

From: Matthew Balfour, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport

Roger Wilkin: Director Highways, Transportation and Waste

To: Environment & Transport cabinet Committee

Subject: **Pothole Blitz – Update and future actions.**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Key decision 16/00125

Past Pathway of Paper: n/a

Future Pathway of Paper:n/a

Electoral Division: Whole of Kent

Summary:

Following the recent success of the Pothole Blitz campaign, reported to Cabinet in June 2016, the Cabinet Member is proposing to formally agree this approach for future funding should it become available and to delegate to the Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste the power to identify and approve such funding for the same purposes.

Recommendation:

Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations on the proposed decision by the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport to agree the approach to funding as set out in the report and to delegate authority to the Director to identify and award such funding as it becomes available and to undertake any necessary actions to conclude the first phase undertaken in the summer of 2016.

1. Introduction

1.1 In April 2016, the Department for Transport announced that KCC would be awarded £1.47m from a Pothole Action Fund for the the financial year 2016-17, with a view to enabling the permanent repair or prevention of up to 28,000 potholes that would otherwise not meet the requiremetns for intervention. This sum has since been supplemented by an additional £1.4m revenue commitment from KCC.

1.2 Whereas in previous years, such pothole campaigns have been delivered through the HTMC, in the spirit of strategic commissioning, the Director of Highways Transportation & Waste approached Commercial Services Kent Limited (CSKL) with a view to assessing the potential for providing a more locally responsive service through local suppliers.

1.3 Consequently, a tender process was initiated, and this process resulted in the engagement of six local companies, each to deliver a Pothole Blitz in two districts each. The process resulted in very competitive prices, which were comparable in cost terms to utilising the HTMC. The outcome of the process was reported to Cabinet in June 2016. The resulting “Pothole Blitz” campaign

has been extremely successful, with levels of responsiveness and quality that have exceeded those achieved in previous pothole campaigns.

- 1.4 Following the success of the campaign it is considered that the approach should be agreed by cabinet member decision in order that the exercise can be repeated without delay should further funding become available. If additional funding does become available in the early part of 2017-18 as hoped it is our aspiration that KCC quickly carry out a procurement process amongst our local supply chain, and commence delivery of additional ad hoc works even more rapidly than we were able to achieve in this financial year. In order to achieve this, delegated authority will be given to the Director of Highways, Transportation & Waste to identify and accept such funding and to award the resulting contracts.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 The relevant delegated powers will only be utilised where there is confirmed ad hoc funding such as this year's Pothole Blitz; this was funded through the government's Pothole Action Fund (£1.47m of capital), with an additional £1.4m of revenue funding being provided by KCC to date.
- 2.2 All providers of services will be compliantly procured, and the award of contract will be dependant upon tendered rates being at least comparable to those that would be payable were such works being provided through the HTMC.

3 Legal Implications

- 3.1 All procurement carried out will be entirely in line with public sector procurement regulations.

4 Equalities Implications

- 4.1 Equality Impact Assessments (EqIA) will be completed for all projects to ensure consideration is given to the impact of the project. An initial assessment for this proposed delegated authority indicates no equalities impacts that could be reasonably anticipated.

5. Recommendation:

The Cabinet Committee is asked consider and endorse or make recommendations on the proposed decision by the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport to agree the approach to funding as set out in the report and to delegate authority to the Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste to accept and award such funding as it becomes available and to undertake any necessary arrangements to conclude the first phase undertaken in the summer of 2016.

6. Contact details

Report Author Roger Wilkin Director of Highways, Transportation & Waste 03000 413479 roger.wilkin@kent.gov.uk	Relevant Director: Roger Wilkin Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste 03000 413479 roger.wilkin@kent.gov.uk
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