



**25 JUNE 2024**

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| <b>REPORT TITLE</b> | <b>AWARD OF CONTRACT - STRATEGIC<br/>TRANSPORT TECHNICAL SUPPORT</b> |
| <b>REPORT OF</b>    | <b>LEAD COMMISSIONER TRANSPORT AND<br/>TECHNOLOGY</b>                |

### **REPORT SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the award of a contract to Mott MacDonald Limited for Strategic Transport Support services pursuant to Lot 7 of the Multi- Disciplinary NHS Shared Business Services Healthcare Planning Construction Consultancy and Ancillary Services Framework, to run for a period of 24 months from 8 July 2024.

Town centre regeneration, transport improvements and the creation of high-quality places is a long-standing priority for the Council and is reflected in the Wirral Council Plan 2023-2027 and the Birkenhead 2040 Framework. Given the scale of the transport and regeneration programme and the required pace of delivery an option to secure additional capacity and technical support in this manner is essential. The Council has previous experience of support from Mott MacDonald Limited and have been satisfied with the quality and pace of support provided and notably Mott MacDonald Limited have supported the Council to secure significant funding for a number of key regeneration projects.

The recommendations contained in this report therefore directly support the key priority within the Council Plan to “Continue our ambitious regeneration programme through increased investment, jobs and new businesses throughout the borough”, It also supports the people focused regeneration theme of the Council plan.

This matter affects all wards. This is a key decision given that the value is more than £500,000.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Director of Finance is recommended to approve the direct award of a contract for strategic transport support services to Mott MacDonald Limited pursuant to Lot 7 of the Multi Disciplinary NHS Shared Business Services Healthcare Planning Construction Consultancy and Ancillary Services Framework, to run for a period of 24 months from 8 July 2024.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 1.1 To provide consistency of high quality consultant support across key projects in line with the timescales required for the deadline of March 2026 as set by the Simplification Pilot and to ensure that the Council has the required flexibility to secure specialist consultant support, where increased capacity or specialist technical skills including transport modelling are required, in order to achieve the development and delivery of regeneration and transport projects within the Borough. It is considered the bringing a new contractor into support the service at this time could add risk to the regeneration programme.
- 1.2 To ensure that the Council develops and delivers schemes which will deliver increased levels of sustainable and active travel as set out in the emerging Local Plan, Birkenhead 2040 and to support actions required to address the Environment and Climate Emergency and the target in the Cool2 Strategy to 'a complete transition to fossil fuel free local travel by around 2030'.
- 1.3. The contract does not provide the supplier with any guaranteed level of work and alternative procurement exercises can still be undertaken for projects if considered appropriate. The contract enables the Council to secure services where required to respond at pace or where internal capacity or specialist skills are required to support project delivery. Given the scale of the transport and regeneration programme and the required pace of delivery an option to secure additional capacity and technical support in this manner is essential. The Council has previous experience of support from Mott MacDonald Limited and have been satisfied with the quality and pace of support provided and notably Mott MacDonald Limited has supported the Council to secure significant funding for a number of key regeneration projects.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 Do not award the contract and undertake separate procurement exercises for individual tasks –given the regeneration focus needs to prioritise the Simplification Pilot deadline of March 2026 this would lead to delays in delivery whilst procurement exercises were completed and increase demands placed on regeneration, procurement and legal colleagues. The use of different organisations for different pieces of work may also lead to inconsistencies of approach.
- 2.2 Do not award the contract and undertake a competitive procurement exercise – awarding the contract via a framework is a compliant procurement process which is considered the most appropriate route to follow given the current deadline of the Simplification Pilot and the assessment of the risk of bringing in a new consultant to support projects.
- 2.3 Undertake the work in house – the work would require significant resources and for some areas of the project specialist transport skills such as traffic modelling will be required. There are only 2 full time Officers in the strategic

transport team therefore there is not the capacity to undertake all the required work in house. If the work is not undertaken it will impact the Council's ability to provide the required information bring in external funding and deliver the necessary transport schemes to support the growth ambitions.

