

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 9
19 December 2022	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Adrian Chapman, Executive Director Place and Economy	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Cereste, Climate Change, Planning, Housing and Transport	
Contact Officer(s):	Karen Lockwood (Programme Manager)	T:07825 902794

TO AWARD A CONTRACT FOR THE DETAILED DESIGN OF A RIVER NENE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Executive Director, Place and Economy	Deadline date: 19 December 2022
It is recommended that Cabinet, authorise the Council to issue a services request to Milestone Infrastructure Limited, under the existing highway services contract relating to a delivery of a full business case, detailed design and planning for the River Nene Pedestrian Bridge, at a cost of up to £702,000.	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 The report is submitted to Cabinet as part of the governance process to issue a service request under the existing highways services contract with Milestone Infrastructure Limited. The services contract has a value over £500,000 and is therefore a key decision.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide additional information to Cabinet of the service request for the delivery of a full business case, detailed design and planning for the Nene Pedestrian Bridge, and the existing NEC3 Term Service Contract with Milestone Infrastructure Limited.
- 2.2 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.2.3, *'To determine any key decision (as defined in Article 11 – Decision Making), with the exception of 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 The provision of a new footbridge across the River Nene will support the walkable city ambition by providing direct connectivity between two major redevelopment sites, maximising the full potential of each site, and removing the severance caused by the River Nene. The footbridge will also support existing residential communities by reducing commuting distances and providing new sustainable walking and cycling routes into the City Centre as well as opening up the waterfront for users to enjoy.

The River Nene remains an underutilised barrier to growth rather than being a feature and an asset to the City Centre. Fletton Quays has undergone substantial redevelopment over the past 5 years, and the Embankment Area is coming forward for re-development with the University of Peterborough located to the north of the site. The current pedestrian and cycle links between the two sites, and the City Centre is currently inadequate, with indirect routes and poor infrastructure alongside busy city centre roads. The River Nene Pedestrian Bridge will create a new focal point in the City Centre that complements the natural environment and establishes a key connection between two extensive redevelopment sites and the City Centre Core. The River Nene Pedestrian Bridge will provide a safe, direct link with access for all. Maximising sustainable travel is critical for the economic well-being and growth of the city. Reducing the barriers to walking and cycling will reduce pressure on City Centre traffic routes and play an important part in boosting health and air quality.

The Outline Business Case was submitted to DLUHC in July 2022, and confirmation has now been received of Towns Fund approval and the first stage of the grant funding, £965,000 received in September 2022.

5. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

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

The Economy & Inclusive Growth

Environment

A Carbon Impact Assessment has been completed.

The most significant emissions are likely to be from the use of construction materials. The technical design of the bridge needs to take into consideration the sustainable use of materials and the long-term durability of the bridge to minimise its environmental impact. Within the context of the River Nene Pedestrian Footbridge, the aim will be to reduce the use of carbon intensive materials such as high strength steels and concrete, and to re-use and recycle materials wherever possible.

The principles of 'Build Less' and 'Build Clever' will be embedded within the design development of the scheme. Construction will prioritise non-hazardous, reused, refurbished, recycled, and recyclable equipment and materials within specification, and those made from renewable sources with low(er) embodied energy, carbon footprint and water footprint.

Emissions from transport are also expected to rise. HVO will be used by Milestone vehicles where possible, reducing emissions by 90% in comparison to diesel.

Overall, the development is expected to encourage people to travel more sustainably (walking and cycling) reducing road journeys and vehicle emissions.

Our Places & Communities

Health and Wellbeing

The project will improve the walking / cycling time between Fletton Quays and the Embankment. Also, the quality of the links between Fletton Quays and the Embankment will have improved. Therefore, more journeys will be undertaken on walking and cycling due to the shorter journey time and the improved infrastructure.

The Nene Pedestrian Bridge will assist in creating a walking, liveable city and positively impact on the wider walking and cycling routes within the City Centre and the connections to it.

