

## **Annex 2**

### Environmental Sustainability Assessment – Procurement of Highways Contracts

#### **ESA Screening**

The procurement of contracts to deliver Highways Services is a decision to be made by Cabinet and relates to the maintenance and construction of Highways Infrastructure and so warrants an Environmental Sustainability Assessment to be completed.

#### **Background**

The Council is commencing a procurement of contracts to deliver highway services. These will replace existing contracts and so in most cases any environmental impact(s) will continue into the next suite of arrangements. As with existing arrangements where we have worked in conjunction with our incumbent contractor partner to deliver environmental improvements through increased recycling of waste, reduction in carbon impact use of materials that either incorporate recycled materials or that have a lower carbon footprint than other material types, so we expect the new arrangements to, as an absolute minimum maintain these and wherever possible develop and exceed these. As part of the tender evaluation process, Bidders will be expressly scored on their past experience with other clients and their future plans to deliver an environmentally sustainable service for Surrey County Council if successful.

As part of the documentation provided to bidders, the Council will be clear on its ambitions and anticipated outcomes such as our net zero carbon target. We will not be issuing a “shopping list” of ideas for bidders to respond to instead we will be challenging them to push the boundaries of this area and build commitments into the new contract and through a balance of that contract and a strong governance mechanism to ensure they are realised.

It should be noted that once the procurement of contracts is completed, Cabinet will be asked to approve the appointment of the successful bidders in Autumn 20 and an updated ESA will be completed and presented with that report.

#### **Issues Identified, possible actions and prioritisation**

The issues described below are inherent with the delivery of Highway Services and so the possible actions described will either be a “staple” element of how they should be delivered or describe aspirations that will be evaluated in the tenders submitted and then implemented during the contract period:

Area	Relevant Topic	Issue	Possible Action	Taken Forward (√)
Risks posed by environmental conditions e.g. flooding, heatwaves etc	No			
Designated conservation sites, protected	Yes	Work carried out on or near the highway may be in close proximity to or in some cases	Contractors carrying out work on behalf of the Council are obligated to conduct a risk assessment incorporating many factors which include health and	

species and biodiversity		encompass such locations	safety, presence of underground utility equipment (fuel pipes, cables, ducts etc), locations relating to conservation, biodiversity and heritage prior to commencing work and to ensure appropriate permissions including adjustments or mitigations are in place.	
Materials and Water		Carrying out highway maintenance and improvements inevitably involves the use high volumes of materials some of which are known for having a high carbon impact in their production such as bitumen, aggregates and concrete.	The Council operates a materials testing lab which not only allows us to undertake quality control tests before, during and after work is carried out to ensure the correct products are used but also allows us to carry out trials on new products coming to the market. Potential bidders will be asked to illustrate both their current credentials in bringing lower impact materials into the delivery of their work and also how they plan to develop this with the Council into the new contract	
Waste	Yes	Waste production is intrinsically linked to the use of new materials in highways maintenance and improvements.	There is a strong record in the sector for effectively managing waste to drive high levels of re-use and recycling where possible and minimise waste going to landfill. There is an emerging field within the sector seeking to re-use materials generated as waste back into the delivery of highway maintenance and improvements ideally in the same local area.	
Energy	Yes	Energy will be consumed in many different forms in delivering these services as described such as in vehicles, materials production and waste management. In addition, energy will be consumed in offices and depots used by the contractor.	The Council will seek to work with the bidders to develop solutions to minimise energy consumption wherever possible through a combination of energy efficient practices.	
Transport	Yes	For the vast majority of activities, delivery of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Efficient routing of work to minimise non-productive</li> </ul>	

		Highway Services requires a physical presence on the highway itself and so travelling to and from it. Further more, vehicles used will often be larger and at present less likely to benefit from a transition to low and ultra-low emission vehicles	<p>travel time resulting in greater productivity and lower carbon impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce idling time of vehicles where possible to reduce carbon emissions</li> <li>• Incorporation of low and ultra-low emission vehicles into the providers fleet where practical</li> </ul>	
Landscape and trees	No			
Heritage	No			
Education and awareness	No			

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