

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Highways Operations
<b>Date:</b>	17 June 2021
<b>Title:</b>	Procurement of new Real Time Passenger Information Framework
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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### Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval to award the necessary contractual arrangements to provide the supply, installation and maintenance of Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI) infrastructure during August 2021, for a period of four years, of a maximum total value of £16million.

### Recommendations

2. That the Executive Member for Highways Operations delegates authority to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment to enter into the Framework Agreement, in consultation with the Head of Legal Services, for the supply, installation and maintenance of Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI) infrastructure, as detailed in this report, commencing during August 2021 for a period of four years, up to an overall maximum value of £16million, for the duration of the Framework.
3. That authority be delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment to make the necessary arrangements for implementation, including finalising the charging mechanism, and to make minor modifications to the Framework in consultation with the Executive Member for Highways Operations.

### Executive Summary

4. The current Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI) Framework agreement expires on 17 August 2021 and therefore a new framework agreement is required to continue with the ongoing deployment of RTPI, as identified through transport and development related schemes, and to position the County Council in both its bids and subsequent delivery of major projects such as the Transforming Cities Fund, the National Bus Strategy and other government initiatives.
5. The Framework Agreement will be for a period of four years allowing for the placing of orders (call-off contracts) as and when required, subject to available

funding. The Framework will allow for a call-off contract for the maintenance of procured equipment for a period of up to ten years from the framework agreement commencement date.

6. As part of the procurement of the new framework agreement, other local authorities were invited to be included to enable them to procure RTPI through the framework. The proposed framework agreement will enable the Participating Authorities of Dorset County Council, West Sussex County Council, Southampton City Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Portsmouth City Council and Isle of Wight Council to access the services.

### **Contextual information**

7. Since the award of the RTPI Framework in August 2017, and continuing from previous RTPI deployments in Hampshire, the RTPI system has expanded to handle direct links from bus operators' tracking systems. These direct links provide the tracking data for the Central System to calculate and relay bus arrival times to over 500 electronic displays located at bus stations, bus stops and transport interchange hubs.
8. There has been growth in the deployment of RTPI across Hampshire as a result of a number of successful funding bids, including DfT's Transforming Cities Fund, schemes arising from the Government's Joint Air Quality Unit (JAQU) and Section 106 Developer Contributions.
9. The system not only provides RTPI but integrates other multi modal transport information, including live train departure information, service disruption information and also provides RTPI to National Public Transport Information (National PTI) and other public transport journey planning websites and apps including Google. This has proved particularly important since March 2020 when Hampshire's bus services have seen a large number of changes, thus emphasising how vital access to up-to-date information is for passengers.
10. Since the award of the Framework in 2017 several local authorities including Portsmouth City Council, Dorset County Council and West Sussex County Council have opted to participate in the Framework and share the Hampshire RTPI system that has resulted in cost efficiencies for both the County Council and the participating authorities.
11. Timely and accessible public transport information has a key alignment to the National Bus Strategy towards making public transport services an essential, attractive, commercially sustainable form of transport.
12. Any expenditure on the supply, installation and maintenance of RTPI will be subject to the County Council's appropriate approvals process relevant to the cost of each scheme.

### **Other Local Authorities**

13. As part of the procurement of the new framework agreement, other local authorities were invited to be included to enable them to procure RTPI through

the framework. The proposed framework agreement would enable the Participating Authorities of Dorset County Council, West Sussex County Council, Southampton City Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Portsmouth City Council and Isle of Wight Council to access the services.

14. An Access Agreement will enable a partnering authority to utilise the Framework Agreement and it is proposed that Hampshire County Council charges a fee on the Participating Authority's spend based on full cost recovery. It is proposed that the income generated by this charge will partly cover the cost for procuring and managing the Framework Agreement and contribute towards the ongoing development, operation and maintenance of RTPi. This will aid the recovery of public bus services from the COVID-19 pandemic by ensuring that the County Council's infrastructure and information is fit for purpose and acts as an enabler for passengers to access bus services.

### **Finance**

15. Spend is subject to funding for this proposed framework agreement. The upper estimated value for the Framework agreement is £16million over the 4-year life of the framework agreement and the 10-year maintenance period. Based on previous success in bidding for Government grants, it has been determined approximately £3.6million of the total £16million will relate to Hampshire County Council. £12.4million will be the allocated combined spend of Dorset County Council, West Sussex County Council, Southampton City Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Portsmouth City Council and Isle of Wight Council.
16. The £3.6million spend relating to Hampshire County Council is based on a combination of:
  - a. Allocated ongoing revenue funding from within the Passenger Transport Infrastructure and Information budget;
  - b. Appropriate developer contributions where improvements to public transport have been identified within the relevant Section 106 agreement; and
  - c. Spend on innovative projects such as Transforming Cities Fund and future National Bus Strategy, LEP and DfT opportunities.
17. Specific spend approval will be sought for individual projects as they are called off the framework contract.

### **Performance**

18. The services provided under the proposed framework agreement would be monitored and assessed through operational statistics that are readily available to identify where improvements are needed to and facilitate corrective action. Regular site inspections are also carried out to monitor performance.

19. Feedback from the public, elected Members, and bus operators has largely been positive about delivery under existing arrangements. During the initial Covid-19 lockdown and recovery periods, the County Council has been able to flexibly respond to changing public transport requirements and implement last minute timetable changes and social distancing messaging providing reassurance for passengers and supporting passengers' safety. Providing for similar arrangements in the future will aid the County Council in promoting bus services, supporting the return of former passengers and advocating bus travel as sustainable transport post-Covid.

### **Consultation and Equalities**

20. An equalities impact assessment has been completed in respect of this framework agreement. The award of the new framework agreement would not have an impact on people with protected characteristics as it maintains the authority's existing ability to procure the supply, installation, and maintenance of RTPI. Further equalities impact assessments for each of the schemes to be procured through the Framework will be brought forward when a project appraisal is completed.

### **Climate Change Impact Assessment**

21. 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.
22. The climate change adaptation project screening tool has identified that future infrastructure could be affected by extreme weather events, especially flooding and long periods of hot weather. However, this specific decision relates to a procurement process, and a more detailed climate change impact assessment for each of the schemes to be procured through the Framework will be brought forward when a project appraisal is completed.

### **Conclusions**

23. That approval of the Framework Agreement detailed in this report will enable Hampshire County Council to continue to provide high quality RTPI, supporting both the commercial and supported public bus network in Hampshire.

**REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Strategic Plan**

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

None

## **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 award of the new framework agreement would not have an impact on people with protected characteristics as it maintains the authority's existing ability to procure the supply, installation and maintenance of RTPi. Further equalities impact assessments for each of the schemes to be procured through the Framework will be brought forward when a project appraisal is completed.