

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE		
DATE:	23 NOVEMBER 2016	AGENDA ITEM:	14
TITLE:	BRIDGE MAINTENANCE (WORKS) TERM CONTRACT 2017-2021 - DELEGATED AUTHORITY FOR CONTRACT AWARD		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	TONY PAGE	PORTFOLIO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING & TRANSPORT
SERVICE:	TRANSPORTATION AND STREETCARE	WARDS:	BOROUGHWIDE
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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform Councillors of the ongoing procurement process for the Bridge Maintenance (Works) Term Contract 2017-2021 and to seek delegated authority to enter into a contract with the successful tenderer after the tendering process in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That delegated authority is given to the Head of Transportation & Streetcare in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport, the Head of Legal & Democratic Services and the Head of Finance to enter into a contract with successful tenderer for the Bridge Maintenance (Works) Term Contract 2017-2021.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 To secure the most effective use of resources in the delivery of high quality, best value public service.
- 3.2 To ensure that all bridges and highway structures are secure, safe and comfortable for all users of the public.

4. THE PROPOSAL

- 4.1 Reading Borough Council, as Highway Authority, has a duty under the Highways Act 1980 (Section 41) to maintain public highway at public expense and (Section 90) protection of Bridges
- 4.2 The council is responsible for the maintenance of over 260 bridges and structures on the public highway. The council employs a term consultant who carries out a programme of routine inspections of all the bridges and structures on our behalf and produces an annual programme of maintenance work.
- 4.3 The programme of maintenance is carried out by a single contractor and has been run under a term contract that was tendered for in 2005. This Contract now requires re-tendering.
- 4.4 The proposal is to tender for a new term contract commencing in 2017 for an initial term of 48 months with the option to extend by a further 36 months subject to performance.

Procurement

- 4.5 The total estimated value of the contract is £340k over the first 48 months (£85k annually) and potentially up to £595k should the contract be extended.
- 4.6 In accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and the principles of the Open Process as defined by the Public Contract Regulations 2015 ("the Regulations") It is proposed that a single stage open procurement process is undertaken to appoint a contractor to deliver the Bridge Maintenance (Works) Term Contract.
- 4.7 In accordance with the Council Contract Procedure Rules, the opportunity will be advertised on the Councils electronic tendering portal as well as via 'Contracts Finder'.
- 4.8 It is intended to enter into a contract based upon the most economically advantageous tender in accordance with the criteria stated within the specification..

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

- 5.1 The Bridge Maintenance (Works) Term Contract **2017-2021** will contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan 2015 - 2018 objectives of 'Providing infrastructure to support the economy' and 'Keeping the town, clean, safe, green and active'.

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

- 6.1 The approved Road Marking Term Contract 2017 – 2021 Committee report was released into the public domain in the lead up to the meeting.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, Section 149, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

- 7.2 The Council has reviewed the scope of the service as outlined within this report and considers that the proposals have an equal impact on all members of the general public.

- 7.3 There is no overall change to service delivery at this time. Should any future updates/amendments be required, which result in service delivery changes, an equality impact assessment will be carried out.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 It will be necessary to enter into a contract with the successful tenderer.

- 8.2 The tender process is being undertaken in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and the principles of the Open Process as defined by the Public Contract Regulations 2015 ("the Regulations"). It is intended to enter into a contract based upon the most economically advantageous tender.

- 8.3 Reading Borough Council, as Highway Authority, has a duty under the Highways Act 1980 (Section 41) to maintain public highway at public expense and (Section 90) protection of Bridges.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The cost of the Bridge Maintenance (Works) Term Contract 2017 - 2021 will be met from the Transport and Streetcare Revenue Budget.

- 9.2 The annual Highway Bridge Maintenance spend for 2016/17 financial year is approximately £ 85,000 and the proposed 4 year contract assumes a similar budget will be agreed for 2017/18 to 2020/21.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 None

