

EXECUTIVE DECISION

made by a Cabinet Member



REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY BY AN INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER

Executive Decision Reference Number – SPT03 23/24

Decision	
1	<p>Title of decision:</p> <p>To form a consortium (“the consortium”) for the purposes of contracting with a weather forecasting and weather advisory service</p>
2	<p>Decision maker: Councillor Mark Coker (Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Transport)</p>
3	<p>Report author and contact details: Philip Bellamy E: Phil.Bellamy@plymouth.gov.uk</p>
4	<p>Decision to be taken</p> <p>I. To approve the Council entering in to the consortium agreement, “the consortium agreement”, (Devon CC, Torbay, Plymouth City, Dorset, and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP)) to appoint Devon County Council to undertake a procurement and contract award on behalf of the parties for a weather forecasting and weather advisory service for the purpose of providing road and weather forecasts for geographical areas for which the Members have Local Highway Authority responsibility.</p> <p>This decision will commit Plymouth City Council to a revenue contribution of £15,000 per annum for 5 years, with the option to extend twice, for a one year period each (costs approx. as we are awaiting return of tender documentation). There is an existing commitment and revenue allocation of £10,000 for Bureau service and £5,000 weather service budgeted for this commitment. The service will enable PCC to make essential statutory Winter Service decisions; the termination clause requires 3 months’ notice.</p>
5	<p>Reasons for decision:</p> <p>The Council requires use of a weather forecasting and advisory service to inform key Winter Service and adverse weather condition decisions.</p> <p>A South West Consortium has been formed for the purposes of procuring and contracting for Weather Forecasting Services, on behalf of the following authorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devon County Council (Leading) (herein referred to as “Devon”) • Torbay Council (herein referred to as “Torbay”)

- Plymouth City Council (herein referred to as “Plymouth”)
- Dorset Council (herein referred to as “Dorset”)
- Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council (herein referred to as “BCP”)

The road weather forecast service is required so that they can deliver an effective and efficient Winter Service and Highway Maintenance function, reacting in a timely and appropriate fashion to any hazards that may be presented to highway users in winter and optionally for supporting Highway Maintenance activities during the summer.

There is significant expenditure incurred in the provision of winter service and it is recognised that an accurate detailed forecast has the potential to minimise this expenditure. The procurement will also invite bidders to submit proposals for any additional services that can be demonstrated (with evidence) to assist in the aim of minimising winter service costs. The specification has therefore been developed on the basis that it sets out the minimum requirements that must be provided, asking the bidders to identify and propose service provision that will exceed this minimum requirement, and be clear as to its advantage to the authorities.

The appointed contractor will provide a service that is fully conversant with the national code of practice Well Managed Highway Infrastructure, and any future variants of this code and national best practice, as set out by the National Winter Service Research Group (NWSRG). The contractor will also be asked to ensure it provides appropriate weather information to enable the authorities to fully comply with these, when undertaking winter service decision making and forecasting.

Plymouth City Council operates Winter Service for the period commencing 1st October to 30th March for treatment decisions executed by the TMC (SWH).

The tendering process will be further supported by the South West Highways Alliance to minimise the market costs and ensure VFM and compliance with the national procurement rules.

We currently run 2 weather stations; they carry full sensor specifications with our replacement unit running generation RWS200 software. The second unit is due to be upgraded late summer 2023, Bureaux service allows communication to these units.

By seeking to procure and contract on a consortium basis, with Devon County Council leading, the approach will minimise costs for all authorities involved, it also demonstrates a Collaborative working arrangement with our neighbouring authorities.


6 Alternative options considered and rejected:

- 1) Procure contract on an individual basis - this may result in an increase in procurement cost (proposed route will share costs with all parties) and loss of collaborative support.
- 2) Do nothing – Winter Service is a statutory duty and existing weather stations are accessed by the service to which we are tendering for. If we unable to access this service we risk loss of weather monitoring (as part of the service is supporting communication to the weather stations) and the ability to provide an effective winter service.

