

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 10th July 2025

REPORTING OFFICER: Executive Director Environment and Regeneration

PORTFOLIO: Environment and Urban Renewal

SUBJECT: Procurement of Services for Capital Funded Highway Improvement Schemes

WARD(S) Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval to proceed with the procurement of services for the delivery of capital funded highway improvements across the Borough. The existing contract will expire on 5 August 2026.
- 1.2 The current contract is held by Lambros Ltd, a local company, who have delivered schemes such as the successive Active Travel Fund cycleway schemes along the Busway and other elements of the Local Cycling and Walking Improvement Plan. The contract is utilised when lower value capital improvements are undertaken on the highway network, for example new sections of footpath. Higher value schemes undergo a separate and bespoke procurement process.
- 1.3 This contract differs to the Highway Term Maintenance Contract that has been jointly procured with Warrington BC, and is held by Tarmac which covers the repair and restoration of the existing highway network which is funded from the City Region Sustainable Travel Settlement Grant alongside Revenue Budgets

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That The Board approve a procurement process to secure a delivery contractor for capital funded highway improvement works.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 It is proposed that the new tender is set up for a 3-year period with an option to award a one-year extension. This is in line with current capital funding arrangements through the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA). The anticipated tender date is October 2025 with a commencement date being 6th August 2026.
- 3.2 Based on current funding via LCRCA, it is anticipated that the

annual value of the contracts in total is likely to be in the region of £2.0m thus making the value of a four year contract in the order £8.0m. This figure is above the Procurement Act 2023 and Public Contract Regs 2024 threshold value and will be tendered accordingly. The open procedure will be used whereby expressions of interest are first obtained and then assessed.

3.3 The Council will comply with its duties under the Procurement Act 2023 for contracts exceeding £5 million including VAT by setting and publishing three KPIs in the public domain. At least once in every twelve month period during the lifetime of the contract and on termination, the Council will assess the supplier's performance against those KPIs and publish certain information in relation to that assessment in the public domain.

3.4 The tender submissions will be evaluated on both price and quality; this being on a 40% price, 60% quality ratio and the most economically advantageous tender will be reported to this Board.

3.5 The cost of the works delivered through this contract will be met from approved budget allocations for capital funding received via LCRCAs grants themselves from the Department for Transport.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The method of procurement conforms to the Council's procurement policy. The tender process will be carried out in conjunction with the Procurement Centre of Excellence, using 'The Chest' procurement portal.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The above contract will ensure that we continue to deliver capital funding in a cost effective manner ensuring the Highway Authority fulfils its capital funding obligations statutory duties.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence

Improved sustainable links provides residents with opportunities to walk and cycle and hence live healthier lifestyles.

6.2 Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy

Providing improved network links to employment areas and investing in the public realm will improve the attractiveness of the borough, thereby making Halton a desirable location for investors and those who may wish to live here.

6.3 Supporting Children, Young People and Families

None identified.

- 6.4 Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need**
Constructing cycle routes helps those with least financial support to actively travel.

- 6.5 Working Towards a Greener Future**
Cycle routes and cycling when taken as an alternative to combustion engine travel reduce pollution contributing to improvements in air quality.

- 6.6 Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community**
None identified.

7.0 Risk Analysis

- 7.1 Failure to procure a replacement contract would mean that the delivery of Highway capital funded projects would be delayed, leading to decreased opportunities to secure future funding.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 8.1 None identified.

9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Whilst construction works are generally carbon intensive, this can be reduced through careful selection of materials, such as warm asphalt rather than hot which reduces the heat used in production, ensuring durable products are used which have a longer lifespan for similar carbon investment and bitumens more resistant to warmer climates are used compared to traditional specifications.

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

‘None under the meaning of the Act.’