6. CONSULTATION

6.1 Engagement with key stakeholders, such as the Environment Agency and the Civic Society has taken place during the concept design period.

Concept designs were submitted as part of the Outline Business Case to the Towns Fund Board, CPCA and DLUHC, and the early proposals have now been approved by all.

A public consultation is planned in Winter 2022.

7. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

7.1 Approval of Milestone fees would enable the project to move into the next stage.

The Primary objectives for the River Nene Pedestrian Bridge are:

- Create a new pedestrian crossing over the River Nene to reduce severance
- Improve pedestrian journey times between Fletton Quays and the Embankment
- Improve the quality of sustainable travel links between Fletton Quays and the Embankment
- Improving the riverfront and create landscaped features to enjoy
- Protect and improve the biodiversity value of the study area

The Secondary Objectives are:

- Assist in creating a walking, liveable city
- Reduce pressure on City Centre traffic routes.

8. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

8.1 The key driver for this project is to create a new focal point in the City Centre that complements the natural environment and establishes a key connection between two extensive redevelopment sites and the City Centre Core.

DLUHC and the CPCA have now approved the required funding to deliver the project, and this paper requests approval to deliver the next phase of works utilising the existing Peterborough Highways Term Service contract to enable the project to move forward at pace

Following a rigorous procurement exercise, in 2013 Peterborough City Council agreed a 10 year NEC3 Term Service Contract with Milestone Infrastructure Limited (formerly Skanska UK Plc). The contract is built upon a collaborative and multi-disciplined team capable of developing schemes from policy concept through to design, construction and maintenance of the existing and growing highway network. Proven good performance, measured by a number of Key Performance Indicators, throughout the duration of the original contract. The contract has been extended for a further five years until 2028 to allow for successful continued collaboration.

The Design Team in PHS has been consistent on the River Nene Pedestrian Footbridge project since its infancy in 2012. For consistency it would be beneficial to all parties involved to maintain the current knowledge and experience that has been acquired to date.

All skills and competencies to deliver the scheme are available within the PHS contract, it is therefore recommended that the existing Peterborough Highways Services contract is used to deliver the FBC, detailed design and planning application for the following reason. The contract is already in place following competitive procurement and is operating effectively. This saves valuable time and cost when compared to a full procurement exercise.

To ensure that the project remains commercially competitive and offers value for money, any specialist areas of work that may need be required from Milestone's supply chain will be subject to competitive tendering.

The services required are within the scope of the highway services contract.

Following this decision the Council will undertake an options analysis to determine the best course of action for the construction phase of the project i.e. awarding a contract to Milestone or undertaking a new procurement exercise. This will be undertaken in a timely manner in order to ensure the overall project timeline is not compromised.

9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.1 **To do nothing.** This option was considered and rejected because the Council would lose £2.0m investment into Peterborough from the Towns Fund and £3.4m from the CPCA, and the benefits expected to be delivered through the scheme would not be realised.

Carry out a full procurement exercise to identify an alternative provider to complete the FBC, detailed design and Planning Application. This option was rejected because: the Council have a fully procured provider already in place; and the revenue costs and staff time required to complete such an exercise would be significant, are not budgeted for and this option would delay the project putting future funding at risk.

10. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 10.1 The costs are up to £702,000 for Milestone Infrastructure to deliver a full business case (FBC), detailed design and planning application for the River Nene Pedestrian Bridge.

Funding is in place for the project as shown below:

Funding Stream	Budget Available
Towns Fund Capital	£1,940,000
S106 Contribution	£90,941
CIL Contribution	£864,082
CPCA	£3,427,800
<i>Total Budget</i>	<i>£6,322,823</i>

Legal Implications

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

Equalities Implications

- 10.3 There are no equalities considerations in relation to this proposal.

Rural Implications

- 10.4 There are no rural considerations in relation to this proposal.

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985) and The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

- 11.1 None.

12. APPENDICES

- 12.1 None