- 2.4 Seek support from a different consultancy – depending on the scale and timescales of projects separate tender exercises could be undertaken. This contract has an annual headroom, so work is managed and allocated in line with that. During the 24 month contract a procurement exercise will commence to seek a provider for a new Strategic Transport Contract so other providers will also be able to respond to that opportunity.

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 Strategic Transport support is needed to continue the work to support the future growth of Wirral and to support the delivery of Birkenhead 2040 and the emerging Local Plan. Excellent transport is a critical element to support the regeneration of the Borough and to support the Climate and Environment Declaration - 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 scope of the technical work would be directed via individual project briefs issued by the Strategic Transport Team. Technical support will be required to support studies and projects to develop transport infrastructure to support investment and growth in Wirral. Examples of services which may include, but not limited to:
- Feasibility studies;
  - Options appraisal;
  - Design work;
  - Transport Modelling (including Wirral's SATURN Traffic Model);
  - Funding applications;
  - Business cases;
  - Data collection - site and desk studies;
  - General transport planning resource to support existing in house team; and
  - Consultations
- 3.5. The appointed specialist team will be required to use the relevant industry recognised tools and techniques to produce a level of work that is compliant with the appropriate project. All work must be in line with the requirements and will be agreed with and monitored by Council Project Managers.
- 3.7. Mott MacDonald Limited has previously secured contracts via a competitive tender process with the Councils and is currently in Year 5 of a Strategic transport Contract also secured competitively. It is proposed that the 24 month contract is awarded via Lot 7 of the Multi-Disciplinary NHS Shared Business Services Healthcare Planning Construction Consultancy and Ancillary Services Framework commencing on 8 July 2024 with the terms of

the contract to include an option for a 12 month extension subject to satisfactory performance.

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1. A contract value of £375,000 per year has been identified for this contract (total contract value of £750,000), however there is no guarantee as to the amount of work to be awarded via this commission. Work awarded using this contract is generally funded via grants given to the council via the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and other funders. No work will be issued via this contract without a budget being identified and the appropriate approvals being secured.

#### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Regulation 33 (8) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 provides that a framework agreement shall be performed in the following way:  
“where not all the terms governing the provision of the works, services, and supplies concerned are laid down in the framework agreement, through re-opening competition amongst the economic operators which are party to the framework agreement” (i.e. a mini / further competition) or by a direct award when there are objective factors which justify the selection of particular economic operator and the awards are subject to the terms of the framework agreement.
- 5.2 The Council is under a duty to secure best value from any procurement process and also has a fiduciary duty to Council Tax payers to use its resources prudently and efficiently.
- 5.3 The Council has statutory duties as defined by the Highways Act 1980, Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984, Road Traffic Act 1988, Local Government Act and the Traffic Management Act 2004. All highway schemes will require technical approval by the Director of Neighbourhoods to ensure these statutory duties are complied with.

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

- 6.1 The contract management and management of projects awarded under this contract will be managed by existing staff from within the Council's Regeneration and Place Directorate, supported by the Regeneration Programme Management Office and support from external resources as required.
- 6.2 There are no ICT or asset implications.

#### **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 7.1 The current lack of capacity within the strategic transport team means work to support the delivery of the regeneration programme, the emerging Local Plan and support development of projects to address the Climate and Environment

Emergency cannot always be undertaken in house. The failure to award the contract, and secure additional support to mitigate this risk, would impact on the Council's ability to provide the required information to bring in external funding and deliver the necessary transport schemes to support the growth ambitions. Ultimately this could lead to major projects being delayed and a failure to deliver the desired improvements/outcomes. Any delays could also impact on the Simplification Pilot deadline of March 2026 with delays in delivery whilst procurement exercises were completed and increase demands placed on regeneration, procurement and legal colleagues.

