

Cabinet – 17 April 2024

Supply of Hired Compact Sweeper Contract

Portfolio: Councillor Murphy – Street Pride

Related portfolios: None

Service: Highways, Transport & Operations – Place & Environment

Wards: All

Key decision: Yes

Forward plan: Yes

1. Aim

- 1.1. By 2040 Walsall will be a borough known for having vibrant clean towns with quality green spaces that residents and visitors enjoy.

2. Summary

- 2.1. The council utilise compact sweepers to deliver the street cleansing function. Compact sweepers can be difficult to service, maintain and repair creating a risk of significant down time. The hire contract mitigates the risk of a full complement of sweepers not being available for front-line service delivery.
- 2.2. The current provider supplies six sweepers to the council through The Procurement Partnership Ltd framework. A spare sweeper is included in the contract so that service continuity is maintained in the event of a breakdown, accident, or servicing.
- 2.3. The contract was awarded for five years from 18 November 2019 to 17 November 2024 with no options for extensions.
- 2.4. This is a key decision due to the financial value of the contract.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 That, following consideration of the confidential report in the private part of the agenda, Cabinet approve the award of a contract from 18 November 2024 to 17 November 2027 to Dawsongroup with an anticipated value of £698,400 for the supply of compact sweepers.
- 3.2 That Cabinet delegate authority to the Director of Place & Environment, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Street Pride, to subsequently authorise the sealing or signing of any associated contracts, or related documents.

3.3 That Cabinet delegate authority to the Director of Place & Environment to authorise any variations to the contractual arrangements or other related documents for such services should this be required throughout the duration of the term of any contracts and provided they are in line with the council's Contract Rules and any relevant legislation, including the Procurement Act 2023.

4. Report detail - know

Context

- 4.1. The council has a statutory duty under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to keep relevant highways for which it is responsible, clean and clear of litter and refuse. In discharging this duty, the council follows the guidelines identified in the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse which sets out rectification times where cleanliness has fallen below the acceptable level.
- 4.2. The council also has a statutory duty to keep land clean for which it has a direct responsibility to maintain (e.g. council car parks and open spaces). The standards of cleansing and rectification times for such areas are similar to those of the relevant public highways in the vicinity.
- 4.3. The council does not have a responsibility to clean private land.
- 4.4. Compact sweepers are difficult to service, maintain and repair. The reliable service life is approximately three years, after which they become more and more unreliable.
- 4.5. Demonstrations of available sweepers have led to two different models being chosen and specified. The Bucher CX202 and Schmidt Swingo 200+ were specified in a mini competition to source suppliers.
- 4.6. Pricing was sought for a six-year fixed-price arrangement, with new sweepers at three years (this price will be used in the price evaluation). Alternative pricing was sought for three-, four- and five-year options plus an optional period if the bidders had a more cost effective offer.
- 4.7. A mini-competition was conducted by Halton Housing using their e-tendering portal with a closing date of 12:00 noon on 19 February 2024. Halton Housing received one reply to the mini competition, which was forwarded for the council to evaluate to make sure it was a suitable submission.
- 4.8. The submission was evaluated in accordance Halton Housing criteria that was published in the mini competition with 40% of the evaluation based on price and 60% based on the quality submission. The Quality Criteria were scored using the principles detailed below:

Performance	Judgement	Score
Meets the standard and exceeds the standard in some or all of those aspects.	Excellent	9-10
Meets the standard in all aspects but does not exceed it.	Good	7-8

Performance	Judgement	Score
Meets the standard in the majority of aspects but fails in some.	Satisfactory	5-6
Fails to meet the standards in the majority of aspects but meets in some	Unsatisfactory	3-4
Significantly fails to meet the standard	Poor	1-2
Completely fails to meet the standards	Failed	0

- 4.9. Following the evaluation process, the preferred supplier was found to have submitted a compliant submission with a moderated quality score of 112 out of 140 (48% out of 60% max score).

The three-year price for the Schmidt Swingo model was identified to be the most economically advantageous option.

Council Plan priorities

- 4.10. Procuring the supply of hired compact sweepers will help the council to achieve one of the aims of our Council Plan 2022-2025, namely, to develop a healthier, cleaner, and safer borough that is welcoming, safe and supportive for all of our residents.

Risk management

- 4.11. There is a significant risk of deterioration to the cleanliness of the borough without the use of compact sweepers. Their low weight and superior manoeuvrability are ideal for use in confined spaces, pavements, slabbed surfaces and pedestrian areas, as well as residential streets.
- 4.12. To mitigate the risk, the replacement of the existing five compact sweepers is required. If you reduce the number of sweepers there is a further risk to the cleanliness of the borough.

Financial implications

- 4.13. The total contract value is £698,400.
- 4.14. The new contract is a price increase of £75,589 per annum, £28,345 in 2024/25 and full amount in 2025/26 onwards. This gives a pressure of £5,500 each year for the next 3 years which will be funded within the existing revenue budget and there will be no further inflation until the contract ends in November 2027.

Legal implications

- 4.15. Halton Housing Framework will form the basis for the contract terms and conditions.

Procurement Implications/Social Value

- 4.16. The mini competition was undertaken via the Halton Housing framework for the contract hire of vehicles [Lot 2, Contract Hire of Specialist Vehicles and

Commercial Vehicles Exceeding 5,000 kg GVW] which is a framework that was tendered in compliance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and that Walsall Council are entitled to utilise.

Property implications

- 4.17. There are no property implications.

Health and wellbeing implications

- 4.18. The new contract would support the Health and Wellbeing Strategy with a clean and well-maintained local environment.

Reducing Inequalities

- 4.19. There are no direct ways for reducing inequalities for Walsall citizens with this report.

Staffing implications

- 4.20. There are no staffing implications.

Climate Impact

- 4.21. The sweepers have the latest Euro 6 engine - with diesel particulate filter, SCR and water heated AdBlue system.
- 4.22. There is insufficient reserve electrical power at the Environmental Depot to consider electric sweepers for this contract at the present time.

Consultation

- 4.23. There have been no external stakeholders identified for consultation.

5. Decide

- 5.1. There are three options for consideration:
- 5.2. Option 1: Do Nothing - If no further action is taken, the contract will expire the council will operate a reduced number of sweepers. This will result in a reduction in sweeping frequencies to quarterly and a deterioration of borough cleanliness.
- 5.3. Option 2: Contract Award [Recommended] - If the contract is awarded, the current service standard, level of service resilience and apportionment of risk will be maintained.
- 5.4. Option 3: Capital Purchase - If the council purchase compact sweepers service provision will, in theory, remain largely unchanged. However, as set out in this report, this is considered to be a higher risk approach due to known maintenance issues.

6. Respond

- 6.1. If Cabinet approve the proposed contract award, mobilisation prior to implementation in November 2024 will commence.

7. Review

- 7.1. Fleet Services carry out routine contract monitoring on a weekly basis. Formal six-monthly reviews take place to assess financial and operational performance over the life of the contract.

8. Appendices

- 8.1. None

9. Background papers

- 9.1. None

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9 April 2024



Councillor Murphy
Portfolio Holder

9 April 2024