

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE		
DATE:	20 NOVEMBER 2019	AGENDA ITEM:	17
TITLE:	EXTENSION OF WINTER MAINTENANCE TERM CONTRACT 2016-2022		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	COUNCILLOR A PAGE	PORTFOLIO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
SERVICE:	TRANSPORTATION AND STREETCARE	WARDS:	BOROUGH WIDE
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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report sets out details to enter into the final 3 years of the Winter Maintenance Term Contract 2016-2022 to provide a sustainable Winter Maintenance Service under the current contractual terms and conditions.
- 1.2 This report seeks authority to enter into the final 3 years (2020 to 2022) of the Winter Maintenance Term Contract 2016-2022.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Strategic Environment Planning and Transport Committee note the outputs delivered by the Winter Maintenance Term Contract 2016-2022.
- 2.2 That the Strategic Environment Planning and Transport Committee approve the further 3 year extension of the Winter Maintenance Term Contract 2016-2022.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 To secure the most effective use of resources in the delivery of a high quality, best value public service.

- 3.2 To make travel more secure, safe & comfortable for all users of the public highway.
- 3.3 To provide a public highway network as safe as reasonably practical having regards to financial constraints and our statutory duties.

4. THE PROPOSAL

Review of the Winter Maintenance Term Contract 2016-2022

- 4.1 This report outlines the review of the current Winter Maintenance Term Contract 2016-2022 delivered by the Council's contractor J.H. Cresswell & Sons Ltd.
- 4.2 A review of the 2018/2019 contract performance indicators show that J.H. Cresswell & Sons Ltd have met all their required standards and continue to deliver good value and a very good winter service to Reading Borough Council.
- 4.3 The Council successfully renegotiated a saving on the cost of providing grit bins that has saved circa £2k in maintenance costs per annum.
- 4.4 J.H. Cresswell & Sons Ltd has agreed to continue to deliver the Winter Maintenance Term Contract 2016-2022 for the final 3 years (until 30th June 2022), under the current Contract arrangement / terms and conditions.
- 4.5 The reason for entering into the full 3 year contract extension period is due to the stress caused to the gritting vehicles used in the delivery of this service. Financial requirement on the contractor mean they need to replace and / or refurbish their vehicles on a 3 year cycle, as they are very susceptible to corrosive damage caused by the grit / salt used; a three year extension ensures that the contractor can allocate refurbishment costs to their vehicles so that they are compliant and safe to use.
- 4.6 The Council has looked at alternate options including bringing the Winter Service in-house, also to access the Wokingham Borough Council Winter Maintenance Term Contract, however, both options proved financially less favourable for Reading when compared to remaining with our current Winter Maintenance Term Contractor.
- 4.7 An annual Winter Maintenance report goes to Committee each year in advance of the winter season to review the past winter season performance and to approve the Winter Service Plan for the coming winter season.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

- 5.1 The Winter Maintenance Term Contract 2016-2022 will contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan 2018-21 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 Winter Maintenance Term Contract 2016-2022 Committee Report is available on the Reading Borough Council Website outlining the Council's decision making process. This is subject to review annually taking into account comments from the public, media, Government and Councillors.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 In addition to the Human Rights Act 1998 the Council is required to comply with the Equalities Act 2010. Section 149 of the Equalities Act 2010 requires the Council to 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 There is no overall change to service delivery of the Winter Maintenance Term Contract 2016-2022 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 Reading Borough Council, as Highway Authority, has a duty under the Highways Act 1980 (Section 41a) in respect of snow and ice

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The cost of the Winter Maintenance Term Contract 2016-2022 is fully funded from the Transport and Streetcare Revenue Budget.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 WINTER MAINTENANCE TERM CONTRACT 2016-2019 -
DELEGATED AUTHORITY FOR CONTRACT AWARD 13th June 2016

10.2 Contract Performance Assessment 2018/2019