

**Report to the Chief Officer (Highways and Transportation)**

**Date: 09 March 2021**

**Subject: Extension of Contract: YHA Supply of Winter Road Surface Treatments and Sundries 2018 – 2020**

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Has consultation been carried out?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Will the decision be open for call-in?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, access to information procedure rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**Summary**

**1. Main issues**

- There is a legal duty on Highway Authorities (The Highways Act 1980 Section 41.1A) to ensure, so far as reasonably practicable, that safe passage along the highway is not endangered by snow or ice.
- This report seeks the Chief Officer's approval to extend the Yorkshire Highway Alliance - Supply of Winter Road Surface Treatments and Sundries Contract for a period of 12 months, in accordance with Contract Procedure Rule 21.1 and utilising Clause 3.4 incorporated within the Contract.
- This includes an Annual Price Change Mechanism: Appointed contractors to be given the opportunity to review their rates, any increase of any rate to be limited to the CPI 12 – month rate %, value published by the Office for National Statistics for December 2020 which was 0.6%.

**2. Best Council Plan Implications** (click [here](#) for the latest version of the Best Council Plan)

- Through treating road surfaces with winter treatments it allows safe movement of traffic and pedestrians keeping any delays caused by ice or snow to a minimum improving the city's transport aims within the Best Council Plan.

### **3. Resource Implications**

- Consultation has taken place within the Council who confirm that funding would be available through the winter maintenance budget.

### **Recommendations**

- a) The Chief Officer (Highways and Transportation) is asked to approve the extension of the Yorkshire Highway Alliance - Supply of Winter Road Surface Treatments and Sundries Contract for a further 12 months to 31/03/2022 in accordance with its terms and conditions.
- b) This is a schedule of rates contract with the approx. value of eight hundred thousand pounds per annum.
- c) Suppliers: Compass Minerals UK Ltd, ICL UK Sales Ltd (Cleveland Potash), Safecote Limited, Winter Services Solutions Ltd.

#### **1. Purpose of this report**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Chief Officer (Highways and Transportation) to extend the Yorkshire Highway Alliance -Supply of Winter Road Surface Treatments and Sundries Contract to the four incumbent providers who have confirmed their agreement to extend.

#### **2. Background information**

- 2.1. There is a legal duty on Highway Authorities (The Highways Act 1980 Section 41.1A) to ensure, so far as reasonably practicable, that safe passage along the highway is not endangered by snow or ice.
- 2.1 In fulfilling our legal obligations we also fulfil a requirement in The Highways & Transportation Service Plan 2013/14, which states a core strategic priority is to "Maintain a safe and efficient transport network for the City".
- 2.2 The key element of the plan is the use of mechanical gritting equipment to spread rock salt to help prevent ice formation and to help disperse snow.
- 2.3 The council's aim through treating road surfaces with winter treatments is to facilitate safe movement of traffic and pedestrians keeping any delays caused by ice or snow to a minimum.
- 2.4 The Highways Maintenance team use this contract to secure a contracted source of rock salt for local authorities who are part of the Yorkshire Highway Alliance.

#### **3 Main issues**

- 3.1 The contract was awarded to four contractors in April 2018 for an initial period of 2 years with a facility to be able to extend the contract up to a total contract period of 4 years.
- 3.2 The current contract expires on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and this will be the second and last extension possible on this contract.

- 3.3 The four incumbent contractors have agreed to extend the contract for a further 12 month period.
- 3.4 Compass Minerals UK Ltd and ICL UK Sales Ltd (Cleveland Potash) both provide rock salt for the gritting of the highways and carriageways. Safecote Ltd provide liquid anti-icers and de-icers which are used to keep park and rides, cycleways and pathways clear and ice free. Winter Services Solutions Ltd provide reusable, modular sheeting to protect open salt piles from the elements maintaining the salt in its optimum condition.
- 3.5 The key objective of this Contract is for the Yorkshire Highway Alliance to be able to order and receive supply of Rock Salt during the summer months and have the facility to re stock during the winter months as required.
- 3.6 The contract will continue to be available for use by all the Yorkshire Highway Alliance Authorities.

## **4 Corporate considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and engagement**

- 4.1.1 The Council are satisfied with the performance of the companies and is agreeable to the contract being extended.
- 4.1.2 Consultation has taken place within the Council who confirmed that funding is available through the winter maintenance budget.
- 4.1.3 The Council have also looked into the appropriateness or otherwise of the proposed extension and concluded that it is justifiable.
- 4.1.4 Consultation was carried out across the Yorkshire Highways Alliance and it was agreed that this Contract would be the best method of procuring the supply of this material.

### **4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration**

- 4.2.1 The proposals requested in this report have no direct impact on any of the equality characteristics as it is purely an administrative function and therefore it is not applicable to carry out an equality, diversity, cohesion and integration screening at this time.

### **4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan**

- 4.3.1 The proposed contract complies with the policy decision to achieve efficiency savings by entering into contracts across the West Yorkshire Districts.
- 4.3.2 This contract is utilised as a means of instructing a contractor to supply rock salt as and when required. Each order will be subject to the necessary approvals in accordance with the Council's rules.
- 4.3.3 The proposed extension to this contract will maintain an efficient method of procuring this essential service.

4.3.4 The contract is set up to cater for all Yorkshire Highway Alliance Authorities in accordance with the collaborative working aims.

#### Climate Emergency

4.3.5 Compass Minerals have shown their commitment to sustainability and addressed Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) issues in their 2019 ESG report. The report highlights year-over-year progress such as: Energy intensity down 15%, Fresh water intensity use down 18% and Scope 1+2 Green House Gas Emission intensity down 12%. It also set out its targets for the future with ambitions to reduce these even further.

4.3.6 Winter Service Solutions meet Environmental Agency guidelines for storage of salt, reducing leaching of chlorides into water table.

4.3.7 Safecote Ltd are a founder member of the National Salt Spreading Research Group, (NSSRG), which has now evolved into the National Winter Service Research Group, (NWSRG). This group has been responsible for driving policy standards forward in the UK over recent years including the environment.

#### **4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money**

4.4.1 The proposed extension to this contract will maintain an efficient method of procuring these essential services and offers good value for money as opposed to undertaking a further procurement exercise and the associated costs.

4.4.2 It is reasonable to conclude that by its nature and size this contract will have received more favourable rates from the tenderers than if smaller individual contracts were tendered by each of the West Yorkshire Districts.

#### **4.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in**

4.5.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from this report. All activities relating to the proposed extension have been executed strictly in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

#### **4.6 Risk management**

4.6.1 To maintain continuity on the ability to purchase these materials for service delivery it is essential that this contract is awarded before the existing arrangement expires.

4.6.2 The incumbent contractors have already submitted competitive rates and a new tender exercise is not expected to bring any further savings and would incur costs associated with a new tender process.

### **5 Conclusions**

5.1 The extension of this Contract is an efficient use of Council resources and offers best value for money whilst ensuring the Yorkshire Highway Alliance - Supply of Winter Road Surface Treatments and Sundries Contract work can continue to be delivered.

5.2 In order to fulfil our legal duties and meet the council's corporate objectives, it is essential to provide a winter service. This service cannot be delivered without an adequate and robust supply of rock salt.

## **6 Recommendations**

- a) The Chief Officer (Highways and Transportation) is asked to approve the extension of the Yorkshire Highway Alliance - Supply of Winter Road Surface Treatments and Sundries Contract for a further 12 months to 31/03/2022 in accordance with its terms and conditions.
- b) This is a schedule of rates contract with the approx. value of eight hundred thousand pounds per annum.
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## **7 Background documents**

7.1 None.