

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

Report to:	<b>Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>26 October 2015</b>
Subject:	<b>Lincolnshire Highways Alliance Update Report - October 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 Highways Works Term Contract which all started on 1 April 2010.
- 1.2 We have continued our work with Cranfield University to develop a Future Operating Model which will reflect the potential challenge from the forthcoming budget round but will also offer improvements in our efficiency

and effectiveness. The proposed model will also deliver a structure which will offer the most opportunity to deliver a successful outcome from the Department for Transport (DfT) Self-Assessment Process.

- 1.3 As part of our preparation for the DfT Self-Assessment Process the Lincolnshire Highways Alliance are progressing our registration with the British Standards Institution for BS11000 Collaborative Business Relationships. Inspections are planned for January and February/March and successful implementation is expected to offer further cashable efficiency gains.

#### Performance

- 1.4 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 6, Quarter 1, can be found in Appendix A. This covers the period of April to June 2015. Unfortunately, some of the indicators could not be reported this month due to complications with Agresso, resulting in some of the missing indicators impacting on the results.
- 1.5 Overall performance for the Highways Works Term Contract and the Traffic Signals Term Contract remain in the upper quartile. The Professional Services Contract has only been able to report 3 of its 7 indicators and therefore is unable to report this month. The Client performance has increased, but this is partly due to an unreportable indicator. The overall Alliance score has increased to 70.6 which is an improvement on last quarter.

#### Traffic Signals Term Contract

- 1.6 Imtech Traffic and Infra has recently been taken over by Egeria and continue to work within the Alliance to deliver an innovative traffic signals service.
- 1.7 Egeria is a respected Dutch private equity firm which has £1.7 billion under management. Egeria aims to create long term value for all parties involved by growing and developing its companies in close co-operation, and based on mutual respect and trust, with the management.
- 1.8 As part of our ongoing communication upgrade we now have full web based controller and outstation interface available from the UTMC control at the 100 UTC/SCOOT installations. This allows remote interrogation of reported faults and changes to be made to local timings and detection.
- 1.9 The country's first dual stream junction and crossing Remote Light Control System (RLCS) installation has been successfully commissioned in Boston. The revised RLCS software and hardware will shortly be fitted to the trial site at the Dixon Street/Boultham Park Road installation in Lincoln. This

upgrade will enable wireless vehicle detection equipment to link directly to the controller bypassing the need for third party interface equipment.

### Highway Works Term Contract

- 2.0 The main focus of work is to improve the carriageway condition. We have repaired over 30,100 potholes and carried out 26,000 m<sup>2</sup> of carriageway patching at 51 sites during the last quarter.
- 2.1 A substantial surface dressing programme has now been completed of 3.3 million square metres of carriageway which equates to just over 400 miles of roads treated.
- 2.2 Work continues to identify improvements to the service including work on a biomass trial to generate electricity from verge cuttings and the treatment of gulley arisings to separate out materials such as soil for re-use.

### Professional Services Contract

- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 A feature of the last quarter has been a need to use the flexibility of this "mixed economy" public/private sector contractual arrangement to respond to some very significant peaks in workload for specialist resources. The public enquiry for Lincoln Eastern bypass drew heavily on Mouchel for technical specialists and expert witnesses who worked effectively with the County Council staff. The Grantham King31 scheme also required a very significant input of additional design resources in order to meet the tight timescale for reaching the construction phase.
- 2.5 Mouchel has also been able to add significant value to the County Council in a number of other areas. The DfT self-assessment process to be introduced next year puts up to £4.5m of our existing funding at risk. Our programme for meeting this challenge has been able to take full advantage of access to the national expert in this subject through the professional services partnership. This same assessment process places an emphasis on collaborative working and we are taking full advantage of expertise available through the professional services contract in BS11000, the benchmark standard for demonstrating collaborative working.

## **2. Conclusion**

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 the 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

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Lincolnshire Highways Alliance Performance Report Year 6 - Quarter 1.

### 5. Background Papers

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

This report was written by Paul Rusted, Infrastructure Commissioner, who can be contacted on 01522 553071 or [paul.rusted@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:paul.rusted@lincolnshire.gov.uk).