



Briefing Note – Communities Scrutiny Committee

Bermuda Connectivity Project Update

Directorate	Communities	Service	Environment
Team(s)	Environment Services	Report Author(s)	Scott Tompkins
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Bermuda Connectivity Project - Update

Officers have been asked to provide an update on the progress of the Bermuda Connectivity scheme following approval at Cabinet to award the construction contract. The following bullet points provides the latest progress on the scheme. Officers are also aware that a project update will be on the Communities Overview and Scrutiny meeting agenda for June 2021 meeting. A more detailed note will be provided for the June meeting and officers will be in attendance to answer questions.

Planning and Project Delivery Update:

- Following the Cabinet decision, officers have met with the preferred contractor to start the engagement for awarding the construction contract, the discussion was positive and the preferred contractor is keen to commence work as soon as possible, and certainly, before the end of April 2021;
- It has been agreed with the Portfolio Holder for Transport Planning that a separate Active Travel Fund bid application will be produced covering the additional shared pedestrian / cycle path section connecting to Ensor's Pool link and a pedestrian crossing on Bermuda Road near the junction with Heath End Road;
- Atkins (Principal Designer) are continuing the design work on these elements as they were always seen as valuable additions to the Scheme in the hope that sufficient funding would remain in the project budget for them to be delivered, and Atkins hope to complete the final design work by the end of April 2021;
- Upon completion of the design, WCC Design Services will liaise with the preferred contractor (i.e. Principal Contractor) to obtain a construction cost estimate for the additional shared pedestrian / cycle path section and pedestrian crossing on Bermuda Road;
- The price provided by the Principal Contractor will form the focus of a separate Active Travel Fund bid application and the aim will be to submit the bid through the approvals processes so that funding can be approved in time for the works to be delivered as part of Bermuda Connectivity construction contract, as a separate

compensation event from the main Scheme to be funded via a separate budget, which will ensure that the funding available for these elements has been considered through appropriate governance processes;

- There are two separate parcels of land which the County Council must acquire to deliver the additional shared pedestrian / cycle path section connecting to Ensor's Pool link and the Bermuda Connectivity Land and Property Subgroup are progressing negotiations with the relevant landowner to secure one of the parcels of land required to deliver the additional shared pedestrian /cycle path section, and similarly, WCC Legal Services are progressing completion and engrossment of a Section 38 Agreement securing the other parcel of land;
- A non-material amendment to Planning Ref No. NBB/18CC011, i.e. the Bermuda Connectivity planning consent, will be submitted to the WCC Planning Team to include the additional shared pedestrian / cycle path section and the pedestrian crossing;
- Atkins have commenced a tendering process aimed at appointing a Contractor to carry out further ground investigation works regarding the gas barrier and are aiming to complete detailed design of the gas barrier elements by the end of May 2021, which will include a Drawing detailing the alignment of the existing gas barrier;
- Upon completion of the gas barrier design, WCC Design Services will liaise with the Principal Contractor to obtain confirmation of the construction cost; and
- Although there are still some contractual issues, particularly around the gas barrier work, that need to be ironed out, the anticipation is that the construction contract will be awarded before the end of February and that the contractor will start work on site in March 2021.
- The preferred contractor and WCC Design Services are working based on a 12-month construction programme, and thus, it is anticipated that completion and Scheme opening would be in March or April 2022.

Supporting Documents

None

For more information contact:

Scott Tompkins
scotttompkins@warwickshire.gov.uk
01926 412426
07827986726