**WIRRAL**

| COUNCILLOR STUART WHITTINGHAM CABINET MEMBER – TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE | CABINET MEMBER REPORT 11TH APRIL 2018 APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT OF A CONSULTANT TO UNDERTAKE THE WIRRAL NETWORK MANAGEMENT PLAN COMMISSION |
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**REPORT SUMMARY**

This report seeks Cabinet Member approval for the appointment of Mott MacDonald to undertake the Wirral Network Management Plan Commission to support the delivery of the Connecting Wirral Transport Strategy and the Wirral Growth Plan.

**RECOMMENDATION/S**

The Cabinet Member is recommended to:

Approve the appointment of Mott MacDonald to undertake the Wirral Network Management Plan Commission, which has been tendered to the cost of £22,745.19.

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**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

**1.0    REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

1.1.    Wirral Council are looking to appoint a consultant to produce a Traffic Network Management Plan. The objective of the commission is to undertake two distinct stages of work. This will include an audit to review against the current legislation to ensure that Wirral Council is discharging its responsibilities. The second element of the work is to produce a Traffic Network Management Plan.

1.2.    The Traffic Management Act 2004, Part 2: Network Management by Local Authorities imposes a duty on traffic authorities to secure expeditious movement of traffic on their network and to appoint a Traffic Manager. It is important that the authority undertakes its duties under Part 2 of the Traffic Management Act satisfactorily, and in the event of an authority failing to perform its network management duty the Secretary for State has powers to intervene. This work will identify what is required to pass the duty.

1.3.    The Act also requires that a Traffic Manager be appointed to perform the tasks that an authority considers necessary for meeting the duty. The Traffic Manager is a statutory post; the audit should also outline the key roles and responsibilities of the Traffic Manager and identify how these are currently being delivered within the Authority.

1.4.    The consultant will produce a new Traffic Network Management Plan. Utilising the previous Network Management Plan produced in 2008, as an initial reference, to produce a new network management plan which reflects the current ambitions of the Council, and is set within a Liverpool City Region context.

1.5.    The Network Management Plan will need to reflect Wirral's Pledge for Transport to: *"Ensure that Wirral has safe, affordable, well maintained and efficient transport networks for residents to access community services, enjoy our leisure facilities and commute to work".*

**2.0    OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

2.1    Do nothing – If Wirral Council fails to perform its network management duty, the Secretary of State has powers to intervene.

2.2.    Undertake the work in house – the work would require significant resources and for some areas of the project specialist transport skills will be required. Officers do not have the capacity to undertake this work in full.

**3.0    BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

3.1    This work is needed to support the future growth of Wirral and to support the delivery of the Wirral Plan. The Wirral Plan, which was published in June

2015, sets out a series of 20 pledges which the Council and its partners will work to achieve by 2020, focusing on three key themes:
- protecting the most vulnerable
- driving economic growth
- improving the local environment

3.2 Ensuring that our communities are well connected is essential to the quality of life for our residents and for the economy of Wirral. Transport must be reliable, accessible and affordable to allow people to access jobs, education, training and every day facilities. Good transport and improved use of technology will make Wirral a better place to live, work and visit, and make Wirral attractive for employers to invest and for businesses to thrive.

3.3. The Council are keen to provide a clear leadership role in driving forward the development and delivery of the Growth Plan by enabling the right conditions. Transport is a key element to supporting economic growth and good transport links will make Wirral a better place to live, work and visit and will make Wirral attractive for employers to invest and businesses to thrive.

3.4. The Council received one submission for the Wirral Network Management Plan tender. The submissions were due to be scored using an evaluation model which weighted the quality and price scores on a 70/30 basis and generated an overall score out of 100. However, as only one consultant submitted a tender the submission was scored to ensure it passed the threshold.

3.5. To ensure that the Council has obtained value for money, with one consultant submitting for the tender, a check was undertaken with the rates used in the submission against other tenders submitted by the same consultant and the rates are broadly similar.

**4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The work to be undertaken from Mott MacDonald has been quoted as £22,745.19.

**5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The procurement process has been undertaken in accordance with the latest version of the Public Procurement Regulations (2015) and in line with Wirral Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

**6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS**

6.1 The proposal for the transport study includes regular meetings with strategic hub and network management staff with Mott MacDonald.

## 7.0   RELEVANT RISKS

7.1   Failure to undertake the procurement exercise would impact on the delivery of the Connecting Wirral Transport Strategy and the Wirral Growth Plan.

7.2   Failure to undertaken the network management duty could lead to the Secretary for State utilising their powers to intervene.

## 8.0   ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1   No specific consultations have taken place.

## 9.0   EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

No – the procurement exercise has no relevance to equality.


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**APPENDICES**

None

**REFERENCE MATERIAL**

None

**SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

| Council Meeting | Date |
|---|---|
| **None** | |