

Decision type: Decision Specifically Delegated to Officers
Decision date: 19 January 2026
Decision maker: Deputy Chief Executive Place, Tom Bridgman
Decision title: Appointment of a Contractor to construct the Oxpens River Bridge

Summary	
Decision being taken:	Appointment of a Contractor to construct the Oxpens River Bridge
Key decision:	Yes – Issue details - Appointment of a contractor for the Oxpens River Bridge Oxford City Council
Source of delegation:	Decision delegated from Cabinet 13 th August 2025 to Deputy Chief Executive - Place, in consultation with the Council's Group Finance Director (Section 151 Officer), the Director of Law Governance and Strategy (Monitoring Officer) and the Cabinet Member for Planning and Culture
Cabinet Member:	Cllr Hollingsworth Cabinet Member for Planning and Culture
Corporate Priority:	Enable an inclusive economy; Support thriving communities; and Pursue a zero carbon Oxford
Policy Framework:	Adopted Local Plan policy AOC1 and SP2 and West End SPD

The Deputy Chief Executive Place decides as follows:

1. To enter into an NEC Construction Contract with Jacksons Civil Engineering Group Ltd for £5,420,799.90 to construct the Oxpens River Bridge and path works

Appendix No.	Appendix Title	Exempt from Publication
Appendix 1a	Recommendation to Award Report	<p>Yes</p> <p>This information is exempted from publication under Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 since it is:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information relating to the financial or business affairs of a person.
Appendix 1b	Conflict of Interest Assessment	<p>Yes</p> <p>This information is exempted from publication under Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 since it is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information relating to the financial or business affairs of a person.
Appendix 2	Tender Cost Report	<p>Yes</p> <p>This information is exempted from publication under Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 since it is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information relating to the financial or business affairs of a person
Appendix 3	Cabinet Report 13 August 2025	No
Appendix 4a	Risk Note	<p>Yes</p> <p>This information is exempted from publication under Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 since it is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information relating to the financial or business affairs of a person
Appendix 4b	Risk Register	<p>Yes</p> <p>This information is exempted from publication under Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 since it is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information relating to the financial or business affairs of a person
Appendix 4c	Construction Risk Note	<p>Yes</p> <p>This information is exempted from publication under Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 since it is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information relating to the financial or business affairs of a person

Introduction and background

1. The Council has been working to deliver a new bridge between Oxpens and Grandpont. The progress on the project was last reported to Cabinet in August 2025 which set out the position on funding, appointment of a contractor and the delivery of the project.

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2. Cabinet provided the following delegation:

Delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive - Place, in consultation with the Council's Group Finance Director (Section 151 Officer), the Director of Law Governance and Strategy (Monitoring Officer) and the Cabinet Member for Planning and Culture to enter into a construction contract and any necessary ancillary contracts for the delivery of the bridge, subject to the necessary funds being in place.

3. Procurement of a contractor to deliver the bridge and adjoining footpaths has taken place through the Pagabo framework by way of mini competition.
4. The tender was for a NEC ECC form of contract to construct the bridge and undertake the path works. The tender was assessed the basis of 40% weighting to the overall submitted price for the works and 60% weighting to the Quality Submission received from the bidders. The quality questions included project specific questions to assess each contractors experience of completing similar projects, questions relating to specific areas of the Oxpens project and also core questions relating to commitments to add social value in line with OxToms guidelines. More detail in respect of the assessments of the tenders and reasoning for the recommendation can be seen at Appendices 1 and 2.
5. The proposed contract has 2 stages with the initial stage being for approximately 8 weeks to enable the proposed contractor to mobilise to site. This phase will include updating various documentation including but not limited to the Flood Risk Activity Permit which will be submitted to the Environment Agency, the Construction Phase Plan which is a CDM requirement and a Construction Phase Traffic Management Plan the Council can elect to not progress to the second stage if it is not expedient to do so. The programme is to deliver the bridge in 2026 with the bridge sections being craned into place in September. The September date is a critical milestone as this is the earliest period which the Environment Agency will permit overnight closures of the river (immediately post peak season for river activities) whilst also being a relatively low risk period for flooding which historical records indicate become elevated from October onwards through the winter months.
6. In order to progress this project within its time restrictions the budget for the project was extended through the virement of funds. However, the intention is for this allocation to include external funding. This funding has been agreed in principle with the University of Oxford and the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and is subject to entering into written funding agreements which require separate Delegated Decisions.

Reasons for the decision

7. It is necessary to appoint a contractor to deliver the proposed bridge. Following the procurement process it is possible to demonstrate that the contractor selected will provide value for money and has the right capability to deliver the project. The decision will enable work to progress to the delivery of the bridge during 2026.
8. Without the appointment of a contractor it is not possible to deliver the bridge. If the decision is delayed it will not be possible to deliver the project in 2026.

Alternative Options Considered

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9. The alternative option is to not award a contract which would in effect abandon the project.
10. Equalities impact assessment was undertaken for the bridge. This decision relates to the appointment of a contractor and therefore does not give rise to new equalities issues in relation to the infrastructure to be delivered. In accordance with public sector procurement rules social value was sought as part of the tender process and taken into account in the decision made through the allocation of scoring to the submissions.

Risks

11. Awarding a construction contract has a number of risks including the ability of the contractor to undertake the work, their financial position and the ability to deliver the submitted programme. These have been considered as part of the tender assessment process.
12. Detail of the specific project risks are attached at appendix 4

Carbon and Environmental Considerations

13. Carbon and Environmental considerations were taken into account in the design of the bridge. Additional considerations relating to the construction of the bridge have been proposed by the contractor through their tender submission including the energy provision and choice of plant.

Implications of making the decision

Financial implications	<p>This section should be completed by finance officers. You will need to provide all relevant background information to the finance officer to enable them to complete this section.</p> <p>No Financial Implications, there is sufficient budget to fund within the existing Approved Capital Programme</p>	Completed by: Paul Swaffield, Finance Project Accountant Date: 15/01/2026
Legal implications	<p>Under part 4.5 of the Constitution the award of contracts valued in excess of £750,000 is a Cabinet responsibility. On the 13 August 2025 Cabinet delegated the responsibility to enter into a construction contract for delivery of the bridge to the Deputy Chief Executive Place, in consultation with the Group Finance Director, Director of Law Governance and Strategy and</p>	Completed by: Joanna Williams Solicitor Date: 14.1.26

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	<p>the Cabinet Member for Planning and Culture.</p> <p>The delegation to award the contract was also subject to the necessary funds being in place.</p> <p>Due to value of the proposed grant this decision is a Key Decision.</p> <p>Provided the mini competition under the Pagabo framework was carried out in accordance with the Framework, using the advertised criteria and the contract is awarded to the highest scored tenderer the proposed contract award will be in compliance with procurement law.</p> <p>This decision form refers to proposed funding arrangements with the University of Oxford and MHCLG. The legal agreements that address the proposed funding will require legal review and until the agreements are entered into there is no legal guarantee of receipt of the funds.</p>	
Other implications	<p>The details above set out the relevant information for the decision. It should be noted that Delegated Decisions for the agreements with Oxfordshire County Council, University of Oxford and MHCLG have been separately prepared.</p>	<p>Completed by: Jenny Barker Regeneration Lead Date: 14/1/26</p>
Member declared interests	<p>Include in here details where any member has declared an interest in the matter in line with the Code of Conduct. Please speak with the Monitoring Officer if you are unsure.</p>	<p>Completed by: Insert name and job title Date: Insert date</p>

Background Documents

List the background documents and, if possible, link to them.

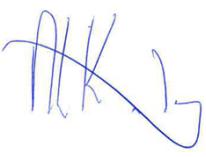
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All background papers must be listed in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act and The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012. This includes, any material which discloses facts or matters on which the report or an important part of it is based and which have been relied on in the preparation of the report. Each document must be listed and a copy of each document made available to members and the public on request, (or they should be directed where to find it if it is already published on the Council's website). All confidential, exempt, copyrighted and published works are EXCLUDED from this requirement.

