

Meeting: Cabinet **Date:** 19 March 2024

Wards affected: All wards in Torbay

Report Title: Highways Surveying and Associated Services Contract Approval

When does the decision need to be implemented? before 14 April 2024

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1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1
- 1.2 The Highway Condition Survey requires a contractor that meets all the required UKPMS certification required for feeding information back to the Department for Transport which allows us to be allocated extra funding as part of our status as a Level 3 Highway Authority and use an accredited and informed data standard to assess the condition of the highway.
- 1.3 The resulting award of this contract will allow us to remain compliant with current DfT standards for reporting and to keep our status as a Level 3 Highway Authority. Reporting to the DfT is a statutory function.

2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

- 2.1 The proposals in this report help us to deliver this ambition by using an informed data collection method to best analyse the condition of the highway network, future plan resurfacing and allow use to best use allocated funding on innovative and more cost effective methods of repair and remediation by targeting sites using asset management principles, local knowledge and data.

- 2.2 The reasons for the decision are the highway network, comprising of both carriageway and footway is Torbay's largest asset. by using data collected by these surveys, we can report our findings back to the DfT, which in turn allows central government to assess whether future funding is adequate. The results of the survey allows us to focus on areas of highest risk of failure, seek to remediate these sites using cost effective methods of repair or rejuvenation and also make us aware of sites which are in most need of work and seek to reduce the risk on these sites by bidding for funding opportunities.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision.

1. That the Director of Pride in Place be authorised to run a procurement process and subsequently award the contract, to the successful supplier, for the new Highways Condition Surveying and Associated services within the procurement timetable.

Appendices

None

Supporting Information

1. Introduction

- 1.1 As part of the agreement with the Southwest Highways Alliance group, a Highways Condition Surveying and Associated services contract was procured through a framework agreement in 2016, this has since expired and we must undertake a new procurement process.
- 1.2 The scanner and Skid Resistance surveys are machine-measured surveying techniques which are completed as part of the statutory reporting to the Department for Transport annual reporting on carriageway condition.
- 1.3 The scanner and Skid Resistance surveying is typically undertaken using a vehicle outfitted with a measuring device and drives across selected areas of Torbay to collect data on the road conditions based on a variety of criteria such as;
 - Texture Depth Measurement
 - Longitudinal and Horizontal Rutting/Cracking
 - Transverse Profile Defects
 - Gradient and Radius Profile
 - Defect identification
 - Skid Resistance
- 1.4 This data is collected and reported to the Department for Transport as a statutory function and also confirms part of our status as a Level 3 Highways Authority.

2. Options under consideration

- 2.1 Currently, we are obliged to report our information via a dataset that meets UKPMS standard.
- 2.2 The market is limited due to the issues surrounding with meeting this standard.
- 2.3 There has been innovation in the market, with other suppliers offering AI based scanning systems, but currently no AI based suppliers meets the UKPMS standard, and procuring these systems can be considered outside of this contract.

3. Financial Opportunities and Implications

- 3.1 The budget identified for this contract is in the region of £100,000.

- 3.2 As part of the self-assessment for Highways Authorities, being able to report condition standards is one of the criteria for level 3 funding.
- 3.3 Were we to lose our level 3 status as a Highway Authority, this would cause a funding drop in excess of £100k.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 Reporting the highway condition is a statutory function.
- 4.2 Being unable to report our Highway conditions would affect our Level 3 Highway Authority Status.

5. Engagement and Consultation

- 5.1 There is no wider engagement required, the data is used internally and reported to the DfT and isn't currently published within any of our policies, but it is referred to the Council's Transport Asset Management plan.

6. Purchasing or Hiring of Goods and/or Services

- 6.1 The service is predominantly provided by a selection of providers that utilise the G Cloud Process.

7. Tackling Climate Change

- 7.1 Addressing climate change will be addressed within this proposed procurement through the social value framework and bidder submission via G Cloud.

8. Associated Risks

- 8.1 The Highway authority is at risk of losing their level 3 self assessment status with the DfT, and in turn at risk of losing significant funding.
- 8.2 The Highway authority is at risk of investigation by the DfT for not correctly reporting these statistics.

9. Equality Impacts - Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific groups

	Positive Impact	Negative Impact & Mitigating Actions	Neutral Impact
Older or younger people			There is no differential impact
People with caring Responsibilities			There is no differential impact
People with a disability			There is no differential impact
Women or men			There is no differential impact
People who are black or from a minority ethnic background (BME) (Please note Gypsies / Roma are within this community)			There is no differential impact
Religion or belief (including lack of belief)			There is no differential impact
People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual			There is no differential impact
People who are transgendered			There is no differential impact
People who are in a marriage or civil partnership			There is no differential impact
Women who are pregnant / on maternity leave			There is no differential impact
Socio-economic impacts (Including impact on child poverty issues and deprivation)			There is no differential impact
Public Health impacts (How will your proposal impact on the general health of the population of Torbay)			There is no differential impact

10. Cumulative Council Impact

10.1 None

11. Cumulative Community Impacts

11.1 None