

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

To: The Metro Mayor and Members of the Combined Authority

Meeting: 4 June 2021

Authority/Authorities Affected: All Authorities

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL ITEM: No

KEY DECISION Yes

REPORT OF THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER: TRANSPORT AND AIR QUALITY

APPOINTMENT OF CONTRACTOR TO DELIVER WINTER BUREAU AND WEATHER SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To request approval for the appointment of Vaisala to provide Winter Bureau and Weather Services for the constituent councils.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority

- (a) approves the provision by the Combined Authority of a framework agreement for a period of 4 years commencing on 31 July 2021, with an upper limit on the contract value of £650,000 to provide Winter Bureau and Weather Services for the constituent councils
- (b) Notes that the Combined Authority's constituent councils will individually enter into contractual arrangements with the successful bidder Vaisala.
- (c) Notes that Warrington Borough Council will also be utilising the arrangements made under the framework

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The constituent councils have clear responsibilities to their residents and a statutory duty to maintain the highway in a safe condition. To achieve this during winter, the councils need to use a number of specialised services and equipment that require a high degree of reliability. To facilitate this the councils require 'Road Weather Forecast and Bureau Services' so that they can plan and deploy their winter gritting services at the appropriate times. The councils individually operate

an ice prediction system with road weather outstations with road sensors which are installed at a number of locations on the road network throughout the City Region.

3.2 The following items are some of the key services that the Contract will provide.

- Maintain and operate the network of Outstations and be responsible for the inspection, calibration, maintenance, repair and modification of the installations/equipment included within the contract.
- Operate a forecast service that utilises the data from the Outstations including the management of the data from each station to enable by remote monitoring the road surface and atmospheric conditions for the detection and prediction of ice formation and other adverse weather conditions.
- Provision of weather forecast information
- The maintenance of all associated ice prediction software.
- Manage sensor data (and camera images where installed) from Outstations
- Provision of training, as and when required.
- Road weather forecast service.

3.3 Currently there are three separate contracts in place across the City region providing these services for the councils. Through discussion at the Key Route Network (KRN) group and Transport Advisory Group (TAG) it was agreed that there would be merit in procuring a single Combined Authority framework contract that all the councils could use to deliver these essential services. Such a contract would ensure a consistent delivery approach and would have the potential to reduce the overall cost of the services to be provided. There is an increased focus now and moving forward to align and where appropriate combine highway related contracts across the City Region to maximise the benefits of collaborative working.

3.4 Whilst the Combined Authority lead on the procurement of the contract, it is the individual councils that will enter into individual agreements with the successful Service Provider. Councils will also be responsible for funding all costs associated with the contract and manage the day to day operation of the contract for their own respective areas.

3.5 A competitive tendering exercise has been undertaken to procure the necessary services.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial

There will be no financial implications to the LCRCA. Once the framework Contract is awarded the individual constituent Local Authorities and Warrington Borough Council will enter into individual call-off contracts with the supplier. All costs associated with each of those call-off contracts will be funded by the individual Councils and not the Combined Authority.

4.2 Human Resources

As noted above, once the Contract is awarded the daily management of each call-off contract will be the responsibility of the relevant officers at each of the constituent Councils.

In the event that there are future issues or disputes with main Framework Level Contract (not the individual call-off contracts), then resources from within both Legal and Procurement may need to become involved to assist.

4.3 Physical Assets

There are no implications arising from this report or procurement.

4.4 Information Technology

There are no implications arising from this report or procurement.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

See comments under Human Resources.

6. RISKS AND MITIGATION

The only risk would be if the Contract award was not approved. This would leave each of the constituent Councils (and Warrington) without a Service Provider to deliver these key services as their existing Contracts all expire in July 2021.

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no implications arising from this report or procurement.

8. PRIVACY IMPLICATIONS

There are no implications arising from this report or procurement as no personal data will be collected via the Contract or Service Provider.

9. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

There are no implications arising from this report or procurement. Consultation with the six constituent Councils and Warrington Borough Council regarding this procurement of this service provision and contract have been previously undertaken and also discussed at both the Key Route Network and Transport Advisory Group meetings.

10. CONCLUSION

The tender submission from Vaisala was the only submitted Tender, which met the necessary criteria and hence it is proposed to seek approval to award the Contract to them.

COUNCILLOR LIAM ROBINSON
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Appendices:

None

Background Documents:

N/A