

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY

**Mike Whiting, Cabinet Member – Planning, Highways,
Transport and Waste**

DECISION NO:

19/00016

For publication

Key decision*

Yes –

Subject: Procurement and award of contract/s for Highway Arboriculture Programmed Works

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Planning, Highways, Transportation and Waste , I agree to:

- (a) give approval for the procurement of the Arboriculture Programmed Works Contract and delegate authority to the Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste to approve the award of the subsequent contract to the preferred bidder; and
- (b) delegate authority to the Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste to award extensions of the Arboriculture Programmed Works Contract in accordance with the possible extension clauses within the contract.

Reason(s) for decision:

The current Highway Arboriculture Programmed Works contract comes to an end on 31st August 2019 with no provision for further extension periods. In order to ensure continuity of service, new arrangements need to be in place from September 1st, 2019.

There are currently approximately 38,500 individual tree assets on the urban highway network and 80,000 within groups, there are a further 370,000 trees within tree belts, rural areas and woodland fringes. A conservative application of the industry standard Capital Asset Valuation of Amenity Trees (CAVAT) system estimates the value of the 38,500 individual trees at over £371m.

The annual spend for the service will be in the region of £680k. Total spend over the contract duration of three years plus 2 one year extensions is estimated at £3.43m.

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

- Programmed tree works as a result of Tree Safety Audits(TSA).
- Removal of dangerous trees and branches on both public and private property.
- Removal of tree stumps and replacement tree planting.
- Cyclical pollarding and basal growth removal
- Management of Ash Dieback

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

In reviewing procurement options, workshops have been held with colleagues , assessments undertaken of other local authorities spend and market engagement carried out with SME's.

The Environment and Transport Cabinet committee considered the proposal decision at its meeting on the 19th March 2019 and resolved to endorse it with no amendments.

Any alternatives considered:

A Commercial Strategy report was presented to the Strategic Commissioning Board (SCB) on 31st January 2019 with options for the re-procurement of this contract. These recommendations for procurement were agreed by SCB.

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

None

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signed

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date

Name: