

Agenda item 15

Recommendation from Cabinet, 18th June 2013

Coventry City Council

Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held at 2.00 pm. on 18 June 2013

Present:

Cabinet Members:	Councillor Mrs Lucas (Chair) Councillor Townshend (Deputy Chair) Councillor Duggins Councillor Gannon Councillor Gingell Councillor Kelly Councillor Kershaw Councillor A. Khan Councillor Lancaster Councillor Ruane
Deputy Cabinet Members:	Councillor Innes
Non-voting Opposition Members:	Councillors Blundell and Andrews
Other Members:	Councillors Fletcher, Foster, McNicholas, Sandy and Skipper.
Employees (by Directorate): Chief Executive's:	M Reeves (Chief Executive), F Collingham, G Holmes, J Moore and A West
Children, Learning and Young People :	Colin Green (Director), S Redgrave and A Simpson,
City Services & Development:	M Yardley (Director), N Clews, C Knight, R Negro, M Vicker and R Young
Community Services:	B Walsh (Director)
Customer & Workforce Services:	H Abraham (Assistant Director), S Iananntuoni, H Peacocke and N Sutharia
Finance & Legal Services:	C West (Director), N Chamberlain, C Forde, B Hastie, P Helm, P Jennings and J Murphy

Public business

1. **Apologies**

Cabinet noted apologies from Councillors K Caan and D Howles.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of Interest.

15. **Friargate Bridge**

The Director of City Services and Development presented this report which informed Cabinet that in order to maximise the inward investment and job creation potential of the project at 13 above, it was essential that the rail station area was fully connected to the city centre. To address the barrier created by the Ring Road it was proposed to remove the roundabout at Junction 6 and to build a bridge deck across the Ring Road (the 'Friargate Bridge') to create a new attractive public boulevard route to link into the city centre and to extend Greyfriars Green to the edge of the Friargate development.

The proposed boulevard route would run from the front of the station, over the new bridge deck and into the city's central shopping area. In addition, as well as promoting enhanced pedestrian linkages and better visual connections the removal of the roundabout would allow for additional land for development to be brought forward.

The completion of these works would require the developer to discharge the reserved matters on its outline planning consent and implement the pedestrian boulevard route from the front of the railway station to the ring road – another transformational element of the masterplan.

The Council has secured a Regional Growth Fund (RGF) bid on behalf of the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP). Within the bid £12.7million was available to the City Council for the rebuilding of Ring Road junction 6, making significant road improvements and opening up the Friargate site for greater development and opportunity. The rebuilding of junction 6 will also ensure the Friargate site was integrated into the current city centre and future City Centre South aspirations. The RGF funding agreement with government for the £12.7million stipulated the funding has to be spent by 30 June 2015 and the delivery of over 2,000 jobs by April 2022 through the office space being developed on the site.

To achieve this tight timescale it was proposed to enter into an Early Contractor Involvement arrangement with a contractor who will be co-located with the City Council's appointed design team to develop the scheme and a target contract price. This target price would be fixed by December 2013.

It would be necessary to incur development costs up to December 2013 when the target price would be known. These costs would be incurred without certainty that the project was affordable and that it would therefore proceed. The estimated spend up to this point (principally design fees and project management costs) was £0.7million. If the Council chooses not to proceed with the bridge, it would not be able to claim from RGF for the costs incurred to this date.

RESOLVED that Cabinet

- (1) Notes the funding award Regional Growth Fund 3 for £12.7million for the purpose of constructing Friargate Bridge.**
- (2) Approves that project management and design costs of £0.7million will be incurred at risk up until December 2013 when contracts would be signed.**
- (3) Approves variations to the collaboration agreement with Friargate LLP to facilitate the bridge and boulevard works to an agreed timescale.**
- (4) Supports Friargate in the discharge of the reserved matters under the planning application and the required stopping up orders for the said works.**

(5) Recommends that Council:

- a) Approve the addition of this scheme to the Council's Capital Programme for 2013/14 onwards**
- b) Approve the delegation of authority to The Director of City Services and Development in consultation with the Cabinet Member (Business Enterprise & Employment) to award the ECI works contract for the bridge deck**