

NWRR Executive Board Meeting – Bi-Monthly

Meeting notes

18th November 2024

Present:

Mark Barrow (MB), Matt Johnson (MJ), Dan Morris (DM), Andy Wilde (AW), Donna Payne (DP), Emma Walker (EW)
Gary Dymond (GD) WSP

Not present:

Saskia Richardson, Michaela Probert, Nigel Denton

1) Intros & Apologies

Apologies – Nigel Denton
Risk not available for past two meetings

2) Procurement Update

The final evaluation has been completed and a full negotiation period opened with the remaining [REDACTED] contractors. A full resubmission was completed, and the results are that [REDACTED] are now our preferred provider, being in the lead in terms of price and quality. [REDACTED] may request a full review as to the decision. [REDACTED] have been overseeing our procurement process throughout so there should be no issues if [REDACTED] do request the review. [REDACTED] did not revisit their pricing thus allowing [REDACTED] to overtake them. The contract award has been pushed back into next year, pending the FBC confirmation. The price [REDACTED] have provided is based upon the programme SC provided, any price increase will be linked to the indexation.

The price provided has been given to the Officer Group and the full details will also be circulated to this group. The price given is [REDACTED], which Donna has been sighted on. MJ

3) Planning Notice Issue/ S.106 Matters Update

[REDACTED] and the legal team cannot be engaged until the full planning notice has been granted. The LPA have three draft S.106 agreements which are acceptable to the landowners. [REDACTED] has reviewed these drafts and there have been some technical queries which [REDACTED] are responding too. The 28-day notice period has been given to [REDACTED]. We will be going to council on the 12th December with full planning notice in hand. Papers will need to be circulated by the 4th December at the latest. As long as the S.106 agreements have been agreed to a certain degree there can be some final points awaiting review. We are confident [REDACTED] will have sufficient information required. Morris [REDACTED] have been pushing us for the release of further information, pertaining to traffic and air quality, which they have escalated through to the ICO. The ICO have been found in favour of the Council, they feel we have been reasonable with the information we have provided. However, we do anticipate further conversations with [REDACTED]

Matt will create a note for Dan to update cabinet this afternoon. MJ

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4) Budget Update – FBC Approach and Match Funding, Commercial Cover (██████ Approvals

The current spend to date is 34.6 million, which is broken down between the NWRR at 27.8 million and the OLR at 6.8 million. We are currently within our budget and there is very little spend going through at the moment. Any spend at the moment is down to utilities, ██████ preconstruction and ██████ professional fees. We forecast that we will spend 5 million up until the end of the financial year and we are well within that projected spend. We will be standing ██████ down towards December and January, whilst we await the chosen contractor to take over.

We are focusing on getting together the final budget for the project. We are fixing our current spend as of the 1st November, which will be locked. We will then forecast costs up until the end of March, which is currently a further £4 million, within our delegated budget. We are then focusing on the final total budget and there is a lot of work going on currently to finalise that. This currently stands at 202 million. Finance feel that this is a worst-case total at this point. It is being reviewed to apportion the work correctly. We cannot include anything for the OLR so this needs to be calculated accurately.

We know we potentially have the DFT funding, and we are currently forecasting 54.4 million, we have nothing in writing to suggest any further funding. We have secured the LEP grant at 4.2 million and we have capital and S.106 agreements however we still have a 115 million shortfall.

When we submit the FBC it will have to be caveated by the Local Transport Fund award. SC will not be financing this. Meetings will be organised with senior ministers to enforce how important this funding will be.

5) FBC Update – Council Paper (NWRR and OLR) / Timeline Post Submission to DFT

In terms of benefit cost ratio, anything below 1.5 would be deemed by DFT as a poor choice of spending public money. However, this project still stands at 4, which would be deemed as very beneficial to the DFT. A pre-emptive meeting is being organised to discuss the business case that is being proposed. Finance requires the local transport fund profile before they can understand what needs to be borrowed and how and when that will be required.

We potentially cannot go ahead with the contract until the profile is known. If the FBC is delayed this will impact upon the programme and will lead to further risks. The FBC may need to include a line which states 'subject to the funding being confirmed'. If DFT cancels the project, they are required to provide the monies already spent.

The FBC can only state that we can use the LTF as it needs to be compliant with cabinet.

██████ send over a list to Dan, explaining the wider benefits to present to cabinet this afternoon.

Once we have a reasonable draft of the FBC it will be circulated to Dan to obtain his thoughts

GD

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6) Risk Update

An update will be requested

7) Comms Update

A full communications meeting will be organised when required.

8) AOB

- The process of the previously agreed delegations for payments (as per Exec Board 23/9 24) to [REDACTED] will be discussed at the next meeting.
- The external audit from Grant Thornton has been received and there are no concerns.