

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY

David Brazier, Cabinet Member – Highways & Transport

DECISION NO:

21/00071

For publication

Key decision*

Yes –

Subject: Procurement and award of contract/s for Highway Emergency Tree Works Contract

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation, I agree 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 Emergency Tree Works, including any potential extension periods in accordance with the expectations set out in the report.

Reason(s) for decision:

The Council has a legal duty to keep roads and pavements clear of vegetation for safe passage of highway users. The main service areas comprise of clearing felled trees, most notable in adverse weather conditions. These services will need to be commissioned externally to ensure the Council meets its obligations.

The proposed Highway Emergency Tree Works Contract is to enable the procurement and delivery of emergency response specialist tree surgery teams to attend at short notice on a 24/7 basis. Emergency type response times will include a 2-hour and 24-hour requirement. Suppliers will be required to provide suitably qualified staff and have access to the necessary specialised equipment to be able to remove fallen trees and branches from causing an obstruction to the highway.

The annual average spend for the service will be in the region of £376k. Total spend over the contract duration of three years plus potential total of 36 months extension is estimated at £2.2m. However, this value is dependent on storm events. The current contract expires on 31st October 2021.

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

- 2-hour removal of dangerous trees and branches on both public and private property.
- 24-hour removal of dangerous trees and branches on both public and private property

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The Environment and Transport Cabinet committee considered the proposal decision at its meeting on the 8th September 2021 and resolved to endorse it with no amendments.

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 two lot Contract as below:

- **Lot 1 (West)** - Maidstone, Dartford, Gravesham, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge & Malling and Tunbridge Wells
- **Lot 2 (East)** - Ashford, Swale, Canterbury, Thanet, Dover and Folkestone and Hythe

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

.....
signed

.....
date

Name: