

Approval to Award: Highways Technical Inspections and Testing Services 2024

Date: March 2024

Report of: Megan Chamberlain, Assistant Procurement Engineer

Report to: Chief Officer (Highways & Transportation)

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

This report seeks the approval of the Chief Officer (Highways and Transportation) to award the Highways Technical Inspections and Testing Services 2024 framework to the preferred bidders on behalf of the Yorkshire Highway Alliance (YHA).

The Contract allows Leeds City Council and other YHA authorities to carry out required Highway Asset Management Condition and inventory Collection surveys.

Recommendations

- a) The Chief Officer (Highways and Transportation) is requested to approve the award of the Highways Technical Inspections and Testing Services contract (the Contract) from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2026, with the option to extend the contract for a further 2 years to 31st March 2028 to Pavement Testing Services, National Testing Services and WDM Ltd.

What is this report about?

- 1 The current Highways Technical Inspections and Testing Services framework expires 31st March 2024. In order to keep continuity of service a re-tendering exercise is required with the new framework to be in place by the 15th April 2024 following the standstill period of the contract.
- 2 The framework will include the following Lots:
 - Lot 1 – SCANNER Survey (Surface Condition Assessment for the National Network of Roads)
 - Lot 2 – SCRIM Survey (Sideway-force Coefficient Routine Investigation Machine)
 - Lot 3 – CVI Survey (Coarse Visual Inspections)
 - Lot 4 – Griptester Survey
 - Lot 5 – FNS Survey (Footway Network Survey)
 - Lot 6 – FAS Survey (Footway Asset Survey)
 - Lot 7 – Core Sampling
 - Lot 8 – DFS Survey (Doncaster Footway Survey)
 - Lot 9 – CNS Survey (Coarse Network Survey)

- 3 The current contract expires on the 31st March 2024 with no further provisions to extend. A full open tender process has been undertaken which will allow the award of a new 2-year contract with the option to extend for an additional 2 years.
- 4 Approval to tender the Highways Technical Inspections and Testing Services 2024 contract was given by the Chief Officer Highways and Transportation on the 5th December 2023.
- 5 A tender was published on Yortender on the 13th December 2023 using the open tender procedure and an advert was placed on Find A tender Service (FTS) and Contracts Finder.
- 6 Four compliant tenders were returned on 31st January 2024.
- 7 The quality submission was assessed on a consensus basis by a panel of Highways and Transportation Officers from Leeds City Council as well as representatives from Highways and Transportation colleagues from the YHA authorities; this was chaired by an officer from the Highways and Transportation Procurement Team.
- 8 Up to a maximum of two contractors will be appointed to each of the nine lots on the framework based on a 70:30 quality / price evaluation subject to meeting the minimum quality threshold on each question of 50%. The two highest scoring Bidders for each Lot will then be appointed to the framework and call-off orders will then be awarded to the Bidder who submitted the overall highest scoring offer based on and quality and price.
- 9 Four compliant tenders were received from Pavement Testing Services, National Testing Services, WDM Ltd and Socotec Ltd. Following completion of the evaluation process the successful bidders are detailed below:

	1 st place	Overall points	2 nd Place	Overall points
Lot 1 - SCANNER	Pavement Testing Services	769.60	WDM Ltd	520.00
Lot 2 - SCRIM	Pavement Testing Services	817.60	WDM Ltd	575.81
Lot 3 - CVI	Pavement Testing Services	856.60	Only one tender submission	
Lot 4 - Griptestter	Pavement Testing Services	841.60	Only one tender submission	
Lot 5 - FNS	Pavement Testing Services	871.60	Only one tender submission	
Lot 6 - FAS	Pavement Testing Services	886.60	Only one tender submission	
Lot 7 – Core Sampling	National Testing Services	930.00	Pavement Testing Services	601.60
Lot 8 - DFS	Pavement Testing Services	841.60	Only one tender submission	
Lot 9 - CNS	Pavement Testing Services	871.60	Only one tender submission	

What impact will this proposal have?

- 10 The Highways Assets Team will utilise the framework to carry out the required Asset Management Condition and Inventory Collection surveys.
- 11 Continuation of the Contract arrangements and delivery of the associated service will ensure that YHA authorities can monitor the condition of the roads they manage and take preventative and repair measures to ensure that they are fit for purpose.
- 12 As part of the tender process, bidders are required to complete the Equality and Diversity measures section within their Social Value submission, to demonstrate their commitment to EDCI and detailing how these targets will be met. The bidders' submission will form part of the

overall quality evaluation. Consideration will then be given to EDCI screening /impact assessments at the call-off stage.

How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

13 Inclusive Growth / Health and Wellbeing - By carrying out specialised testing and surveys allows the Asset Management team to assess the condition of the highway and target maintenance works appropriately in order to manage the highway asset. This ensures the highway is maintained to a satisfactory condition for all users.

14 Zero Carbon – As part of the tender process under social value tenderers will be required to provide commitments against the Leeds TOM's (themes, outcomes, measures) which will include reducing carbon emissions to help the Council achieve its net zero ambition.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

15 Consultation has taken place with the Highways Assets Team, as well as colleagues from YHA who have confirmed their need for this framework to be able to manage their highway assets.

16 Consultation has taken place with the Finance Section who confirmed that funding for this is available as and when the services are required.

What are the resource implications?

17 The estimated annual spend for Leeds is £240,000.00.

18 The tendering of this framework is an efficient use of Council resources and is judged to be value for money in comparison to issuing tenders or orders for each individual work instruction.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

19 There is no capacity to deliver this service in-house, therefore outsourcing is the most viable option.

What are the legal implications?

20 There are no specific legal implications arising from this report. All activities relating to the contract award will be executed strictly in accordance with the Public Procurement Regulations 2015 and Councils Contract Procedure Rules.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

21 The tendering of this framework is an efficient use of Council resources and is judged to be value for money in comparison to tendering individual orders.

How will success be measured?

22 The tender exercise successfully resulted in procuring suitable and capable suppliers within the time frames set out in the initial report to tender and will achieve added value through the social value commitment which the contractors have agreed to.

23 Success will be measured by the delivery and quality of the work undertaken by the successful contractors.

What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?

24 If the Chief Officer (Highways & Transportation) approves the recommendation to award the contract on the basis it provides best value to the Council, the Procurement team will ensure that it is in place by April 2024.

Appendices

- N/A

Background papers

- N/A