

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: REDDING ROAD RAILWAY BRIDGE
Meeting: EXECUTIVE
Date: 25 FEBRUARY 2014
Author: DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Redding Road railway bridge is located on the B805 Redding Road to the west of the Blair Cottage roundabout at the Redding Tesco store. The bridge is owned by Falkirk Council and the Council has a statutory obligation, under the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, for its maintenance.
- 1.2 To date the Council has inspected and maintained this bridge in line with national standards, however, its condition has been deteriorating over a number of years. Access restrictions on the Edinburgh to Glasgow railway line have constrained repairs over the years as has the type and articulation of the bridge, with Redding Road crossing the bridge at a large skew angle.
- 1.3 The bridge deck now requires to be replaced to ensure that normal road traffic can safely cross the main Edinburgh to Glasgow railway line. Without replacement of the bridge deck, the bridge would require to be reduced to single way working under traffic lights with an 18 tonne weight limit and would, in the very near future, require to be closed to traffic altogether.
- 1.4 Option appraisal work has confirmed that deck replacement is the best value option rather than deck repairs. A new bridge deck will have a design life of 120 years, whilst deck repairs, as well as being more expensive, would only have a residual life of 20 to 30 years.
- 1.5 Network Rail is currently progressing works in connection with their national Edinburgh to Glasgow Improvement Programme (EGIP) to provide clearance at all bridges for the purpose of electrification. It had been Network Rail's intention to lower the railway track beneath Redding Road Railway to achieve clearance for electrification.
- 1.6 Network Rail have confirmed with the Council that they would be willing to contribute their EGIP investment for track-lowering to the Council's deck replacement project which would allow the necessary track clearance to be achieved by this means.

2. DETAILS

- 2.1 It is proposed that the Council will contract with Network Rail to have the required design and construction works carried out, to replace the bridge deck, utilising Network Rail's framework contractors for the Edinburgh Glasgow Improvement Programme (EGIP). The appointment of the framework contractor has been subject to Network Rail's public procurement procedures.
- 2.2 All costs associated with the works are to be allocated on the basis of 60% Falkirk Council and 40% Network Rail. Any financial overspend or savings will be similarly apportioned.

- 2.3 The proposed arrangement requires the Council to enter directly into a formal contract with Network Rail. The Council's procurement obligations having been satisfied, as described in paragraph 2.1, I have confirmed that best value is demonstrated through this arrangement. In accordance with Contract Standing Order 5.8, the Chief Governance Officer, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and the Chief Executive has given specific exemption from the requirement to competitively tender this contract on the basis of special circumstances outlined in this report.

3. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The funding arrangement between Falkirk Council and Network Rail is subject to a legal agreement pursuant to which Network Rail will procure contractors for the necessary works. The Council will benefit from collateral warranties from the contractors.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The deck replacement project is estimated to cost £2,867,478 with the Council's 60% contribution being £1,720,487. The financial obligations are subject to the legal agreement between Falkirk Council and Network Rail and can be met from the Council's General Capital Programme.

5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 None.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 As required by Contract Standing Order 5.8, this report records the exemption from the requirement for competition granted by the Chief Governance Officer, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and the Chief Executive, in respect of the contract referred to in the report.
- 7.2 Members are asked to grant authority for Falkirk Council to enter into a contract with Network Rail which will effect the design and construction works required at Redding Road railway bridge

.....
Director of Development Services

Date: 11 February 2014

Contact Officer: Greg Pender, Ext 4827.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

*Draft legal agreement between Falkirk Council and Network Rail

*Item not for publication on the grounds that it involves the disclosure of exempt information as defined in 'paragraph 8' of Part 1 of Schedule 7a of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.