

REPORT TO: Executive Board Sub-Committee

DATE: 1st April 2011

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Environment and Economy

SUBJECT: Highway Condition Survey Data Collection

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To seek approval to continue with the current Data Collection & Bureau Consultancy Services contract with Jacobs Babtie Ltd for a further period of twelve months.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That approval is granted to continue with the current Data Collection & Bureau Consultancy Services contract with Jacobs Babtie Ltd for a further twelve months to 31st March 2012.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 On 3rd April 2006, Executive Board Sub Committee approval was granted to adopt the web based United Kingdom Pavement Management System (UKPMS) technology for the management of road condition data and its corresponding performance indicators using the Bureau Consultancy Services supplied by Jacobs Babtie Ltd. This Bureau Service utilises web-based UKPMS technology.

3.2 The Bureau Service provided involves data collection using accredited equipment with UKPMS accredited personnel. This data is then analysed by UKPMS accredited personnel to produce the statutory required data and provide it to the Department for Transport.

3.3 Approval was given on the basis that the partnership would be for an initial 5 years, and that it would be reviewed on expiry. It was identified that as a consequence of investment in long term road condition surveys, subject to satisfactory performance, there would be substantial benefit in a longer term relationship.

3.4 To date, performance levels for Jacobs Babtie Ltd have been more than satisfactory, and they have a long standing in depth knowledge of our highway network. The investment and training in the use of the web-based technology indicates that there would be substantial benefit in continuing this long term relationship for a further 12 months.

3.5 Initial approval was given in light of the fact that there is a very limited market for provision of these technical products.

- 3.6 Halton do not have a member of staff within The Bridge & Highway Maintenance Division who has the required skill set and is UKPMS accredited. Without this skill set and accreditation, we are unable to fulfil the statutory requirement to provide UKPMS compliant data to the Department for Transport.
- 3.7 Therefore, Halton BC relies on the Bureau Service provided by Jacobs Babbie Ltd to meet our statutory requirements and for the production of our National Indicators and base data for work programmes.
- 3.8 The fee paid by HBC to Jacobs Babbie for the 2010/11 period was £70,724.20. We have had written confirmation that the fee for 2011/12 would be £70,250.00, realising a £474 saving for the period.
- 3.9 There are two other known providers for data collection, WDM Ltd and Yotta. DCL. At present, neither of these companies is able to provide a Bureau Service capable of meeting HBC requirements.
- 3.10 Discussions have been held with The Council's Procurement Centre of Excellence (CoE), with a view to carrying out a procurement exercise in April 2011 to identify alternative methods of procuring our requirements under UKPMS for 2012/13 and beyond.
- 3.11 One such alternative is a joint framework contract currently being procured by our Cheshire & Merseyside partners. This framework (using the data collection services of Yotta DCL and WDM Ltd) is currently in its infancy and not yet at a stage where it would meet HBC requirements in time for the 2011/12 survey period. It has, however, been set up in such a way as to allow our entry into the framework at any time to suit ourselves.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The continuing use of the Jacobs Babbie Bureau Service will allow us to meet the statutory requirement to provide UKPMS compliant data.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

No implications.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

No implications

6.3 A Healthy Halton

No implications.

6.4 A Safer Halton

No implications.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

No implications.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 7.1 Should the recommendation to continue using the Jacobs Babbie Bureau Service for 12 months not be approved, the Council's ability to meet its statutory requirements in relation to UKPMS would be severely impaired. This would be to the detriment of service delivery.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

There are no issues relating to equality or diversity.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Executive Board Sub-Committee – 3rd April 2006, Item ES171.