

Scrutiny Proposal

Topic: Abbey Bridge tendering, monitoring and delivery processes			
Background to the issue (what is it and why is it being considered for scrutiny)	Abbey Bridge in Evesham was closed for repairs in September 2013. The Bridge was in need of substantial repairs and was initially closed for ten weeks. However, due to complications the bridge didn't reopen until March 2014. The delays to the £8 million project had a significant impact on local businesses. Following a court case and arbitration the County Council were asked to pay an additional sum of money to contractors Hochtief.		
Terms of reference	To investigate the project planning, tendering and project management processes used by the Council to deliver the Abbey Bridge project.		
Suitability for scrutiny. Which of the following criteria does it meet?			
<i>Is the issue a priority area for the Council?</i>	Yes. Providing value for money for the taxpayer is a priority of this council.	<i>Does it examine a poorly performing service?</i>	Yes. It will examine a project that encountered difficulties and will work to help aid future processes.
<i>Is it a key issue for local people?</i>	Yes (There has been widespread media and public comment).	<i>Has it been prompted by new Government guidance or legislation?</i>	No.
<i>Will the scrutiny have a clear impact on services?</i>	It could help to improve processes in the future.	<i>Will it result in improvements to the way the Council operates?</i>	Yes. To what extent is dependent on scrutiny findings.
<i>Are improvements for local people likely as a result?</i>	Dependent on scrutiny findings but could lead to better value for money in future tendering processes and reduce the risk of projects overrunning which impact on local communities		

Scope of scrutiny (what issues will it cover and what won't it cover)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review the preparation for the contract and tendering processes. To review the monitoring processes (when were the council aware of problems with the delivery of the project and what action did it take). To identify any lessons learned – how can future projects be better executed? <p><i>N.B. O&S has committed to ensure that the following are considered in all scrutiny reviews as appropriate</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>equality and diversity issues</i> <i>commissioning</i> <i>localism</i>
Advantages to conducting scrutiny & Indicators of success (ie how will you know a good scrutiny has been done?)	Any lessons learned may be applied to future projects to support effective project planning, management and delivery as well as minimise disruption to the local communities affected.
Has anyone else examined the issue?	Evesham Abbey Bridge was included in the Internal Audit work plan for 2017/18 as part of their assurance work
Any disadvantages or pitfalls to conducting this scrutiny?	A risk of duplicating work undertaken by Internal Audit
INFORMATION NEEDS	
Key Documents, Reports & Data required	All documents associated with the tendering process and resultant reports on monitoring delivery of the project, including the outcome of the internal audit exercise.
Is an expert adviser needed?	No.
Possible interviewees	Officers involved in the tendering process and associated project officers. Business owners affected by the extended closure of the bridge
Is this an issue that young people would be interested in? If so, ask Youth Cabinet for evidence.	No.
Site Visits	Yes. It is important to visit the bridge site and neighbouring businesses to understand the issues that led to the delays and effects on local businesses.
Types of meeting/consultation needed? (eg workshops/ focus groups/ public meetings/ questionnaires etc)	Sit down meetings with WCC officers. Potential engagement with local residents and businesses.
Any meetings to be held outside of County	Yes.

Hall?	
Media & publicity needs?	None at this moment.
OUTLINE TIMETABLE	
Proposal to OSPB	28 February 2018
Evidence Gathering	
Scrutiny Report to OSPB	28 June 2018
Scrutiny Report to Cabinet	12 July 2018