

# WIRRAL COUNCIL

## SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

30 JANUARY 2012

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS – TENDER ACCEPTANCE FOR HIGHWAYS ASSET AND CONDITION SURVEYS FRAMEWORK</b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES</b>
<b>RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</b>	<b>COUNCILLOR HARRY SMITH STREETSCENE AND TRANSPORT SERVICES</b>
<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>NO</b>

### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members, in accordance with the Approved Scheme of Delegation, of any instances where delegated authority has been used by the Director of Technical Services with respect to the appointment of contractors. In this case, the tender procurement process for the provision of Highways Asset and Condition Surveys Framework.
- 1.2 The procurement exercise was undertaken by Cheshire West and Chester Council in conjunction with Cheshire East Council and is open to all unitary authorities in the North West including all five Merseyside authorities, Halton Borough Council and Shropshire Council.

### 2.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

- 2.1 That the report be noted.

### 3.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 3.1 To advise Members in accordance with the Approved Scheme of Delegation.

### 4.0 PROCUREMENT EXERCISE

- 4.1 The purpose of the Contract is to procure the resource to undertake annual condition surveys of the Council's highway network.
- 4.2 The Contract has been divided into two specific functions, machine condition surveys and visual condition surveys.
- 4.3 Machine condition surveys will be carried out on the principal and non-principal classified network and visual condition surveys will be carried out on the unclassified network.
- 4.4 The surveys are necessary to verify and validate the condition of the network to produce annual performance indicators measuring the overall condition and deterioration of the

Council's highway network in accordance with national best practice, and to assist in prioritising programmes of maintenance.

- 4.5 Due to the overall value of the proposed contract, the process was subject to OJEU requirements. A Pre Qualification Questionnaire was produced and made available for prospective tenderers. Six companies submitted a response of which four passed the initial quality section.
- 4.6 The outcome of the tender process resulted in contracts being awarded to W.D.M. Limited for the supply of 'Machine Condition Surveys' and Yotta D.C.L. Limited for the supply of 'Visual Condition Surveys' to carry out the work for all of the authorities under the Framework Agreement.

## **5.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 5.1 Section 41 of the Highways Act 1980 imposes a duty on the Council, as Highway Authority, to maintain highways at the public expense and the Council's ability to undertake this duty is enhanced by provision of accurate and relevant condition survey data.

## **6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 6.1 Procurement solely by Wirral Council was rejected as collective procurement of these services ensures value for money and minimise costs to each individual authority.

## **7.0 CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 Consultation with the five Merseyside Districts and Cheshire West and Chester Council was undertaken as part of this procurement exercise.

## **8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS**

- 8.1 There are no specific implications arising directly from this report.

## **9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS**

- 9.1 The contractual cost of undertaking the condition surveys is funded from the Highway Maintenance Block of the Local Transport Plan Capital Programme.
- 9.2 Based on the lengths of highway to be surveyed each year the Council's annual costs will be approximately £8,300 for the machine condition surveys and approx £24,000 for the visual condition surveys including reporting data provision. Due to the financial benefits of collaborative procurement across potentially many authorities the Council's annual survey costs will be reduced by approximately £80,000 over the length of the contract. The previous contract was procured solely for the five Merseyside Authorities.
- 9.3 For both contracts the contract period is for four years commencing from April 2011, however survey work was not carried out until August 2011. The lengths of highway network surveyed over the four year period will be dependent on funding and the requirement to provide future road condition data to Government departments.

- 9.4 Highway condition surveys for 2011/12 have been completed and condition data provided by both contractors has been used in the preparation of the Council's Highway Structural Maintenance Programme for 2012/13.
- 9.5 As the costs of the condition surveys are funded from the Highway Maintenance Block any reduction in survey costs will allow the remaining funding to be spent on maintaining the highway network.
- 9.6 The contract contains an annual incremental inflationary uplift.

## **10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

## **11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report..

## **12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

- 12.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

## **13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- 13.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

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## APPENDICES

None.

## REFERENCE MATERIAL

*(Include background information referred to or relied upon when drafting this report, together with details of where the information can be found. There is no need to refer to publicly available material: e.g. Acts of Parliament or Government guidance.)*

## SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
None	

## **Assessing Impact of Policy and Funding Decisions**

1. What is being proposed?

To inform Members of the tender procurement process for the provision of Highways Asset and Condition Survey Framework.

2. Is the proposal part of the Corporate Plan? If so, which objective?

Have a safe and well maintained highway network for all users.

3. Has a criteria been drawn up for making a decision? If so, what are the criteria?

Part of the tender procurement process undertaken by Cheshire West and Chester Council.

4. Have you consulted or taken advice from anyone (internal or external) to inform your decision? If so please state who.

Consultation with Procurement Section, Liverpool City Council and Cheshire West and Chester Council.

5. What information, data or research have you used to inform your decision?

6. Will the proposal have a favourable or negative impact on any of the protected groups (race, gender, disability, gender reassignment, age, pregnancy and maternity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership)?

Favourable - improving the highway network will reduce potential hazards for those with disabilities.

7. What is your decision?

That the proposal is satisfactory in terms of impacts on protected groups.

8. Please document the details of this impact assessment in a memo, set of minutes, in a report, or equality impact assessment and send a copy to Kevin Adderley, who will store the information confidentially and organise the relevant details for publishing on the internet in conjunction with the Corporate Equality Manager.