

ANGUS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

3 JULY 2018

SCOTTISH ROADS MAINTENANCE CONDITION SURVEY - PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY

REPORT BY HEAD OF INFRASTRUCTURE

ABSTRACT

This report seeks procurement authority for the continuation of Angus Council's involvement with the Scottish Road Maintenance Condition Survey project.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Sub-Committee:

- (i) authorises the signing of a new agreement to continue Angus Council's involvement with the Scottish Road Maintenance Condition Survey project on terms and conditions to be agreed by the Service Leader - Legal and Democratic and Head of Infrastructure; and
- (ii) authorises the procurement of the Scottish Road Maintenance Condition Survey project as detailed in this report.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN/CORPORATE PLAN

This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Angus Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and Locality Plans:

ECONOMY

- An inclusive and sustainable economy

PLACE

- Safe, secure, vibrant and sustainable communities
- An enhanced, protected and enjoyed natural and built environment

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 A national survey of the condition of roads in Scotland is carried out annually through SCOTS (the Society of Chief Officers for Transportation in Scotland) – the Scottish Road Maintenance Condition Survey (SRMCS), which is an accredited vehicular based condition survey of the Scottish local public road network. A sample of roads is surveyed each year so the results are averaged over a two year period to reflect this. Results are published annually for all roads authorities in Scotland.

3.2 The SRMCS results are used for performance monitoring and benchmarking by the council and by Audit Scotland. There is therefore an ongoing commitment to making the necessary contributions to the cost of the annual survey.

4. CURRENT POSITION

4.1 A legal agreement between all of the parties contributing to the SRMCS from 2018 is required to be signed by the Service Leader – Legal and Democratic as proper officer of Angus Council. The agreement has been reviewed and is ready for signing by the required date of 17 July 2018.

4.2 The whole life cost of the charge to the council for its contribution to the SRMCS requires specific procurement authority.

5. PROCUREMENT DETAILS

5.1 The Society of Chief Offices of Transportation in Scotland (SCOTS) has tendered for a national contract for the Scottish Roads Maintenance Condition Survey. The project will include:

- (i) the establishment of a base network conforming to Level 3 of the National Street Gazetteer;
- (ii) the carrying out of a machine based condition survey on the said network;
- (iii) the analysis, fitting and reporting of the results derived from the survey;
- (iv) the development of performance indicators and to make recommendations to Audit Scotland and the Scottish Local Government Benchmarking Framework; and
- (v) the integration of road condition surveys with asset management systems within Scottish Local Authorities.

5.2 The arrangement at a national level allows for the economies of scale, as well as savings introduced from undertaking a single procurement exercise, rather than tendering for separate contracts on a council by council basis.

5.3 Thirty-two local authorities in Scotland will be make contributions to the cost of the contract based on the lengths and classification of road networks in their respective council areas. The total annual cost of the contract is £654,047. The costs will be paid on an annual basis for the length of the contract. The contract period is four years with an option for a further three years subject to performance review.

5.4 The annual cost for Angus Council towards the survey is estimated to be £22,476 on the basis of all thirty-two councils taking part, which has been the case historically. This represents a minimum contractual spend of £89,904 for the four years. Should the option for a further three year period be enacted then the total contract spend would be £154,332.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The annual cost of the contribution to the Scottish Road Maintenance Condition Survey of £22,476 can be met from existing budget provision of Roads & Transportation.

7. RISKS

7.1 Non-participation in the SRMCS agreement would mean the council could not satisfy HM Treasury requirements for Whole of Government Accounts; SOLACE Local Government Benchmarking Framework reporting requirements or inputs to Audit Scotland regular reporting of the backlog and benchmarking including condition trends of Angus' roads network.

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NOTE:

No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.