

REPORT TO: Mersey Gateway Executive Board

DATE: 20th September 2012

REPORTING OFFICER: Chief Executive

PORTFOLIO: Leader

SUBJECT: Mersey Gateway Bridge – Procurement Progress

WARDS: All

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report advises members of the progress of the Mersey Gateway procurement process.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: no decisions are required but the Mersey Gateway Executive Board are invited to note:-

2.1 That the Competitive Dialogue process is progressing to programme and that all Bidders are engaged with the process and continue to develop their draft Final Submissions.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Since the last report to the Mersey Gateway Executive Board, a significant number of Dialogue Meetings (split between Technical and Commercial elements) have taken place (supported by Bidder Submissions made in advance); matters covered included the following:

Several meetings with each Bidder on a range of technical matters such as:

- Proposals on dealing with various structures;
- Departures from Standard;
- Asset Management;
- Conceptual designs;
- Drainage;
- Landscaping;
- Traffic management;
- Contamination and remediation;
- Construction methods.

Several meetings with each Bidder on a range of commercial matters such as:

- Revenue Collection Service and Revenue Collection Business Plan;
- Proposals on the ways in which the bidders will finance the project;
- Commentary on the draft contracts - Project Agreement (PA) and Demand Management Participation Agreement (DMPA);
- Proposals on how bidders will deal with contamination;
- Proposals on approach to insurance;
- Employment and Skills Delivery Plans.

- 3.2 In order to support the dialogue meetings, the Project Team (as part of the Invitation to Participate in Dialogue) requested a number of submissions to be provided by bidders over the course of the dialogue phase. To date, the Team have received over 180 submissions from the three main bidders which have all needed to be reviewed. In addition, nearly 500 queries have been received which have all needed responses. Since the start of the dialogue process, a further 1,000 documents have been sourced and provided to bidders via 18 dataroom updates. This brings the total number of documents contained within the dataroom to 4,670. Please see Appendix 1 for further details on these statistics.
- 3.3 The key milestones were reported to the Board at the last meeting. The Project Team remain on target to deliver Financial Close in the autumn of 2013.
- 3.4 Bidders have also proactively engaged with the Halton Employment Partnership in connection with developing their plans for the community engagement and social responsibility requirements. The HEP has been impressed with these Bidders' understanding of the various initiatives and the commitment to engagement. These Bidders are also exploring the possibility of various supply chain activities being provided by local businesses (with the assistance of the development and investment HEP partners).
- 3.5 In parallel to the Dialogue Meetings, the land acquisition programme continues to ensure the delivery of the required land, or necessary rights that the Project Company needs in order to construct the Mersey Gateway. The programme is on schedule, and continues to acquire land both through agreement and by exercising of its Compulsory Purchase powers through the serving of General Vesting Declarations, of which five have been made to date. Negotiations continue with a number of affected parties, with the ability to use Compulsory Purchase powers should it be necessary. A significant number of affected businesses have now identified relocation premises and the team are

working with them to ensure they have relocated and vacated their existing premises by April 2013

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The project is a key priority for the Council which will deliver benefits locally and across the wider region.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 All substantive implications are reported above and in the report annex.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

Mersey Gateway provides an opportunity to improve accessibility to services, education and employment for all.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

Over 500 construction jobs will be required for MG and matters are in hand designed to ensure the local community has access to these job opportunities. In the longer term, several thousand jobs are forecast to be created in the sub-region due to the wider economic impact of the project.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Mersey Gateway provides an opportunity to improve accessibility to services, education and employment for all, including improved cycling and walking facilities.

6.4 A Safer Halton

The project will produce road safety benefits for road users including improved cycling and walking facilities.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

Mersey Gateway Project is a priority project in the Urban Renewal Programme.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

The project structure supported by the proposed delegation and decision authority will reduce the risk of delay and improve the quality of the project control. A full risk register is maintain as art of the project management system.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

Mersey Gateway provides an opportunity to improve accessibility to services, education and employment for all.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

9.1 None under the Meaning of the Act.