

Policy and Scrutiny

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

Report to:	Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee
Date:	20 April 2015
Subject:	Lincolnshire Highways Alliance Update Report – April 2015

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 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 3 can be found as Appendix A. This covers the period of October to December 2014 and suggests a continued levelling out of performance.

- 1.3 Overall performance for the Highway Works Term Contract, the Professional Services Contract, and the Traffic Signals Term Contract remain in the upper quartile. Client performance has slipped from 81 to 73 mainly due to an issue concerning the commitment of Compensation Events. 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 took place on 3 to 5 March 2015 with a follow up Action Planning Day on 31st 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. Both of these pieces of work are the subject of a separate report to this committee.

Traffic Signals Term Contract

- 1.6 We are continuing work 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 Work has also been carried out to replace the Canwick Road Tidal Flow equipment as part of the overall scheme.

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 over 17,000 potholes and carried out 40,000 square metres of carriageway patching at 300 sites.
- 1.9 A substantial surface dressing programme will commence towards the end of April with the dressing of around 3.3 million square metres of carriageway which equates to just over 400 miles of roads to be treated.
- 1.10 Work is also due to start a programme of carriageway recycling which will incorporate the use of 5500 tonnes of tar bound planings resulting in a saving of £750,000 in disposal costs. We have now obtained licenses from

the Environment Agency for increased storage of materials in Barrowby and Claxby.

Professional Services Contract

- 1.11 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.
- 1.12 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 a section of 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.
- 1.12 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 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

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Lincolnshire Highways Alliance Performance Report Year 5 Quarter 3: October 2014 to December 2014

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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