

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

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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1. The decision:

- 1.1. 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 the supporting report.
- 1.2. 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.

2. Reason for the decision:

- 2.1. Hampshire County Council is responsible for the inspection and maintenance of over 1,800 highway structures many of which are in and around watercourses or coastal areas. Whilst the County Council's bridge engineers are able to fully access most of these there are approximately 400 which require Divers to assist with the inspections.
- 2.2. The Divers accompany engineers and inspect elements in deep or fast flowing water. They are also utilised to inspect long or low headroom structures where confined space or other specialist equipment is required.
- 2.3. Where works are identified, e.g. scour around bridge foundations, the Divers provide estimates for the repairs and prepare method statements which are submitted to relevant agencies such as the Marine Management Organisation and Environment Agency to enable works to progress.
- 2.4. During times of flood or storm, Divers are regularly used to remove trapped debris and clear blockages.

2.5. By regularly and fully inspecting highway structures the County Council fulfils its 'duty to maintain' under the Highways Act 1980 and ensures bridges are safe for use and fit for purpose.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. Spot hire is not considered feasible or practical as the Divers are required year-round; summer for inspections and works, and winter to deal with flooding and debris issues.
- 3.2. Use of the Hampshire Highways Services Contract via Skanska was considered but it was felt that the Bridges Team needed direct access to a supplier to ensure that emergency situations in particular could be relayed direct and decisions made quickly.
- 3.3. The option to not replace the existing Diver contract was rejected on the basis that Diving services are needed to deal with both flood situations and to enable full inspection and repair of underwater elements of bridges.

4. Conflicts of interest:

- 4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker:
- 4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted:

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:

Date:

10 March 2020

**Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment
Councillor Rob Humby**