

From: **Matthew Balfour, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport**

Roger Wilkin, Director Highways, Transportation and Waste

To: **Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee – 13 March 2017**

Subject: **Find & Fix Pothole Blitz Update and 2017/18 Campaign**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Past Pathway of Paper: n/a

Future Pathway of Paper:n/a

Electoral Division: Whole of Kent

Summary:

KCC has been allocated £2.196 million for 2017/18 from the DfT Pothole Grant and together with an additional £300K of KCC funding will enable the delivery of a £2.5 million Pothole Blitz through the summer months. A network of local suppliers was procured in 2016/17 and the pothole blitz successfully delivered. It is intended to deliver a similar programme for 2017/18.

Recommendation:

Cabinet Committee is asked to note this report, and to make comments to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport concerning future Find and Fix (Pothole Blitz) campaigns and to delegate authority to the Director of Highways Transportation and Waste to procure and award contracts and allocate funding as it becomes available to deliver a programme of works for 2017/18 and for future years DfT funding.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In January 2017 the Department for Transport (DfT) announced that KCC is to be awarded £2.196m from a Pothole Action Fund for the the financial year 2017/18 with a view to enabling the permanent repair of potholes and the prevention of potholes forming.
- 1.2 In 2016/17 in order to deliver the Pothole Blitz programme of highway repairs six local companies were awarded contracts through a procurement process with Commercial Services Kent Limited (CSKL) each to deliver a Pothole Blitz in two districts each. This programme of works enabled the repairing of over 1200 potholes and over 50,000 m² of patching repairs, all additional to that which would have normally been undertaken. Much praise was received from Parish Councils and members of the public for undertaking this work and addressing repairs to the highway.
- 1.3 KCC's Highways retained overall control of the scheme and this was delivered through the District Managers teams with the Highway Engineers and Stewards identifying works and raising works orders. The Highways teams were then able to have direct contact and control over the supply chain ensuring timely repairs that complied with requirements and with direct control over quality of

workmanship. This proved to be a very effective method of delivery which was welcomed by the teams involved.

- 1.4 During the delivery phase of the programme a number of telephone conference calls were made with the supply chain by senior managers to ensure that the works were proceeding as intended. This was in addition to the day to day management of the programme by the Highways teams.
- 1.5 The telephone conference calls were of benefit and provided first hand information and will be included in the next phase of programme delivery in 2017/18.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 Costs associated with the Pothole Blitz for 2017/18 will be funded through the government's Pothole Action Fund which totals £2.196 million and currently a further additional £300k of KCC budget.
- 2.2 These works will be procured in line with KCC procurement guidelines and "spending the councils money" to achieve the most efficient, cost effective and improved outcome.
- 2.3 Following the procurement process each Highway District manager will be assigned funding, initially on the basis of carriageway length, although this can be amended as the project progresses should particular districts demonstrably require a greater proportion of resource.

3. Project delivery

- 3.1 The Pothole Blitz 2017/18 will be delivered between June and September 2017 making best use of the summertime weather.
- 3.2 In order to deliver the 2016/17 programme in the extremely short lead in time engaging with CSKL proved beneficial. The cross support of both Highways Teams and those at CSKL demonstrated collaborative working and the ability to deliver expediently to start work on the ground in a matter of weeks. There is now however a greater lead in time for the 2017/18 programme. Due to the success of delivery last year and to ensure these levels of delivery continue it is again intended to engage directly with the local supply chain for 2017/18 programme.
- 3.3 A proposal has been received from CSKL to deliver the 2017/18 programme and this will be considered alongside other options to ensure the best possible outcome.
- 3.4 Again it is anticipated that six local providers will operate in two districts, and will dedicate two pothole gangs per district to ensure that work is very locally responsive. This will of course depend on the type of work in each district and the level of funding each team receives.
- 3.5 Works will be identified and ordered by KCC Highways on the basis of the local knowledge of our local Highway Stewards, as well as information from our customers.

4 Legal Implications

- 4.1 All procurement carried out as part of this project is entirely in line with public sector procurement regulations.

5 Equalities Implications

- 5.1 Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has previously been completed for type of work to ensure consideration is given to the impact of the project. This assessment indicates no impact upon users could be reasonably anticipated.

6. Recommendation:

Cabinet Committee is asked to note this report, and to make comments to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport concerning future Find and Fix (Pothole Blitz) campaigns and to delegate authority to the Director of Highways Transportation and Waste to procure and award contracts and allocate funding as it becomes available to deliver a programme of works for 2017/18 and for future years DfT funding.

7. Background Documents

Decision Number 16/00025

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ecSDDisplay.aspx?NAME=SD5059&ID=5059&RPID=12592733>

8. Contact details

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