

Individual Decision

Title of Report:	Footbridge over West of England Main Line at Bridle Path 18, Thatcham		
Report to be considered by:	Councillor Sally Hannon	on:	5 October 2004
Forward Plan Ref:	ID0870		

Purpose of Report:

To seek Members approval to procure the design and construction of the footbridge over the West of England Main Line at Bridle Path 18, Thatcham by negotiated, target cost contract in partnership with a design and build contractor already selected by a panel of West Berkshire Council Members.

Recommended Action:

To approve the award of a contract to Dyer and Butler Ltd, the contractor pre-selected by the Panel.

Reason for decision to be taken:

To enable design work to be commenced ensuring construction of the new footbridge before completion of adjacent housing development.

List of other options considered:

Competitive Tendering.

Key background documentation:

Agenda, Report and Minutes for meeting of Thatcham Area Planning Sub-Committee (reference 04/00801/FUL)
12th May 2004.

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Supporting Information

1. Background

- 1.1 Pressure to construct the Monkey Marsh footbridge in place of the existing at grade railway crossing by Bridleway 18, has increased due to the development of the adjacent former MoD site in Thatcham for residential use
- 1.2 A number of designs and methods of procurement were considered before it was decided to proceed on the basis of a negotiated, target cost contract using a Principal Contractor selected by a Panel of Members. It was determined that this procedure would not only offer best value but would expedite delivery of the project.
- 1.3 A Panel comprising Councillors Sally Hannon, Brian Bedwell and Owen Jeffery convened on 28th July 2004 received presentations from two contractors, a third having withdrawn at the last minute, and were unanimous in recommending the appointment of Dyer and Butler Ltd.

Appendices

None.

Implications

Policy:	None
Financial:	<p>The estimated cost of the footbridge is £400,000, of which £280,000 has already been secured from Section 106 Contributions.</p> <p>It is envisaged that the remainder of the cost i.e. £120,000 will be funded from the 2005/06 Capital Programme.</p> <p>As is normal practice in a design and construct project the Principal Contractor's reasonable design costs to an upper limit of £15,000 will be payable by West Berkshire Council, should the project be abandoned, for any reason, before works commence on site.</p>
Personnel:	None.
Legal:	Legal Services will be required to undertake the preparation and consultation on all orders necessary to divert Bridleway 18, which is to be superseded by the new bridge.
Environmental:	None
Equalities:	None
Partnering:	None
Property:	Property Services have been instructed to acquire an area of land sufficient to accommodate both the permanent works working areas necessary to enable construction of the bridge.
Risk Management:	Works procured through Partnering Contract.
Community Safety:	The new bridge will provide a safer crossing of the railway line.

Consultation Responses

Members:

Leader of Council: Has no objection providing Ward Members agree.

Select Committee Chairmen: Brian Bedwell's comments to follow as he was on leave at the time of consultation.

P&L Committee Chairman
(where appropriate):

Ward Members: Are content with the recommendation. (Requested some minor amendments to the Report.)

Opposition Spokesperson: Brian Bedwell – see above.

Advisory Members: n/a

Local Stakeholders: Wallis Trust (Landowner south side)
Redrow Homes Ltd (Developer and Landowner north side)
Network Rail

Officers Consulted: John Ashworth (Corporate Director)
Mark Edwards and Derek Crouch (Highways and Engineering)
Sally Jennings (Countryside and Environment)
Colin Broughton (Property)
Michele Sherman (Legal Services)

Trade Union: Not applicable.