

Approval to use Framework Agreement for the Provision of the Automatic Collection and Analysis of Carriageway Condition Data Services between North Yorkshire County Council and Vaisala Limited

Date: 27 September 2022

Report of: Highways Procurement

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

- The current means for obtaining condition data for the carriageway and footway needs the engagement of external contractors who carry out specific and separate driven surveys of the highway. This is carried out once every four years as a snapshot of the condition of the network.
- The North Yorkshire County Council / Vaisala Agreement for Roads Artificial Intelligence (AI) data capture will provide apparatus fixed to Leeds City Council vehicles to allow the collection of data as part of routine driven safety inspections recording both safety critical information and general condition data. This will reduce the reliance on external contractors and vehicle miles travelled and allow for more frequent and therefore more up to date information.

## Recommendations

- a) The Chief Officer (Highways and Transportation) is asked to approve the recommendation to use the Framework Agreement for the Provision of the Automatic Collection and Analysis of Carriageway Condition Data Services between North Yorkshire County Council and Vaisala Limited to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.

## What is this report about?

- 1 Various types of survey are carried out on the highway network, these include: safety inspections intended to identify defects in need of reactive repair; condition inspections to identify and prioritise planned work needs and also to measure performance and determining and informing the strategy for asset management. Typically these different surveys are carried out at various times utilising either trained council staff or external contractors throughout the year.

The cost of using external contractors is such that condition surveys are carried out over a four year cycle which provide a snapshot of condition rather than a measure of progressive change.

- 2 There are potential efficiencies to be realised, these include the following:

- Video data capture can be carried out during the routine driven safety inspections allowing 1160km or 40% of the highway network to be surveyed without separate visits.
- Safety data can be captured during the same survey to generate a report with images of the defects to be dealt with as reactive maintenance.
- Road Markings and non-illuminated sign inventory and condition surveys and inventory data can be collected simultaneously.
- Regular surveys of the highway network can track changes in condition and highlight locations in need of planned work to allow early intervention and prevent future expensive remedial work.
- Up to date images of condition of the highway can reduce the number of ad-hoc inspection carried out by other staff to investigate public enquiry or initial assessment.
- The availability of more up to date data will likely reduce the risk of claims and assist in defending claims.
- Collecting data in this way, could remove the need to undertake other more costly surveys.

### What impact will this proposal have?

- 3 An equality, diversity, cohesion and integration screening has been carried out by North Yorkshire County Council as part of their tender procedures. This confirms that a full impact assessment is not required as the proposals are only seeking to use the Framework Agreement for the Provision of the Automatic Collection and Analysis of Carriageway Condition Data Services and will therefore have no impact on protected equality characteristics.

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

☒ Health and Wellbeing      ☒ Inclusive Growth      ☒ Zero Carbon

- 4 The recommendation of this report contributes to promoting a more competitive, less wasteful, more resource efficient, low carbon economy and making the best use of our resources, our people, our money, our digital capabilities.
- 5 The adoption of the system would reduce the amount of driven survey kilometre done by both council staff and external contractors thereby saving on carbon.
- 6 The potential for early intervention to prevent deterioration will reduce the whole life carbon cost of the network.

### What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected: N/A

Have ward members been consulted?      ☐ Yes      ☒ No

- 7 The service users across the West Yorkshire Districts and the Yorkshire Highway Alliance group members were consulted prior to the tendering process.

### What are the resource implications?

- 8 The use of this North Yorkshire Framework Agreement is an efficient use of Council resources and is judged to be value for money in comparison to procuring an individual agreement by Leeds City Council.
- 9 The total spend within this financial year 2022/23 will be circa £ 45,000.00, assuming success with this system similar spend is anticipated for the following three years.

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

- 10 The use of this North Yorkshire Framework Agreement for collection of condition and safety data is crucial to the efficient management of the highway assets and avoid key risks occurring on the highway system.

### **What are the legal implications?**

- 11 The report is not subject to Call In and there are no grounds for treating the contents of this report as confidential with the Council's Access to Information Rules
- 12 The Framework Agreement between North Yorkshire County Council and Vaisala Limited (YORtender ref. no. 46371) has been vetted by the Council's Legal Section and is satisfactory for use.
- 13 There are no specific legal implications arising from this report. All activities relating to the procurement will be executed strictly in accordance with the Public Procurement Regulations 2015 and Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

### **Options, timescales and measuring success**

#### **What other options were considered?**

- 14 No other suitable contract is known of and using this North Yorkshire County Council Framework saves Leeds City Council officers time in preparing framework documents and carrying out a tender exercise.

#### **How will success be measured?**

- 15 Vaisala Limited has proven previously carrying out the same type of work for Leeds City Council to be a reliable and trustworthy supplier, able to react quickly and resolve any issues. We would anticipate this successful relationship will continue while engaging them through this North Yorkshire County Council framework agreement.

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

- 16 After this report has been approved and financial approval gained a call off agreement can be signed by Leeds City Council and Vaisala Limited and survey work will commence this summer.

### **Appendices**

- 17 None.

### **Background papers**

- 18 None.