- 7.2 The failure to appoint a single organisation to provide the required support may lead to a risk of inconsistencies of approach, affecting quality, delivery, cost as well as potentially requiring more contract management arrangements and officer time.
- 7.3. The risk that the supplier fails to deliver the appropriate work within the required timescales and/or the correct standard will be mitigated through robust contract management arrangements. Wirral Council's Strategic Transport Planning team have regular meetings with Mott MacDonald Limited to clearly scope projects, set expectation, specify deliverables and monitor progress of projects. Mott MacDonald Limited will also submit weekly progress reports to the relevant project managers for review. Based on the performance of the previous contracts it is considered that this risk is low.
- 7.4 The Council recognises that risk management is essential in good decision making and is a critical element of good governance. The Council continually develops its risk management processes to proactively and effectively manage risk.
- 7.5 The Council has established a Project Management Office (PMO) dedicated to the Regeneration and Place directorate. The PMO has oversight of the projects and will ensure that they align with the Council's corporate policy to managing risk. Progress against projects is monitored by the PMO and reported initially internally to the Regeneration Portfolio Board and then in line with the Council constitution reports are considered by the appropriate Committee.

## **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

- 8.1 No external consultation has been undertaken however engagement with corporate legal and procurement services has taken place to develop the approach to securing this resource and the subsequent recommendations within this report.

## **9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 The Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is a tool to help council services identify steps they can

take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity.

- 9.2 Whilst there are no equality implications arising directly from this report, the associated actions arising from the delivery may need to assess any equality issues and mitigate any negative impact that may emerge. Any associated EIA will be done at the earliest possible stage.

## **10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 Delivery of sustainable transport and regeneration projects will enable increased numbers of journeys to be undertaken by sustainable modes, especially for local journeys, therefore reducing residents' reliance on the private car and reducing carbon emissions. Increasing cycling and walking will help combat climate change. By encouraging and enabling people to travel more on foot and by cycle instead of private car harmful emissions will be reduced. Promoting active travel can result in reduced emissions of Nitrogen Dioxide, particulate matter and Carbon Dioxide helping to tackle the Environment and Climate Change Emergency.
- 10.2 Gear Change Cycling Strategy produced by Government in Summer 2020 identifies that mode shift to active transport is one of the most cost-effective ways of reducing transport emissions and that meeting the targets to double cycling and increasing walking would lead to savings of £567million annually from air quality alone and prevent 8,300 premature deaths each year in England and provide opportunity to improve green spaces and biodiversity.
- 10.3 The supplier has a clear strategy regarding sustainability with a vision to be a leading global partner in advancing sustained economic, social and environmental wellbeing.

## **11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 Mott MacDonald Limited will be submitting a Social Value Plan. Over the past few years Mott MacDonald Limited has delivered Social Value to Wirral through the following:
- Tackled unemployment through use of the local supply chain wherever possible. This has included use of local; sub-contractors, survey companies and distribution companies.
  - Silver Sponsor of PLACED Academy since 2021.
  - Attended Careers Events and delivered talks at schools across Wirral.
  - Facilitated work experience placements at Mott MacDonald's Liverpool office for young people across Wirral.
  - Winner of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce Skills and Employability Award 2022. The award considered our commitment to supporting skills and employability for young people, including delivery of schools engagement, CV review, mock interviews and work experience across the LCR.

- Volunteered time through the week and at weekends to support BirkenEd's Place.
- Attended launch and wrap-up events at BirkenEd's Place.
- Led a community walking tour for the Waterfront programme.
- Engaged in RNIB training / workshops at Birkenhead Town Hall.
- Engaged local LCR supply chain, including Planit-IE & BCA.
- Funded a professional photographer to gather 'before' photos and drone footage, with 'after' to follow post-construction of town centre schemes.

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## **APPENDICES**

None

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Multi-Disciplinary NHS Shared Business Services Healthcare Planning Construction Consultancy and Ancillary Services Framework

## **SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

Officer Decision <https://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=5247>