

Oldham Carriageway Preventative Maintenance Framework

Officer Contact:

Emma Barton – Deputy Chief Executive (Place)

Report Author:

Nasir Dad – Director of Environment

Gordon Anderson – Assistant Director of Highways & Engineering

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Reason for Decision

To award the Oldham Carriageway Preventative Maintenance Framework to Road Maintenance Services (RMS) Ltd as a mechanism for delivery of the highway capital maintenance programmes across the borough of Oldham to a value not exceeding £3m.

Recommendations

Cabinet are asked to note the compliant procurement activity undertaken, and to approve the award the Oldham Carriageway Preventative Maintenance Framework as set out in the report, and to approve the delegation of subsequent call off orders via the following delegated approval process:

- The Director of Environment in consultation with the Portfolio Holder to award the individual call off contracts for the separate works packages under the Oldham Carriageway Preventative Maintenance contract.
- The Director of Legal Services to affix the Council's seal to the Oldham Carriageway Preventative Maintenance contract, any incidental and ancillary documentation, and to individual call off contracts under the Oldham Carriageway Preventative Maintenance contract.
- The Assistant Director of Highways & Engineering to award low value call off orders (<£50k) in line with standard delegated financial approval limits and in consultation with the Director of Environment, Portfolio Holder and Finance Officer.

Oldham Carriageway Preventative Maintenance Framework

1 Background

- 1.1 The key objectives of awarding the Oldham Carriageway Preventative Maintenance Framework are to facilitate preventative highway works and maintenance on the adopted Highway Network, to pro-actively improve the condition of the highway network for road users
- 1.2 The enhanced delivery of preventative maintenance on the adopted highway network will be undertaken in line with latest guidance and information circulated by the Department for Transport (DfT), to ensure continued compliance with DfT guidance and transparency reporting requirements.
- 1.3 At this time, it is considered necessary to seek a new framework to contract the delivery of specialised preventative maintenance schemes as part of the transport capital programme. The previous framework has ended, and this replacement framework will see the approval of a contractor for the delivery of preventative maintenance schemes through to 2030/2031.

2 Current Position

- 2.1 To ensure continued delivery of preventative maintenance schemes within Oldham, a spot tender exercise was carried out during 2025/26, in readiness for delivery starting in July 2026.
- 2.2 The awarding of preventative maintenance works packages funded by the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) to a single contractor is the preferred method to ensure delivery windows and programmes targets can be achieved.
- 2.3 It is expected that the benefits will provide the Highways & Engineering team with the necessary delivery capability to ensure continuous delivery of preventative maintenance programmes, and adherence to the latest Department for Transport (DfT) guidance and transparency reporting requirements.
- 2.4 The procurement exercise was undertaken with the Council receiving 3 bids for the Oldham Carriageway Preventative Maintenance Framework. Through evaluation and further clarifications from the bidders, it was confirmed that 2 of the 3 bids were non-compliant as they were unable to provide specific materials requested as part of the tender process. As such, 1 compliant bid was received, and evaluated from Road Maintenance Services (RMS) Ltd.

3 Options/Alternatives

- 3.1 Option 1 – Award the Oldham Carriageway Preventative Maintenance Framework to Road Maintenance Services (RMS) Ltd and subsequent Delegated Approvals process
- 3.2 Option 2 – Do not award the Oldham Carriageway Preventative Maintenance Framework to Road Maintenance Services (RMS) Ltd and subsequent Delegated Approvals process, however there will be significant implications for the borough's roads and by association Oldham's residents and communities. There would also be the risk of claw back on the grant allocations as the works would not be delivered within the predetermined timescales.

4 Preferred Option

4.1 Award the Oldham Carriageway Preventative Maintenance Framework and subsequent Call Off orders via the following Delegated Approval process:

- The Director of Environment in consultation with the Portfolio Holder to award the individual call off contracts for the separate works packages under the Oldham Carriageway Preventative Maintenance contract.
- The Director of Legal Services to affix the Council's seal to the Oldham Carriageway Preventative Maintenance contract, any incidental and ancillary documentation, and to individual call off contracts under the Oldham Carriageway Preventative Maintenance contract.
- The AD of Highways & Engineering to award low value Call Off orders (<£50k) in line with Head of Service financial approval limits and in consultation with the Director of Environment, Portfolio Holder and Finance Officer.

5 Consultation

5.1 Consultation will take place with ward members and residents / businesses once the programme is approved, to ensure awareness ahead of the works taking place.

6 Financial Implications

6.1 The costs associated with the award of the Oldham Carriageway Preventative Maintenance Framework will need to be closely monitored to ensure that the individual schemes can be delivered within the overall budget allocation. Individual appointments will be detailed in separate reports once they have been determined.

Leonnice Wharton-Brown, Senior Accountant Finance

7 Legal Implications

7.1 I agree the proposal is lawful and compliant with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. I am satisfied the Council was able to rely on section 56(6) Procurement Act 2023 in stipulating that bidders demonstrate the requisite relevant certification.

Bryan Boese – Solicitor, Legal Services

8. Procurement Implications

8.1 This was an open advertised tender, and the Council received three bids for this opportunity. A round of clarification questions was asked via the Chest requesting the bidders to provide evidence of certification over HAPAS approval for the surface dressing material. Within the pricing document, this was concerning the material most widely used in the borough being item number 700/0090. Two of the three bidders were unable to provide the required certification. Because the suppliers claimed, 'equivalent performance' and to negate the issue with bidder complaints, this concern was raised with Council legal department. The advice came back with regard to technical specifications, section 56(6) of the Procurement Act 2023 states that;

A contracting authority may require certification, or other evidence, for the purpose of satisfying itself that a standard is satisfied or equivalent.

In the view of Legal, in requiring a HAPAS certification it appears the Council is acting proportionately and reasonably as HAPAS is well established in the industry.

Darren Judge, Procurement Team

9 Equality Impact, including implications for Children and Young People

9.1 N/A

10 Key Decision

10.1 Yes

11 Key Decision Reference

11.1 NEI-05-26

12 Background Papers

12.1 None

13 Appendices

13.1 None