

**Briefing Paper:**

**To form a consortium (“the consortium”) for the purposes of contracting with a weather forecasting and weather advisory service.**



The Council requires use of a weather forecasting and advisory service to inform key Winter Service and adverse weather condition decisions.

The road weather forecast service is required so we 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.

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.

**Recommendation and Reasons**

Based on the advantages outlined in the Executive Decision. It is considered that access to Weather forecasting is a key provision for the winter service we are required to provide to deliver the following benefits:

- Providing a safer and sustainable highway network
- Reducing the rate of failure for critical assets and improve its resilience
- Improve public perception and satisfaction with the highway network

If the Council were to decide not to proceed with this proposal there would be several risks that would need to be closely managed and maintained. These include:

- Revenue allocation insufficient to cover alternative arrangements
- Opportunity missed to substantially reduce CO<sup>2</sup> emissions missed (efficiency of process)
- Delivery of Winter Service disrupted - risk to Plymouth City Council

On this basis approval is therefore sought as follows:

**Recommended Decision**

- 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.

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.