

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment
Date:	10 March 2020
Title:	Contract for Diver Services
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for a new Diver Contract enabling response to emergency flooding situations and inspection and maintenance of the County's highway structures assets.

Recommendations

2. That the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment gives approval to procure and spend and enter into contractual arrangements, in consultation with the Head of Legal Services, for a new Diver Contract, covering emergency situations and inspection, and maintenance of Structures in and around watercourses, at a value of £3 million to be funded from the Bridges Revenue and Structural Maintenance budgets for a period of four years, commencing on 1 May 2020 with the option to extend to a maximum six year duration, as outlined in this report.
3. That authority to make the arrangements to implement the contract, including minor variations, be delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment in consultation with the Head of Legal Services.

Executive Summary

4. The purpose of this paper is to seek approval for a new Diver Contract valued at £3 million 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.
5. The appointment of a specialist Diving firm will enable full inspection of areas of structures which are not accessible to engineers due to high water levels, fast flows or low headroom.
6. The contract will also ensure that the County continues to have appropriate resources available to deal with debris and blockages in water during times of flood or storm.

Contextual information

7. Hampshire County Council has an annual programme of Diver inspections on selected bridges and structures across the County. This covers 399 bridges/structures, 318 of which require a Diver Team and 81 of which are either confined space or require the use of a remotely operated vehicle (ROV).
8. A Diving Team accompanies County Council engineers on the selected inspections and reports on the condition of elements which would not otherwise be accessible. This may be due to deep water, fast flows or low headroom. Photographs and measurements are taken by the Divers and recommended works recorded.
9. Estimates are prepared by the Divers for addressing identified issues and works are prioritised by the Bridges Team. Where it is decided to undertake repairs the Divers prepare method statements which are then submitted to relevant agencies for approval. Upon completion further photographs are taken to record the repairs.
10. Divers are also utilised to remove debris and blockages in water during times of flood or storm. These are usually unplanned emergency works and are often undertaken to assist Area Highway Offices.
11. The Diver contract is with a single, suitably qualified, specialist supplier with the Bridges Team managing the inspection programme and delivery of the services.
12. The initial contract period will be for four years duration, commencing 1 May 2020 and ending on 30 April 2024. 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

13. Funding will come from the Bridges Revenue budget for the inspections and the Bridges Structural Maintenance budget for the structural works.

14. <u>Estimates</u>	<u>£'000</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Inspections	20 per annum	Bridges Revenue
Works	480 per annum	Bridges Structural Maintenance
Total	500 per annum	

15. Maximum anticipated spend throughout the six-year life of the contract is £3million.

Performance

16. In order to provide an objective measurement of the standard of service delivery, the Contractor will be measured by the Client (Bridge Team) 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

17. Consultation with landowners and neighbours takes place as part of preparations for inspection and works visits. In some instances, landowners need to be consulted to arrange access and/or closure of sluice gates to reduce water flows during inspections, works or times of flood.

Climate/Environmental

18. Inspections and subsequent works will be batched by locality to reduce the number of journeys required and consent from the Environment Agency or Marine Management Organisation will be sought when undertaking works. This will include approval for methods of work and proposed materials to be used on repairs within watercourses.
19. As water levels increase due to climate change, the ability to respond quickly to flooding and associated blockages is increasingly important.

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

Bridge Files

Location

SharePoint and Capital House
Winchester

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 concerns contractual arrangements and the ongoing provision of service to aid the maintenance of structures in the interests of all Hampshire residents and the travelling public. It has therefore been assessed as having a neutral impact on people with protected characteristics.