

Report to Cabinet

16 November 2022

Subject:	Contract for Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Traffic Signals and Associated Equipment
Cabinet Member:	Cabinet Member for Environment Cllr Zahoor Ahmed
Director:	Director of Borough Economy, Alice Davey
Key Decision:	Yes
Contact Officer:	Robin Weare – Assistant Director Highway Services Barry Ridgway – Group Manager Assets and Maintenance – Highway Services

1 Recommendations






- 1.1 That approval be given to authorise the Director of Borough Economy to award a contract for the provision of the Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Traffic Signals and Associated Equipment for the period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2026 at an anticipated value of £2,000,000 following the conclusion of the compliant tender process.
- 1.2 That in connection with 1 above, the Director, Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer be authorised to enter into appropriate contracts.



2. Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The Council has a requirement to appoint a suitably qualified and experienced Contractor for the Supply, Installation & Maintenance of Traffic Signals and Associated Systems and Equipment within the Borough of Sandwell.
- 2.2 The current extended contract expires on 31st October 2022.
- 2.3 A compliant tender procedure is currently being undertaken.
- 2.4 Subject to the required approvals, the new agreement would commence from 1st January 2023 to ensure planned works can proceed for 2022-23 and following financial years.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	Best start in life for children and young people Good, well maintained highway infrastructure will encourage more walking and cycling increasing wellbeing, improving road safety and promoting cleaner air quality.
	People live well and age well The Highway environment plays an important role in the life of the community, particularly the positive opportunities that they can bring from social inclusion and interaction.
	Good quality Highways infrastructure will make our communities feel safe, more protected and confident in their homes and neighbourhoods.
	Well maintained highways bring increased economic and physical activity and reduces wear and tear and accident damage.
	Our highways are the arteries of our communities. They connect our residents to employment, education, local services and indeed the wider world. They enable economic growth, social mobility and are vital in ensuring good health outcomes. The recent Enventure survey was conducted to gain insight from residents to support Sandwell Council in the



	development of the budget proposals and future spending priorities. The survey found that “Maintaining Roads and Pavements” was selected as important by high proportions of respondents in both the representative survey (72%) and the online survey (79%).
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4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 As the Local Highway Authority, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC) has a statutory duty to ensure the Highway Network is maintained in a safe and useable manner. As the Local Traffic Authority SMBC also has a statutory duty to ensure as far as reasonably practicable, with regard to policy objectives and obligations, the expeditious movement of traffic on the Authority’s road network.
- 4.2 To meet this duty, SMBC appoint a suitably qualified and experienced contractor to supply, install & maintain traffic signals and associated systems and equipment across the Borough of Sandwell.
- 4.3 Road users and the wider community also place a high value on keeping traffic moving safely around the Borough.
- 4.4 Failure to adequately maintain traffic signalling can result in avoidable congestion, accidents, consequent adverse economic and social impacts, public dissatisfaction, claims and significant reputational damage.
- 4.5 Subject to the required approvals, it is proposed that a new contract be awarded for the period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2026. Based on current levels estimated expenditure over the contract period will be £2,000,000 (£2,400,000 including VAT).
- 4.6 Subject to the required approvals, it is proposed to extend the current contract arrangements until 31st December 2022 to ensure continuity of service.



5 Alternative Options

- 5.1 There are no recommended affordable alternatives to obtain material to maintain our Highway Network.

6 Implications

Resources:	The estimated value of the contract for the Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Traffic Signals and Associated Equipment over the four-year period is £200,000,000. Funding will be drawn from existing service level capital and revenue budgets.
Legal and Governance:	<p>The principal statutory duty imposed on local highway authorities is to maintain the highway maintainable at public expense.</p> <p>The Council, in carrying out transportation, highways and infrastructure related work, will do so under the relevant primary legislation comprising the Highways Act 1980; Road Traffic Act 1974; Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984; Local Government Act 1972; Traffic Management Act 2004; and Transport Act 2000 and other related regulations, instructions, directives and general guidance.</p> <p>The Traffic Management Act 2004 imposes a network management duty on a council to manage day-to-day operational use of its highways to 'keep traffic moving'.</p>
Risk:	<p>The Council has a duty to meet its legal obligations to mitigate service risks related to third party liability claims arising from accidents and injury due to condition of the highway.</p> <p>The key service risk relates to third party liability claims arising from accident and injury due to condition of the highway or non-compliance with statutory obligations. The duty is not absolute, but decisions must be taken on reasonable grounds with due care and regard to relevant considerations as set out in best practice guidance 'Well-managed Highway Infrastructure'.</p>



Equality:	There are no specific equality issues regarding the proposals contained in this report. The requirements of the Equality Act 2010 are included in the Framework Agreement Documentation to draw attention to the detail of, and the need to comply with, the Act.
Health and Wellbeing:	The Highway environment plays an important role in the life of the community, particularly the positive opportunities that they can bring from social inclusion and interaction.
Social Value	Social Value commitments have been built into the tender evaluation criteria to ensure the successful contractor(s) complies with nationally recognised standards and contributes to the Council's Vision 2030 ambitions.

7. Appendices

None

8. Background Papers

8.1 Well-managed Highway Infrastructure – Code of Practice Last updated October 2016