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Report author	Jenny Barker
Job title	Regeneration Lead
Service area or department	Regeneration, Economy and Sustainability
Email contact	Jbarker@oxford.gov.uk

Consultee checklist

Consultees	Name and job title	Date
Senior officer e.g. the relevant service manager / Director where the decision maker is the Chief Executive or a Deputy Chief Executive.	NA	
Group Finance Director Where required by the Constitution or conditions of the delegation	 Nigel Kennedy	19/01/26
Director of Law, Governance and Strategy Where required by the Constitution or conditions of the delegation	Emma Jackman	16/01/2026

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Cabinet Member(s) Where required by the conditions of the delegation	Cllr Hollingsworth	16/01/2026
Ward Members Where required by the Constitution or conditions of the delegation	N/A	

Decision Maker Approval

Name and job title	Date
Tom Bridgman Deputy Chief Executive Place	19/01/2026

This form must be completed and sent to Committee and Member Services **on the date that the decision maker signs it. This must be only done once all consultees have given their approval. The decision shall be effective from the date of publication; therefore, it is important that you send to Committee and Member Services as soon as it is completed and dated by the decision maker. Please note that it is not effective until it is published and the call in period has passed.**

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NOTES

The law¹ requires the Council to record executive and non-executive decisions taken by officers under delegated powers and to publish them on the Council's website.

These requirements apply to decisions that would have been taken by Council or the Cabinet if delegated powers had not been given to an officer:

- under an express delegation granted at a meeting of Cabinet, Council or a Committee.
- in accordance with Part 4.4 of the Constitution as follows:
 - Awarding a contract where authority has been specifically delegated to officers by Cabinet or a Cabinet Member (regardless of value)
 - Acquiring or disposing of freeholds or leaseholds granting new leaseholds (excluding assignments and rent reviews) where authority has been specifically delegated to officers by Cabinet or a Cabinet Member (regardless of value)
 - Making a regulatory order which affects a number of people, for example a Public Space Protection Order or a Parking Place Order
 - Where the effect of a decision is to grant a licence or permission or it affects the rights of citizens
 - Discharging any other express delegation from Cabinet or a Cabinet Member a committee or Council.

These requirements **do not** apply to:

- planning and licencing matters where there are established arrangements for recording decisions: or
- decisions which are purely administrative or operational in nature

All other officer decisions should be recorded on an officer decision form but do not need to be published. They must though be stored so as to ensure that they are not lost should an officer leave the authority.

Exempt or Confidential information

Information relating to a delegated officer or single member decision does not have to be made public if it is exempt or confidential. Summary information from this decision sheet (excluding all exempt or confidential information) will be published on the Council's website.

¹ the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012/2089 (Regulation 13(4)) and The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014/2095 (Regulation 7)

Key or Non Key Decision

A key decision is an executive decision which is likely to:

- Have a significant effect on people living or working in at least two wards or
- Involve spending, income, or saving a significant amount – whether an amount is significant depends on the Council's total budget for the service involved. For this Council 'significant' in budgetary terms is:
 - Expenditure, income, or savings of £750,000 or greater in the context of the medium term financial strategy,
 - Acquiring or disposing of freeholds with a consideration over £500,000 in the context of the medium term financial strategy except for disposals pursuant to right to buy legislation
 - Acquiring or disposing of leaseholds where either the rental value is in excess of £250,000 per annum and/or the premium is £750,000 except for statutory lease renewals under Part 2 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954 and disposals pursuant to right to buy legislation and disposals pursuant to right to buy legislation.
 - Acquiring or disposing of easements with a value over £750,000 and/or rental value over £250,000 each year

A key decision can only be taken and recorded here if notice of it has been published on the Forward Plan for at least 28 clear days. Key decisions taken by officers may be "called in" by any four councillors or the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee within two days of the notice of decision being published.