

## REPORT OF THE COUNCIL'S SELECT COMMITTEES

### SCRUTINY OF:

- PROCUREMENT OF HIGHWAYS' TERM MAINTENANCE CONTRACT
- POLICY ON THE USE OF SAFETY CAMERAS IN SURREY

**Date Considered: 16 September 2021**

**Select Committee: Communities, Environment and Highways**

### PROCUREMENT OF HIGHWAYS' TERM MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

1. The Select Committee welcomed the report on the Procurement of the Term Maintenance Contract and some of the key features of the new arrangements scheduled to start in April 2022.
2. The questions posed by the Committee to Cabinet Members and officers, together with the report, provided a sound insight into how over the past 12 months, Surrey County Council had overseen an exhaustive, complex procurement process to drive the best outcomes in each of the bidder's tenders. The Select Committee understood that Council had undertaken a Competitive Procedure with Negotiation (CPN) procurement exercise which allowed both the Council and bidders to discuss and develop their proposals in several stages allowing open discussion and negotiation to enable each bidder to eventually put forward their very best submission.
3. The Select Committee noted that the process to finalise the new contractor was to formally conclude soon with a report for the Cabinet at its next meeting to approve the award of the Term Maintenance Contract to the successful bidder and to delegate authority to finalise and enter into Contract with the successful bidder. Confidential information about this process and the name of the successful provider had been shared with the Members of the Select Committee privately before its meeting. The Committee was grateful to the Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure for this commitment to collaborative working.
4. The Select Committee was reassured to learn that following Cabinet award, the Council would work with the successful contractor's Senior Management Teams to implement their mobilisation plan. Also, a

communication plan would be developed and implemented to advise stakeholders on the award to the successful bidder.

5. This summary report provides recommendations raised by the Select Committee to the Cabinet and requests that its recommendations be taken on board.

5

### **Recommendations:**

While supporting the contents of the Report and the rigorous process leading to the award of the contract, the Committee:

- i. Urges timely and robust details of the specific improvements Surrey residents will be expecting from this new contract, particularly regarding the reporting of and quality of work on potholes and other highways matters and the overriding importance of 'Right First Time'.
- ii. Seeks early publication of the chosen contractor's commitment to "improve engagement with residents" and improve communication with them on planned works etc. and collaboration more generally. This should also involve elected Divisional members. The Reference Group of Councillors which has been involved throughout the contracting process can play a constructive role in helping shape these.
- iii. Asks that a robust process remains in place for the transition phase and initiated for mobilisation period.
- iv. Suggests that unannounced and random spot checks on a regular basis be considered as part of an effective contractual management process; the contract is easy to understand with strong governance and monitoring provisions for dispute resolution mechanism and in an unlikely termination scenario from Surrey County Council's perspective.
- v. Proposes that more publicity/communication be considered for social value activities and projects undertaken as part of the new partnership.

### POLICY ON THE USE OF SAFETY CAMERAS IN SURREY

1. The Select Committee received a report outlining a new policy setting out the criteria and process that would be followed for investment in new safety cameras. Overall, the Select Committee members were very supportive of the scheme and appreciated the information provided to them in the report.
2. The questions posed by the Committee to Cabinet Members and officers, together with the report, provided insight into the key aspects of this update and proposed changes which included average speed, spot speed, red-light and combination cameras. While road casualty

hotspots would remain the top priority, the policy also set out the criteria for the use of safety cameras at other locations where there might not have been such a high level of collisions, but where excess speeds are a concern for the community.

3. In Members' questions, a spotlight was shed on the ability of members to use their divisional highways allocation to request possible introduction of cameras at relevant local 'community concern' sites without unnecessary obstacles. Broader queries were also raised about the new Local Transport Plan and the ease of establishing 20 mph zones and 20-minute communities, enforcement of moving traffic offences and heavy good vehicles.
4. This summary provides recommendations raised by the Select Committee to the Cabinet and requests that these be considered by the Cabinet in arriving at their decision at their meeting.

### **Recommendations:**

**The Select Committee supports the proposed revisions and specifically endorses the creation of the "community concern" sites that may become eligible for cameras but cautions that:**

- i. Any unrealistic expectations among residents are not raised about new average speed cameras.
- ii. In exploring alternative options before the use of cameras in "community concern" areas, these options themselves do not become a reason (costs etc.) resulting in no decision is ever reached.
- iii. Members should be able to request, wherever appropriate, spot cameras for a community concern site using their respective divisional highways allocation and other sources without unnecessary constraints.
- iv. A roadmap of the process and prioritisation of requests – existing and new – be put in place and communicated accordingly to all relevant stakeholders.

**John O'Reilly**  
**Chairman of the Community, Environment & Highways Select Committee**

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