

By: John Burr – Director of Kent Highway Services
To: Bryan Sweetland
Cabinet Member - Environment, Highways & Waste
Date: February 2011
Subject: WEATHER DAMAGED ROADS: (Find & Fix 3) Major Road Repair Blitz
Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: Update to Cabinet Member on the progress and planned approach to delivering additional repairs to roads with externally tendered contractors in 2011

Background

The extreme winter weather conditions of late 2010 / early 2011 have again caused high levels of damage to Kent's roads. Potholes and broken road surfaces are clear evidence of the effect this weather has on the county's Highway network.

Currently there are additional external resources being deployed on the County's Highway network, on an interim basis, undertaking repairs to the worst affected roads, focusing on the deeper road defects, which have the potential to lead to insurance claims against the Highway Authority if they are not repaired; the value of these works is limited to £50,000 per district, these works are expected to be completed by the end of February 2011.

Following the success of the Major Road Repairs Blitz in 2010, (find n fix), which ran from April to September and delivered a high volume, rapid repair service on the minor carriageway network, where the work was undertaken on a traditional piece work basis to pre-determined quality standards, using 7 successful external contractors. It is proposed in 2011, that we respond to these additional defects on the Highway Network by delivering the extra, essential road surface repairs in a similar format to last year; again these additional works will be awarded through competitive tendering using Kent County Council's existing procedures.

An advertisement inviting interested parties to tender for these works was issued, and we received interest from 29 companies, who wish to tender for these repairs. Work is currently underway on carrying out the necessary assessments of these interested companies.

This substantially enhanced road repair activity is planned to commence on 28th March 2011.

Process

There has been widespread media coverage to ensure that local companies were aware of this business opportunity and the specifications and contracts were available on the South East Business Portal. Contractors were invited to apply for a pre-qualification pack and the tender documents were sent to contractors on 18th February, for return by Friday 4th March.

Upon receipt of the tender submissions, a formal report will be provided outlining the selection criteria and the assessment results.

The contractors for the “find and fix 3” blitz will be flexibly deployed across all districts. The initial focus will be a concentrated attack on minor roads (including rural and estate roads) which make up 71% of the total (6,100km) and a higher proportion in terms of need. Work will continue in parallel, as appropriate, through the term maintenance contractor, Ringway.

Contractors will be appointed for each District Council area. The aim is to encourage local accountability and teamwork, with a “pride in your patch” quality-focused approach to the localised winter repairs.

Whilst undertaking the works, gangs will be visited on a regular basis to build positive relationships and to monitor quality and progress. The rate of spend during the contract will be analysed on a daily basis and an audit regime established for checking on validity of claim, size and number of repairs.

Timescales

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| ○ Publish contract notice | 12 th Jan 11 |
| ○ Pre Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) available | 24 th Jan – 7 th Feb 11 |
| ○ Assessment of PQQs | 7 th Feb – 14 th Feb 11 |
| ○ Issue Tenders to those passing PQQ | 18 th Feb 11 |
| ○ Tenders returned | 4 th March 2011 |
| ○ Assess tenders | 4 th March – 11 th Mar 11 |
| ○ Cabinet Member signs formal decision to award contracts | 14 th March 11 |
| ○ Mobilise contracts | 14 - 25 th March 11 |
| ○ Start work | w/c 28 th March 2011 |

Recommendations

That the Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways & Waste be recommended to:

(a) endorse the progress of the project and note that the recommended contractors for each district area will be published with the Record of Decision,

(b) and subject to him being satisfied as to the detailed terms and conditions, the Executive Director for Environment, Highways and Waste be authorised to sign the contracts on behalf of the County Council.

Background Documents: None

Contact:

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