Project update

Progress is being made by Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) and the Environment Agency (EA) on the A120 Little Hadham Bypass and Flood Alleviation scheme. Following the Public Inquiry held on 17 and 18 July the Inspector has submitted his report to the Secretary of State. In addition, tender documents have been issued as part of the process to secure a contractor to carry out the construction works.

Getting the land for the scheme

The Public Inquiry was held to consider objections to the HCC Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) and Side Roads Order (SRO). The Inquiry was run by an Inspector and his report was recently submitted to the Secretary of State for Transport for consideration, and the project team await the Secretary of State’s decision. The EA CPO is unopposed. The project team is continuing to work with landowners to secure the land by agreement.

Planning conditions

The project team continues to work through the conditions attached to the planning permission, granted in January 2017. Works, including further ecology surveys, are ongoing on the drafting of submissions to address conditions tied to the start of construction. Where conditions relate to construction, submissions will be made by the contractor once they are appointed.

Selecting a contractor to build the scheme

HCC has recently issued tender documents to the shortlisted contractors identified in the initial stage of the procurement process. Tenders are expected to be returned in October and will include submissions on quality and estimated cost. Following this HCC, with the support of the EA, will evaluate the returned information and make a decision about the preferred contractor. Depending on the outcome of the ongoing tender and legal processes, HCC hopes to appoint a successful contractor in late 2018.

Construction

The construction of the scheme is expected to start in early 2019 and complete in 2020. Subject to landowner agreement, some early works are planned to take place towards the end of 2018 which may include environmental mitigation and utility diversion works.

More information can be found on the project’s website: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/a120bypass