

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Planning, Transport and Environment Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	03 March 2015	
TITLE:	Highway Contracts – Due Diligence and Commissioning	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: None		

1 THE ISSUE

To inform Panel of the procurement arrangements for Highways works and civil engineering schemes.

2 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 The report is noted.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

3.1 All projects procured are part of the Council's approved Capital and Revenue programmes of work

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

4.1 Contracts are procured in accordance with the Public Contract Regulations (2006 and 2015) and the Council's Contract Standing Orders.

5 THE REPORT

5.1 The Highways service procures most works through three main term contracts; Highways Maintenance and Minor Improvements, Street Lighting Maintenance and Improvements and the Traffic Signals contract. The Traffic Signals contract is a joint contract operated with West of England partners.

5.2 The contract for Highways maintenance is currently in an extension period and can run until April 2018. A new three year street lighting contract has recently been awarded and will run from April 2015. The traffic signals contract is a

minimum of eight years, with an extension provision that commenced in July 2014.

5.3 For other Works contracts (outside of the scope of the contracts highlighted in 5.2) such as major bridge refurbishments or high value improvement schemes a tender process is undertaken via Pro-Contract (the Council's electronic tendering system).

5.4 In line with central government guidance from Crown Commercial Services the Council uses appropriate accreditation systems to minimise the administrative burden on companies (in particular SME's). The Corporate Procurement Team is currently reviewing the arrangements in the light of the Public Contract Regulations 2015. In particular this has an impact on the financial checks that can be carried out on suppliers.

5.5 The current accreditation framework was developed with other south west Council's to manage risks relating to construction and civil engineering companies. It covers areas where the Council would otherwise seek information via a pre-qualification questionnaire. These include:

- Financial stability and viability of business
- Corporate governance
- Insurance
- Health and safety (in particular CDM compliance)
- Equal opportunities

5.6 Once contracts are signed and work commences appropriate contract management arrangements are put in place. Council's staff supervise the works, monitor progress, and undertake material and quality tests as well undertaking all necessary measurements and evaluation for payment in accordance with the contract. Works are also subject to post completion maintenance periods, usually 12 months, in which the Contractor is responsible for completion of any remedial work.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.7 None

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Background papers	<i>None</i>
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