

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

Report to:	<b>Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>19 January 2015</b>
Subject:	<b>Lincolnshire Highways Alliance Update Report - January 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 Highway Alliance is now in the fifth 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 Highways Alliance Performance Report for Year 5 Quarter 2 can be found as Appendix A. This covers the period of July to September 2014 and demonstrates improving scores for the Alliance in the Professional Services, Traffic Signals and Client areas, standstill for the overall Alliance score with a slight decline for Highway Works.
- 1.3 Overall performance for the Highway Works Term Contract has declined from 84.3 to 78.5, but this is still considered to be acceptable performance. The Professional Services Contract has increased from 80.1 to 83.2. The Traffic Signals Term Contract has increased from 87 to 91 and Client performance has increased from 78 to 81. The overall Alliance score has remained 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 planned for October 2014 has now been rescheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015 to accommodate the changes brought about by the Senior Management Review, the move to a Commissioning Council and the potential changes from the Councils Fundamental Budget Review. We continue to work with Cranfield University to follow up the Strategic Value for Money Assessment and as part of the Future Highways Project. We also continue to work with Leeds University to refine and develop the frontier benchmarking of highways services. The work with Cranfield has informed the change to the divisional structure, our work on improved planning and programming, the move to the proactive delivery of services and the re-use of material by recycling. All of this work, when completed, will be the subject of further report on Future Highways to this Committee.

## Traffic Signals Term Contract

- 1.6 We are currently working on a 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. We are replacing the existing old wired transmission units which will be unsupported after 2018 with new programmable digital interfaces and routers.
- 1.7 Whilst the original plan was to replace these over a three year period, this has been accelerated by the need to vacate City Hall and avoid the cost of

redirecting the analogue cables. It is now expected that this work will be completed by March 2015.

### Highway Works Term Contract

- 1.8 The main focus of work is to improve carriageway condition and to deliver the winter maintenance service. The relatively mild winter has meant that in the last three months, we have repaired nearly 11 thousand potholes and carried out 30 thousand square metres of carriageway patching.

### Professional Services Contract

- 1.9 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.
- 1.10 A number of major schemes are now progressing towards the construction phase. Lincoln East-West Link and Canwick Hill have now started. A tender to start the construction of an element of Grantham Southern Relief Road is due to be released this month.
- 1.11 The design of Phase 1 of Spalding Western Relief Road is now completed and the detail design of Grantham Southern Relief Road is progressing well.

## **2. Conclusion**

- 2.1 Highway Services, delivered by the Lincolnshire Highways Alliance, are of a high standard with an improving trend since the start of the Alliance. The performance culture developed within the Alliance is a consistent driver for improvement in very challenging times for local government services. Independent comparison confirms that the Alliance continues to deliver some of the most cost effective, high quality highway services in the sector. Improvement areas are identified with work underway to deliver further efficiency and improvement. A HMEP Peer Review will commence in March to provide further external assurance of the service.

## **3. Consultation**

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

n/a

## **4. Appendices**

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report
---

## **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, who can be contacted on 01522 553071 or [paul.rusted@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:paul.rusted@lincolnshire.gov.uk).