7	<p>Financial implications and risks:</p> <p>This decision will commit Plymouth City Council to a revenue contribution of £15,000 per annum for 5 years, with the option to extend twice, for a one year period each (costs approx. as we are awaiting return of tender documentation). There is an existing commitment and revenue allocation of £10,000 for Bureau service and £5,000 weather service budgeted for this commitment. By making this decision we would receive support from Devon County Council and would not be liable to costs leading from this tendering. The termination clause requires 3 months' notice.</p>									
8	<p>Is the decision a Key Decision? (please contact Democratic Support for further advice)</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Per the Constitution, a key decision is one which:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="965 672 1029 840">x</td> <td data-bbox="1029 672 1495 840">in the case of capital projects and contract awards, results in a new commitment to spend and/or save in excess of £3million in total</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="965 840 1029 985">x</td> <td data-bbox="1029 840 1495 985">in the case of revenue projects when the decision involves entering into new commitments and/or making new savings in excess of £1 million</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="965 985 1029 1131">x</td> <td data-bbox="1029 985 1495 1131">is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the local authority.</td> </tr> </table>	x	in the case of capital projects and contract awards, results in a new commitment to spend and/or save in excess of £3million in total	x	in the case of revenue projects when the decision involves entering into new commitments and/or making new savings in excess of £1 million	x	is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the local authority.
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	<p>If yes, date of publication of the notice in the Forward Plan of Key Decisions</p>	N/A								
9	<p>Please specify how this decision is linked to the Council's corporate plan/Plymouth Plan and/or the policy framework and/or the revenue/capital budget:</p>	<p>The procurement of the system allows the Council the opportunity to work in cooperation with the other consortium member Authorities and receive such support that such partnerships enjoy – this is mapped within the formal agreement.</p> <p>The weather forecasting service also contributes to 'Focussing on prevention and early intervention', as well as 'providing quality public services' & 'keeping children, adults and communities safe'.</p>								
10	<p>Please specify any direct environmental implications of the decision (carbon impact)</p>	<p>INT6: Developing and promoting our contribution to managing climate change and sea level rise through continuing to pursue ambitious carbon reduction emission targets (net-zero by 2030) and proactive natural network management, and putting in place infrastructure to enable businesses to make the transition to a low carbon economy.</p>								
Urgent decisions										
11	<p>Is the decision urgent and to be</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>(If yes, please contact Democratic</p>							

	implemented immediately in the interests of the Council or the public?			Support (democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk) for advice)
		No	x	(If no, go to section 13a)
12a	Reason for urgency:			
12b	Scrutiny Chair Signature:		Date	
	Scrutiny Committee name:			
	Print Name:			
Consultation				
13a	Are any other Cabinet members' portfolios affected by the decision?	Yes		
		No	x	(If no go to section 14)
13b	Which other Cabinet member's portfolio is affected by the decision?	n/a		
13c	Date Cabinet member consulted	n/a		
14	Has any Cabinet member declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision?	Yes		If yes, please discuss with the Monitoring Officer
		No	x	
15	Which Corporate Management Team member has been consulted?	Name	Philip Robinson	
		Job title	Service Director for Street Services	
		Date consulted	13 th June 2023	
Sign-off				
16	Sign off codes from the relevant departments consulted:	Democratic Support (mandatory)	DS11 22/23	
		Finance (mandatory)	DJN.23.24.71	
		Legal (mandatory)	LS/01501/JP/100823	

		Human Resources (if applicable)	n/a						
		Corporate property (if applicable)	n/a						
		Procurement (if applicable)	n/a						
Appendices									
17	Ref.	Title of appendix							
	A	Briefing Paper							
	B	EIA							
Confidential/exempt information									
18a	Do you need to include any confidential/exempt information?		Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	If yes, prepare a second, confidential ('Part II') briefing report and indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box in 18b below. (Keep as much information as possible in the briefing report that will be in the public domain)				
			No	<input type="checkbox"/>					
			Exemption Paragraph Number						
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18b	Confidential/exempt briefing report title:								
	Consortium Agreement				x				
Background Papers									
19	Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are <u>unpublished</u> works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based. If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.								
Title of background paper(s)			Exemption Paragraph Number						
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Cabinet Member Signature									
20	I agree the decision and confirm that it is not contrary to the Council's policy and budget framework, Corporate Plan or Budget. In taking this decision I have given due regard to the								

	Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not. For further details please see the EIA attached.		
Signature		Date of decision	11/08/2023
Print Name	Councillor Mark Coker (Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Transport)		