, Transport & Environment Manager	Tel. 01733 317465

AUTHORISATION FOR MILESTONE INFRASTRUCTURE LTD TO UNDERTAKE CONSTRUCTION OF ACTIVE TRAVEL IMPROVEMENTS ON THORPE WOOD

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Executive Director Place and Economy	Deadline date:
<p>It is recommended that Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Authorise the works order of up to £2,000,000 to Milestone Infrastructure Ltd to undertake construction of active travel improvements on Thorpe Wood, under the existing Peterborough Highways Term Services Contract . 2. Authorise the Director of Place & Economy to vary the works order value when required subject to; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. available budget being in place; b. the total sum of each variation not exceeding £100,000, c. the combined value of any authorised variation(s) do not exceed the total sum of £500,000. d. any variations are to be made in prior consultation with internal audit, finance and legal services 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet as it is a key decision under the executive delegations.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is for Cabinet to consider and authorise a works order of up to £2,000,000 to Milestone Infrastructure Ltd to construct the Thorpe Wood cycleway.

2.2 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.2.5

To make decisions on actions relating to the awarding, assigning and termination of contracts over £500k, and waiving or granting exemptions to Contract Regulations where contracts are over £500k, with the exception any time-critical, operational, or routine decision, which may be determined by the relevant portfolio holder.

3. **TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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4. **BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1 A new executive agency of the Department for Transport (DfT) - Active Travel England (ATE), has been established and is responsible for managing and allocating the Government's Active Travel Fund. The Council has been successful in securing funding for the first three rounds of funding and has now been successful with the tranche 4 allocation following a successful funding bid, working in partnership with CPCA who submitted the bid.
- 4.2 Projects which received funding were considered by ATE to be of good quality, ambition and capable of meeting LTN 1/20 cycle design requirements. For Peterborough, funding has been granted for the Thorpe Wood cycleway.
- 4.3 The Thorpe Wood cycleway looks to connect Longthorpe, Ferry Meadows, the Thorpe Wood Business Park, and Bretton with a section of new cycleway and a number of zebra crossings.
- 4.4 Thorpe Wood cycleway received funding from Tranches 2 and 3 of Active Travel Funding and the design is progressing. The addition of the Tranche 4 Active Travel Funding will allow the scheme to be completed.
- 4.5 At the July 2023 CPCA Board meeting approval was granted to award funding received from the DfT Active Travel Grant (Tranche 4) to the Council. The Thorpe Wood cycleway received funding to the value of £2,000,000 and is expected to be spent in 2024/25 financial year.
- 4.6 If Cabinet approve the funding then the work for Thorpe Wood cycleway will be commissioned to Milestone Infrastructure Ltd. To maintain continuity and to avoid delay in the progress made so far, continuation of the project will remain with Milestone as per the Peterborough Highway Services contract. The budget awarded will also be required to cover other project costs such as utility diversion charges.

5. **CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

- 5.1 The following outlines how the recommendation links to the Council's Corporate Priorities:

The Economy & Inclusive Growth

Environment

The aim of the scheme is to improve sustainable travel infrastructure and encourage more users to switch to sustainable modes of travel and therefore lowering emissions produced by travel within the city.

Successful delivery of the construction phase for Thorpe Wood cycleway will provide a new cycle route that is LTN 1/20 compliant. In addition, for the construction phase it is proposed that HVO is used to minimise the carbon emissions produced from vehicles working on site.

The construction will result in emissions. Milestone have recently developed a comprehensive tool that allows the design team to select materials based on levels of embodied carbon which will allow conscious decisions to be made that seek to reduce the overall impact of the scheme.

Emissions will be produced by use of the welfare unit at the construction site, the use of solar power for this unit will be explored. The Council and Milestone have worked closely together to identify alternative materials and methods to reduce these carbon emissions.

Our Places & Communities

Health and Wellbeing

The Thorpe Wood cycleway scheme will provide an improved active travel route enabling a viable alternative to the car. The cycleway is expected to have a positive effect on health and wellbeing, encourage residents and those working in the area to walk or cycle. The active travel route will connect to the existing walking and cycling routes as well as the new footbridge over the A1260 Nene Parkway and there is a possibility that it will be further extended if funding is available.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Public consultation on the concept of the Thorpe Wood cycleway was undertaken from 21 October to 4 December 2020 as part of the Junction 15 (A1260 Nene Parkway / A47 Soke Parkway) highway improvement scheme consultation. Further consultation with key stakeholders and the public will commence in October. The public consultation will provide details of the work that has been undertaken to minimise impacts on the Ancient Woodland on Thorpe Wood.

7. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

- 7.1 It is anticipated that the Council will award the package of work for Thorpe Wood cycleway to Milestone Infrastructure Limited as outlined in this report.

8. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 This recommendation has been made to ensure that the Council is able to effectively deliver grant funding awarded to it by the CPCA for the active travel improvement scheme as well as to improve walking and cycling facilities.

9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.1 Not to deliver the scheme: This has been discounted because the walking and cycling network to and from Thorpe Wood needs improving by making it better connected to routes that link to the wider network. Delivering the active travel improvements will provide residents and those working in the area with an alternative and more sustainable form of travel compared to the car. Successful delivery of the scheme will provide significant benefits to the wider travelling public, resulting in improvements to; journey times, accessibility and the environment.

10. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 10.1 The recommendation will commit capital expenditure of £2,000,000 to be funded by confirmed grant from CPCA. No long-term borrowing for the Council arises from this decision. However, there will be short term borrowing required to fund the project throughout until the claims are met.

In the event that the project is aborted, costs of business case development and design would need to be expensed to a revenue account but this risk is extremely low.

Legal Implications

- 10.2 The Peterborough Highway Services Contract was procured under the Competitive Dialogue Procedure (regulation 18 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2006) and permits the Council to call-off further works which are within the scope of the Contract.

Equalities Implications

10.3 It is not anticipated that any one identified group will be disproportionately affected by this proposal.

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

11.1 [Combined Authority Board 26 July 2023.](#)

12. APPENDICES

12.1 None