

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Lead Member for Universal Services
Date:	15 January 2024
Title:	Contract for Diver Services
Report From:	Director of Universal Services

Contact name: Brian Hill

Email: Brian.hill@hants.gov.uk

Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to explain the reasons for the need to procure a new Diver Contract enabling continued inspection and maintenance of the County's highway structures assets.

Recommendations

2. That the Executive Lead Member for Universal Services approves the procurement of a new Diver Contract, which covers inspection and maintenance of Structures in and around watercourses, as outlined in this report.
3. That approval be given to procure and spend and enter into the necessary contractual arrangements, in consultation with the Head of legal Services, to implement the proposed contract for the value of up to £3.6m over the duration of six years.
4. That authority to make the arrangements to implement the contract, including minor variations to the contract, be delegated to the Assistant Director for Highways, Engineering and Transport.

Executive Summary

5. This paper seeks to gain approval to procure, via a tender process, a new Diver Contract valued at £3.6m over six years which will enable Hampshire's highway structures in and around watercourses to continue to be inspected and maintained ensuring they are safe and fit for purpose.

Contextual information

6. Hampshire County Council has an annual programme of diver inspections of selected bridges and structures across the whole County. This covers 500 bridge/structures, 366 of which require a diver team and 134 of which are either confined space or require the use of a remotely operated vehicle (ROV).

7. Structures covered include large bridges over tidal water, such as Bursledon bridge over the River Hamble, Haslar bridge at Gosport, and the Redbridge Causeway bridges. Without divers it would not be possible to inspect and maintain the underwater sections of the supports of these bridges.
8. Other structures covered include very low headroom culverts which could easily block if not regularly inspected and cleared, and long enclosed structures requiring the use of gas monitors and escape breathing apparatus to fully inspect.
9. The inspection and maintenance of all these structures is critical to ensuring that they remain safe and capable of carrying current highway loading.
10. This is a Contract with a single, suitably qualified, specialist supplier with the Structures Office managing the programme and delivery of the services.
11. The initial contract period will be for four years duration, commencing 1 May 2024 and ending on 30 April 2028. Subject to agreement between the parties, the Contract may be extended by two periods of one-year duration each, giving a total maximum contract duration of six years.

Finance

12. Funding will come from the Bridges Revenue budget for the inspections and the Bridges Capital Maintenance budget for the repair works.
13.

<u>Estimates £'000</u>	<u>Budget</u>
75 per annum	Bridges Revenue
525 per annum	Bridges Capital

Maximum anticipated spend throughout the six-year life of the contract is £3.6m

Performance

14. In order to provide an objective measurement of the standard of service delivery, the Contractor will be measured by the Client using a number of Key Performance Indicators (KPI). These will cover delivery of the various tasks within agreed timescales and site Health and Safety performance.

Consultation and Equalities

15. Consultation with Landowners and neighbours takes place as part of preparations for inspection/works visits. In some instances, Landowners need to be consulted to close sluice gates to reduce water flows during inspections/works.
16. The decision will provide for the continuation of the service ensuring bridges remain fit for purpose and open to all. The Equalities Impact Assessment concluded a neutral impact on people with protected characteristics.

Climate Change Impact Assessments

17. Hampshire County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience of its projects and decisions. These tools provide a clear, robust, and transparent way of assessing how projects, policies and initiatives contribute towards the County Council's climate change targets of being carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of a 2°C temperature rise by 2050. This process ensures that climate change considerations are built into everything the Authority does.
18. A full assessment of climate change vulnerability was not completed as the initial vulnerability assessment showed that the project is at minimal risk from the climate vulnerabilities because it relates to inspection and maintenance of existing infrastructure on the highway network.

Climate Change Adaptation

19. Recent years have seen an increase in flood events across Hampshire and it is highly likely that this trend will continue in future years. It is therefore crucial that Hampshire County Council has the ability to mitigate against these events as far as possible.
20. This contract will ensure that structures over or near to watercourses continue to be regularly inspected to identify both scour, which could cause collapse of a structure, and blockages which could result in reduced flow leading to flooding. The contract will be available to other Highways Teams during times of flood to remove trapped debris etc.

Carbon Mitigation

21. Carbon emissions from this project arise predominantly from travelling to sites across Hampshire therefore inspections and subsequent works will be batched by locality to reduce the number of journeys required. Consent from the Environment Agency will be sought when undertaking works. This will include approval for methods of work and proposed materials to be used on repairs within watercourses.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

Bridge Files

SharePoint and Hedge End Archives

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

The decision will provide for the continuation of the service ensuring bridges remain fit for purpose and open to all. The Equalities Impact Assessment concluded a neutral impact for people with protected characteristics.