

## READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

<b>TO:</b>	<b>POLICY COMMITTEE</b>		
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>26 SEPTEMBER 2019</b>		
<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>BRIDGE MAINTENANCE (WORKS) TERM CONTRACT 2020-2024 DELEGATED AUTHORITY FOR CONTRACT AWARD</b>		
<b>LEAD COUNCILLOR:</b>	<b>TONY PAGE</b>	<b>PORTFOLIO:</b>	<b>STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING &amp; TRANSPORT</b>
<b>SERVICE:</b>	<b>TRANSPORTATION AND STREETCARE</b>	<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>BOROUGHWIDE</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>SAM SHEAN</b>	<b>TEL:</b>	<b>0118 9372138</b>
<b>JOB TITLE:</b>	<b>STREETCARE SERVICES MANAGER</b>	<b>E-MAIL:</b>	<b>sam.shean@reading.gov.uk</b>

#### 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 2020-2024 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.

#### 2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That delegated authority is given to the Executive Director for Economic Growth & Neighbourhood Services 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 2020-2024 with a possible 3 year extension.

#### 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
- 3.3 To provide a public highway network as safe as reasonably practical having due regard to financial constraints and statutory duties.

#### 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 their 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 2020 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 approximately £2M over the first 48 months (up to £500k annually) and potentially up to an additional £1.5M should the contract be extended for the subsequent 3 year duration.
- 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 **2020-2024** will contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan 2019 - 2022 objectives of:
  - Securing the economic success of Reading
  - Keeping Reading's environment clean, green and safe
  - Ensuring the Council is fit for the future

### **6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION**

- 6.1 The approved Bridge Term (Works) Contract 2020 - 2024 Committee report will be released into the public domain in the lead up to the Committee 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 2020 - 2024 will be met from the Transport and Streetcare Local Transport Plan Annual Capital Award & existing Bridge Maintenance Revenue Budgets.
- 9.2 The annual Highway Bridge Maintenance Revenue spend for 2019/20 financial year is approximately £ 100,000 and the proposed 4 year contract assumes a similar budget will be agreed per annum for 2020/21 to 2023/24.
- 9.3 The annual Highway Bridge Maintenance Capital spend for 2019/20 financial year is approximately £ 400,000 and the proposed 4 year contract assumes a similar budget will be agreed per annum for 2020/21 to 2023/24.
- 9.4 Budgets identified are not currently uplifted annually and may be impacted by contract inflation in future years if this forms part of the contract agreement.

## **10. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 The Council at Full Council on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019 will consider the formal adoption 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.
- 10.2 Tenders will be invited to submit Environmental Implications proposals to assist the Council in delivering the Climate Emergency issued by the Council.
- 10.3 Tenders will need to include carbon reduction targets and improved sustainability within tender returns.

## **11. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 11.1 Strategic Environment Planning & Transport Committee Report 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019; Highway Maintenance Update 2018/2019 and Proposed Programme 2019/2020
- 11.2 Unite Construction Charter