

**Open Report on behalf of Richard Wills, Executive Director for Environment and Economy**

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| Report to: | <b>Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee</b>                |
| Date:      | <b>13 July 2015</b>   |
| Subject:   | <b>Lincolnshire Highways Alliance Update Report – July 2015</b> |

**Summary:**

This report presents an update on progress with the Lincolnshire Highways Alliance, an Alliance between the County Council, Imtech, Mouchel and Kier. The Alliance delivers the majority of highway services through the Traffic Signals Term Contract, the Professional Services Contract and the Highway Works Term Contract.

The Lincolnshire Highways Alliance is now in the sixth year of a potential contractual duration of ten years.

Independent comparison of our services confirm that the Alliance continues to deliver class leading, cost effective, high quality highway services with improvement areas identified and work underway to deliver that further efficiency and improvement.

**Actions Required:**

Members of the Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee are invited to consider and comment on the report.

## **1. Background**

### Introduction

- 1.1 The Lincolnshire Highways Alliance is an Alliance between the County Council, Imtech, Mouchel and Kier. The Alliance delivers the majority of highway services through the Traffic Signals Term Contract, the Professional Services Contract and the Highway Works Term Contract which all started on 1 April 2010.

## Performance

- 1.2 The quarterly performance report is reported through the Alliance management structure, with performance issues becoming the subject of an improvement action plan. A copy of the Lincolnshire Highway Alliance Performance Report for Year 5, Quarter 4, can be found as Appendix A. This covers the period of January to March 2015 and suggests a continued levelling out of performance.
- 1.3 Overall performance for the Highways Works Term Contract, the Professional Services Contract and the Traffic Signals Term Contract remain in the upper quartile and have all outperformed Year 4 performance scores. Client performance has slipped from 73 to 68 mainly due to issues concerning the commitment of Compensation Events and the issuing of a large amount of variations at year end. The overall Alliance score remains at 42.
- 1.4 The performance scores should be taken in the context of the increased performance since the start of the Alliance. Areas of technical performance will continue to be addressed within the three contract areas and the client. The Alliance score reflects the subjective nature of some of the indicators such as press articles, public satisfaction and relationship scoring and we will continue to try to influence an improvement in the perception of our services.
- 1.5 The Highways Maintenance Efficiency Plan Peer Review took place on 3 to 5 March 2015 with a follow up Action Planning Day on 31<sup>st</sup> March. We continue to work with Cranfield University to follow up the Strategic Value for Money Assessment and as part of the Future Highways Project.

## Traffic Signals Term Contract

- 1.6 The joint Alliance project to upgrade the existing BT private wire circuits to ADSL broadband at the 100 Urban Traffic Control (SCOOT) installations in Lincoln, Boston and Grantham, is now substantially complete. All but two of the new Chameleon outstations and Green wave units have been installed. The team are now concentrating on commissioning the outstation units.
- 1.7 Works for the Canwick Road Improvement Scheme have been completed with the upgrade of the Tidal Flow system and the signal junctions at Canwick Road with Washingborough Road and South Park Avenue. We have used the Magnetometer wireless detection system (Clearview) for the signalled junctions and replaced the Variable Message Signs for the tidal flow system with new LED units.
- 1.8 We continue to introduce innovative signals technology into Lincolnshire with the first RLCS crossing installation at Manthorpe Road in Grantham. In August, the first dual streamed junction and crossing in the United Kingdom are to be installed in Boston at the junction of Wide Bargate and Tawney Street.

## Highway Works Term Contract

- 1.9 The main focus of work is to improve the carriageway condition. We have repaired over 30,898 potholes and carried out 72,516.5 m<sup>2</sup> of carriageway patching at 182 sites.
- 1.10 A substantial surface dressing programme is well under way of around 3.3 million square metres of carriageway which equates to just over 400 miles of roads to be treated.
- 1.11 Work has also been completed on a programme of carriageway recycling which incorporated the use of 5,500 tonnes of tar bound planings resulting in a saving of £750,000 in disposal costs. We have now obtained licences from the Environment Agency for increased storage of materials in Barrowby, Claxby and Great Steeping.

## Professional Services Contract

- 1.12 The Technical Services Partnership continues to be engaged in the design of our major schemes, other internal and external design of schemes, traffic modelling and other consultancy work.
- 1.13 A number of major schemes are now progressing towards the construction phase. Canwick Hill has been completed and Lincoln East-West Link is under construction. A tender to start the construction of a section of the Grantham Southern Relief Road is due to be released. Lincoln Eastern Bypass is ready to go out to tender subject to a further Public Inquiry in August.
- 1.14 Boston's St Botolph's Footbridge took the top spot in the medium project category of the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) East Midlands Merit Awards.
- 1.15 The Lincolnshire Highways Alliance project beat off competition from 12 other schemes across the region for the award which recognises exceptional safety and environmental management, innovation and project design within the construction sector.
- 1.16 The 65 metre long bridge spans the River Witham, overlooking St Botolph's Church, known as Boston Stump. The contemporary bowstring design was chosen following extensive public consultation and features decorative yellow lighting matching that of the octagonal lantern in the church tower. There is also a tri-floral motif installed into the parapet which replicates that of the nearby Town Bridge.
- 1.17 The project was completed together with designer HBPW Ltd, contractor Britcon UK and bridge fabricator SH Structures. It was jointly funded by the County Council and the ERDF as part of the "Routes not Barriers" project. Projects recognised by ICE ranged from local schemes costing tens of

thousands of pounds, to multi-million pound cross-county infrastructure work.

## **2. Conclusion**

- 2.1 The Lincolnshire Highways Alliance continues to deliver effective and efficient highway services with an improving trend since the start of the Alliance. Independent comparison by Cranfield University and through an HMEP Peer Review confirms that the Alliance continues to deliver some of the most cost effective, high quality highway services in the sector.

## **3. Consultation**

### **a) Policy Proofing Actions Required**

n/a

## **4. Appendices**

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| These are listed below and attached at the back of the report |
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| Appendix A – Lincolnshire Highways Alliance Performance Report Year 5 – Quarter 4. |
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## **5. Background Papers**

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

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