

REF XX

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) for Policies, Procedures and Services

Proposal name	Highways & Infrastructure Services Contract		
Directorate	Economy & Environment		
Service	Planning, Engineering and Transportation		
Responsible Officer	Steve Pretty		
EqIA Author	Dean Sargeant		
Proposal planning start	1 April 2019	Proposal start date (due or actual)	31 March 2025
1	What is the purpose of the proposal?	Yes / No	New / revision
	Policy		
	Procedure		
	Internal service		
	External Service	Yes	New
	Other - give details		
2	What are the intended outcomes, reasons for change? (The business case)		



The Council holds responsibility for the maintenance of some 856Km (532 miles) of road networks excluding the M6 and A5 trunk road. This network and associated assets has a replacement value of over £1.4billion.

Maintaining a healthy and efficient highway network and improving transport links supports the Council's vision as outlined in the Corporate Plan 2018 – 2021.

The current highway maintenance contract, with Tarmac Trading Limited, ends on 31 March 2019 following a successful 9 year contract period. In July 2016 Cabinet gave authority to pursue the tendering of the new contract and the Invitation to Tender (ITT) was published on 17 August 2018. Cabinet is being asked to appoint the preferred bidder following an open tender procurement process; the new Highways and Infrastructure Services Contract (HISC), subject to approval, will commence on 1 April 2019 and be valid for a period of 6 years with options to extend for a further two periods of two years depending on performance.

The Highways and Infrastructure Services Contract will deliver all highway maintenance activities including reactive, planned and winter service (gritting). In addition, the proposed service provider will be able to deliver infrastructure projects such as public realm and bridge replacement/maintenance. Furthermore, the contract will allow delivery of infrastructure works associated with other Council functions including schools, leisure and regeneration. During the life of the contract, it is the intention to deliver third party infrastructure works through the contract such as those completed under Section 38/278 Agreements.

Procurement has been carried out in accordance compliance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 Policy and the Council's Contract Rules.

As well as highway maintenance and new schemes delivery, social value is an integral part of this contract and will seek to deliver on social value commitments made at tender submission stage through contract performance monitoring. In accordance with procurement guidelines, the evaluation has included the assessment of social value commitments including employment and volunteering opportunities as part of its delivery to Walsall.

The approach taken to incorporating social value into the contract allowed the supply chain to demonstrate their social value commitments in accordance with the Corporate Priorities and Social Value Policy. This allowed tenderers to provide innovative approaches in delivering social value with each commitment made at tender stage monitored as part of the contract performance regime.

During the contract period the social value commitments made by the preferred bidder, as outlined in section 8 of this report, will be tested against the Marmot objectives to ensure that they support the Council in its statutory duty to promote health and wellbeing.

The responsibility for maintaining the highway is a statutory duty of the Council; the ability to do this provides health and wellbeing benefits in two ways:

- It contributes directly to the potential risk of accidents and injury; and
- The economic wellbeing of an area and its relative employment rates has clear health

impacts.

A smooth and efficient highway network is a recognised essential contributor to a region's economy.

3 Who is the proposal potential likely to affect?		
People in Walsall	Yes / No	Detail
All	Y	All residents within the borough and those that use the highway
Specific group/s	Y	Residents and businesses who currently use the highway
Council employees	Y	Officers using the highway to travel to work and for work related business
Other	N	

4 Evidence, engagement and consultation (including from area partnerships, where relevant)

4.1	<p>Evidence</p> <p>Legal</p> <p>The responsibility for maintaining the highway is a statutory duty of the Council; the new contract will assist the Council in this role.</p> <p>Effective highway maintenance plays an important part in the allocation of funding from government. Currently the Council is place in the highest band for aspects of funding.</p> <p>Environmental</p> <p>Opportunity for highway recycling operations will be included in the new contract; such options include re-use of bituminous and non-bituminous material as well as gully arisings. The new contract will look to employ the use of electric vehicles and associated infrastructure to continue to air quality improvements.</p> <p>Other facilities</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Engagement and Consultation</p> <p>In developing, assessing and evaluating the tender documentation input has been sought from Finance, Legal, Fleet, Procurement, Risk & Insurance and Information Governance. Given the commercial nature of the contract, no external consultation has taken place.</p>
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	Type	Meeting and discussion	Date	On-going
	Audience	Portfolio Holder		
	Protected characteristics	N/A		
	Feedback	Regular updates to the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration has taken place during procurement.		
4.2	Concise summary of evidence, engagement and consultation (including from area partnerships, where relevant)			
	TBC			
5	How may the proposal affect each protected characteristic or group? The effect may be positive, negative or neutral.			
	Characteristic	Effect	Reason	Action needed Y or N
	Age	Neutral	No adverse impact has been identified	N
	Disability	Neutral	No adverse impact has been identified	N
	Gender reassignment	Neutral	No adverse impact has been identified	N
	Marriage and civil partnership	Neutral	No adverse impact has been identified	N
	Pregnancy and maternity	Neutral	No adverse impact has been identified	N
	Race	Neutral	No adverse impact has been identified	N
	Religion or belief	Neutral	No adverse impact has been identified	N
	Sex	Neutral	No adverse impact has been identified	N
	Sexual orientation	Neutral	No adverse impact has been identified	N
	Other (give detail)	N/A		

	Further information	
6	Does your proposal link with other proposals to have a cumulative affect on particular equality groups? If yes, give details below.	(Delete one) No
	No	
7	Which justifiable action does the evidence, engagement and consultation suggest you take?(Bold which one applies)	
	A	No major change required
	B	Adjustments needed to remove barriers or to better promote equality
	C	Continue despite possible adverse impact
	D	Stop and rethink your proposal

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Action and monitoring plan

Action Date	Action	Responsibility	Outcome Date	Outcome
November 2018	Initial EQIA developed	Dean Sargeant	TBC	

Update to EqIA

Date	Detail