

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY

David Brazier, Cabinet Member – Highways & Transport

DECISION NO:

21/00072

For publication

Key decision*

Yes –

Subject: Procurement and award of contract/s for Highway Rural Swathe, Visibility and Hedge Maintenance

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation TO provide the Corporate Director for Growth, Environment and Transport with delegated authority to procure and enter into appropriate contractual arrangements for the provision of Rural Swathe, Visibility and Hedge Maintenance including any potential extension periods in accordance with the expectations set out in the report

Reason(s) for decision:

Three swathe contracts expire in March 2022 and as a statutory requirement they require a re-tendering exercise to continue service provision.

The Council has a legal duty to keep roads and pavements clear of vegetation for safe passage of highway users. The service is provided primarily through programmed works with flexibility for additional ad-hoc provision. The main service areas comprise; rural grass cutting (swathe) and ensuring visibility at road junctions, maintenance of rural hedges owned by KCC and the managed maintenance of Conservation verges. Due to the specialised nature of the works a standalone specialist contract is required.

The current annual spend for the service will be in the region of £450k. Total spend over the contract duration of five years plus potential total of 36 months extension is estimated at £3.6m. Contract costs will be determined by the tender rates received. The current Contract expires on the 31st March 2022.

Given the value of the contract, a PCR15 compliant procurement process will be followed to award the contract/s for the following:

Maintenance and cutting of

- rural verges
- visibility splays
- roundabouts
- rural hedges
- conservation verges

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The Environment and Transport Cabinet committee will consider the proposal decision at its meeting on the 8th September 2021.

Any alternatives considered:

Several Contract lotting options have been considered as follows:

1. Split the contract into three lots (West, Mid and East)

2. Split the contract into two lots (current provision)

3. Countywide delivery

The recommendation is for a three lot Contract as below:

- Lot 1 – Dartford, Gravesham, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge & Malling and Tunbridge Wells
- Lot 2 – Maidstone and Ashford
- Lot 3 – Swale, Canterbury, Thanet and Dover

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

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signed

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date

Name: