

Report to:	Cabinet	Date: 10 September 2025
Subject:	Approval to Direct Award Contract for the Delivery of Fishpool Phase 2 and Pimhole Bee Active Travel Schemes	
Report of	Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Operations	

Summary

1. This report seeks formal approval to directly award a contract to George Cox & Sons Ltd for the delivery of the Fishpool Phase 2 and Pimhole Bee Active Travel Schemes, under the Greater Manchester Highways Alliance Framework (Lot 7).
2. These schemes support Greater Manchester's ambition to develop a comprehensive Bee Active Network and are integral to Bury's local transport strategy for active travel.
3. The total funding allocation for the two schemes is £5,738,850, fully provided through the Mayor's Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund (MCF) and administered by Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM). The funding breakdown is as follows:
 - Fishpool Bee Active Travel - Phase 2: £3,826,227
 - Pimhole Bee Active Travel: £1,912,623
4. Both schemes have received Full Business Case (FBC) approval from TfGM under the agreed governance process for MCF funding.
5. Awarding the contract will enable works to commence in **October 2025** and complete by **November 2026**, ensuring compliance with funding conditions.

Recommendation(s)

6. Approve the direct award of a contract to George Cox & Sons Ltd for the delivery of the Fishpool Phase 2 and Pimhole Bee Active Travel Schemes, in accordance with the terms of the Greater Manchester Highways Alliance Framework.
7. Authorise Legal to finalise and seal the necessary contract documents to secure the appointment.

Reasons for recommendation(s)

8. The direct award is permitted under the framework agreement, reducing procurement timescales and ensuring delivery within funding deadlines.
9. George Cox & Sons Ltd has been identified as the highest-ranked contractor for Lot 7, specialising in civil works, ensuring quality and value for money.
10. Delays in awarding the contract may risk funding withdraw and impact the council's reputation with TfGM and the Department for Transport (DfT).

Alternative options considered and rejected

11. Separate procurement for each scheme: This option was rejected as it would duplicate efforts, extend timescales, and increase administrative costs.
12. Not proceeding with the schemes: This option was rejected as it would result in the loss of MCF funding and missed opportunities to improve active travel infrastructure.

Report Author and Contact Details:

Name: Mark Mykolajowski

Position: Project Engineer

Department: Place Directorate

E-mail: m.a.mykolajowski@bury.gov.uk

Background

13. The Fishpool Bee Active Travel - Phase 2 focuses on enhancing local connectivity through upgraded crossings, quiet streets, and cycle-friendly infrastructure.
14. The Pimhole Bee Active Travel addresses severance caused by main roads, improving walking and cycling routes through safety enhancements and road-space reallocation.
15. These schemes form part of Bury's Local Transport Strategy and Greater Manchester's Bee Active Network, which aim to improve health, reduce emissions, and encourage active travel

Public Engagement

16. Following formal consultation in 2022, which informed the final design, the Fishpool and Pimhole Bee Active Travel schemes were the subject of community briefings in July 2025 to provide an update ahead of construction and respond to local queries.

17. A full summary of the feedback received is presented in the Consultation Report (Appendix D), with a summary of responses and actions set out in the 'You Said, We Did' summary (Appendix E).
18. Two community briefing events were held at:
 - Jamia Khizra Mosque, Parker Street – Monday 7 July 2025
 - Welly Community Café, Manchester Road – Tuesday 8 July 2025
19. The sessions were very positive, with residents welcoming the opportunity to speak directly with the engineering team, view scheme proposals, and raise local issues.
20. While a range of localised concerns were raised, primarily relating to traffic management, antisocial behaviour and parking enforcement, only one related directly to the Fishpool Phase 2 scheme design - the proposed bellmouth tightening at the Wellington Road and Manchester Road junction. Some residents raised questions about the potential for congestion at this location, though many acknowledged the importance of reducing crossing distances and improving pedestrian safety, particularly for children attending nearby schools.
21. There was strong support for:
 - Safer crossings at Heywood Street / Parker Street
 - Traffic calming on Pimhole Road
 - Improvements welcomed by Bury College, Holy Cross College, and local residents - particularly around Gigg Lane, Market Street, and Alfred Street
22. All comments received will be considered as part of the monitoring and evaluation phase post-implementation. Where appropriate, minor complementary interventions may be explored separately, subject to funding and feasibility.

Social Value Considerations

23. George Cox & Sons Ltd has committed to delivering a comprehensive package of social value outcomes aligned with Bury Council's Let's Do It Strategy and the Greater Manchester Social Value Framework. These commitments will be embedded throughout the delivery of the Fishpool Phase 2 and Pimhole Bee Active Travel schemes.

Key areas of focus include:

- Local employment and apprenticeship opportunities for Bury residents
- Engagement with local schools, colleges, and NEETs through work placements and site visits

- Volunteering and support for community groups, charities, and small-scale local improvements
 - Carbon reduction initiatives including electric vehicles, solar-powered facilities, and low-carbon materials
 - Social value delivery monitored using the National TOMs framework and reported monthly to the Engineering Team.
24. These commitments will help ensure the schemes bring lasting benefits to the local area beyond the physical infrastructure improvements, contributing directly to Bury's priorities around inclusion, sustainability, and economic growth.
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Links with the Corporate Priorities:

25. These schemes directly support the priorities outlined in Bury's Let's Do It Strategy, including:
- Local Neighbourhoods: Enhancing access to safe, active travel infrastructure fosters healthier, more independent, and cohesive communities.
 - Delivering Together: Collaboration with TfGM, community stakeholders, and contractors demonstrates a commitment to co-design and shared accountability.
 - Strength-Based Approach: Utilising local assets such as the Bee Network to amplify community strengths while advancing carbon neutrality goals.
 - Economic Growth and Inclusion: Improved connectivity boosts local commerce, attracts investment, and supports inclusive growth within the borough.
 - Climate Agenda: Promoting walking and cycling directly aligns with Bury's target of carbon neutrality by 2038.
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Equality Impact and Considerations:

26. A full EQIA has been carried out for this activity. Impacts have been identified for some characteristics and circumstances during works on this activity and the intended outcomes. Mitigations have been considered to neutralise potential negative impacts during works with all impacts being positive post works. There are no outstanding equalities concerns or considerations for this activity

Environmental Impact and Considerations:

- 27. These schemes will reduce vehicle dependency, promote sustainable travel, and contribute to Bury's target of carbon neutrality by 2038.
- 28. Biodiversity impacts have been assessed and mitigated during the design phase.

Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
Failure to award the contract could result in funding drawback or delays in delivery.	A direct award to George Cox & Sons Ltd ensures compliance with funding and delivery timelines.

Legal Implications:

- 29. Procurement advice has been provided throughout the tender process.
- 30. Legal advice will be provided for the purposes of finalising and sealing the contract.

Financial Implications:

- 31. The schemes are included within the approved capital programme and there are no additional financial implications with the schemes fully grant funded.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Fishpool Phase 2 and Pimhole – Plans.pdf

Appendix B - Community Briefing - Summary of Key Comments.docx

Appendix C - EqlA.docx

Appendix D – Consultation Report

Appendix E – You Said We Did

Background papers:

None.

Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.

Term	Meaning
MCF	Mayor's Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund
TfGM	Transport for Greater Manchester
FBC	Full Business Case
DfT	Department for Transport