

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	HOUSING NEIGHBOURHOODS & LEISURE COMMITTEE		
DATE:	29 th JUNE 2022	AGENDA ITEM:	
TITLE:	WINTER MAINTENANCE TERM CONTRACT 2022-2025 (PLUS 3-YEAR EXTENSION) TENDER & CONTRACT AWARD		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	COUNCILLOR KAREN ROWLAND	PORTFOLIO:	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES & COMMUNITY SAFETY
SERVICE:	ENVIRONMENTAL & COMMERCIAL SERVICES	WARDS:	BOROUGHWIDE
LEAD OFFICER:	SAM SHEAN	TEL:	0118 9372138
JOB TITLE:	HIGHWAYS & TRAFFIC SERVICES MANAGER	E-MAIL:	sam.shean@reading.gov.uk

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform the Committee of the procurement process for the Winter Maintenance Term Contract 2022-2025 with a possible 3-year extension based on performance 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.
- 1.2 Appendix 1: Winter Service Plan
- 1.3 Appendix 2: Financial Implications Report

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Committee grant approval to tender the Winter Maintenance Term Contract 2022-2025 with a possible 3-year extension, subject to performance, in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.
- 2.2 That the Committee grants delegated authority to the Executive Director for Economic Growth & Neighbourhood Services in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Environmental Services & Community Safety, the Assistant Director of Legal & Democratic Services and the Director of Finance to enter into relevant contracts required to undertake the Winter Maintenance Service Programme, as per section 4 of this report.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 The Corporate Plan 2022-2025 sets out the Council's priorities for Reading and provides direction for staff in delivering services to meet the needs of the communities within the Borough whilst working to a budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) agreed at Council in February 2022.
- 3.2 The Council's Corporate Plan supports the maintenance of a secure and safe highway and strategic road network in order to keep vital services moving, improve air quality and reduce carbon emissions, whilst accommodating the significant levels of planned economic growth.
- 3.3 The aim of the Winter Service is to provide a service to reduce, as far as possible, the effects of adverse weather on the public highway during the winter period.
- 3.4 To secure the most effective use of resources in the delivery of high quality, best value public service. Our Local Transport Plan outlines investments in walking and cycling initiatives, public transport, and electric vehicle infrastructure that will make it easier for residents to make healthy choices, and feel the benefits of clean, green neighbourhoods.
- 3.5 To make travel more secure, safe and comfortable for all users of the public highway and to provide conditions that are as safe as reasonably practical having regards to financial constraints and our statutory duties.

4. THE PROPOSAL

- 4.1 Reading Borough Council aim to provide a winter maintenance service to reduce so far as is reasonably practicable the effects of frost, ice and snow and other severe winter conditions on the public highway. The Council aim to provide travelling conditions as safe as reasonably practicable having regard to the road hierarchy, 'Well-managed Highway Infrastructure - Code of Practice' October 2016, as well as the Highways Act 1980 Section 41 (Clause 1A) and Section 150.
- 4.2 The winter maintenance service is provided by the Council for 26 weeks of the year, starting on 1st October each year and ending on 31st March.
- 4.3 Reading Borough Council is currently included within a Joint Berkshire Local Authorities 'Forecasting Service' contract being provided by 'Vaisala / MeteoGroup DNT'.
- 4.4 The current term Winter Maintenance has come to the end of its term and the Council now need to re-tender the contract in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

Procurement

- 4.5 The total estimated value of the contract is approximately £750k over the first 3-years (36 months), at the rate of approximately £250k per year and

potentially up to an additional £750k should the contract be extended for the subsequent 3-year duration.

- 4.6 In accordance with the Public Procurement Rules the Council will publish on the Find a Tender service which replaces the Official Journal of European Union (OJEU) contract notice portal and in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules, will be advertised on the Council's electronic tendering portal, as well as via 'Contracts Finder'.
- 4.7 As this is a statutory Service, the Council will be required to tender and award the Winter Maintenance Service Term Contract in advance of the winter season.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

- 5.1 Reading Borough Council's vision is:

To help Reading realise its potential - and to ensure that everyone who lives and works here can share the benefits of its success.

- 5.2 The Winter Maintenance Term Contract **2022-2025** will contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan 2022 - 2025 objectives of:

- Healthy environment - Keeping the town clean, safe, green and active
- Inclusive economy - Enabling the infrastructure to continue to support the economy
- Thriving Communities - Remaining financially sustainable and to ensure everyone has an equal chance to use the public highway

- 5.3 TEAM Reading values:

Together - Collaborative working approach between the Council, consultant, contractors and the public

Efficiency - Continue to explore efficiency savings within the contract

Ambitious - Investing into the public highway

Make a Difference - Providing a safe inclusive public highway network for all users

6. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Council declared a climate emergency at its meeting in February 2019 and as such recognises the need to minimise the climate impacts of its decisions. To this end, Council on 15th October 2019 formally adopted of the 'Unite Construction Charter' where the Authority supports the 'Get Britain Building' campaign, which is aimed at supporting and sustaining the British construction industry. All relevant construction contracts will be required to comply with the Authority's Sustainable Buying Standard for Highways and Construction Materials, which requires structural steel and other relevant materials to be covered by BES 6001 Responsible Sourcing of Construction Product certification, or equivalent.

- 6.2 Tenders for any subsequent contracts that are necessary will be invited to submit Environmental Implications proposals which will form part of the quality element of the tender evaluation. A social value quality submission will also be required to be submitted with tenders and evaluation.
- 6.3 Tenders also needed to include carbon reduction targets and improved sustainability within tender returns. The intent is to reduce the amount of carbon used to produce the materials at source, using recycled materials, lower temperature bitumen's, reducing the uncontrolled waste in the environment to reduce pollution of the natural environment, use of electric vehicles and plant, move to renewable energy, as well as how they will achieve their own carbon reduction targets.
- 6.4 The Reading Climate Emergency Strategy, which was endorsed by the Council in November 2020, highlights the importance of adapting to climate impacts as well as reducing the emissions which are driving climate change.

7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

- 7.1 Section 138 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 places a duty on local authorities to involve local representatives when carrying out "any of its functions" by providing information, consulting or "involving in another way".
- 7.2 The public can report accumulations of snow and ice on the public highway and strategic network and all requests for additional grit bins and roads to consider for gritting will be brought to Committee for consideration and approval should they meet the assessment criteria.
- 7.3 This report will be available on the Council's website following Housing, Neighbourhoods & Leisure Committee approval processes.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, Section 149, a public authority 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.
- 8.2 The Winter Maintenance Service programme 2022/2023 consists of maintaining the Council's existing public highway network in a safe condition. There is no overall change to service delivery at this time and all users will have a safe & efficient public highway network. Should any future updates/amendments be required, which result in service delivery changes, an equality impact assessment will be carried out.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 It will be necessary to enter into a contract with the successful tenderer.
- 9.2 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 a 60% quality and 40% price tender contract return.
- 9.3 The Borough Council, as Highway Authority, has a duty under the Highways Act 1980 Section 41 (Clause 1A) and Section 150 to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that safe passage along a highway.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The cost of the Winter Maintenance Service Term Contract 2022-2025 of up to £1.5M will be met from the Highways & Traffic Service fully funded Highway Revenue Budget.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are none.