

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	To award a contract to Bruton Knowles to undertake the land access agreements in relation to works required as part of the Annual Plan until 31 st May 2026 from the CSS Framework
Date of decision:	10 th July 2024
Decision maker:	Corporate Director, Economy and Environment
Authority for delegated decision:	Economy and Environment Scheme of Delegation, updated 13/10/2023, Highways and Transport section, line 75: To act on behalf of the council in respect of the legislation specified in the Highways Act 1980
Ward:	Countywide
Consultation:	Consultation with finance and legal services has been undertaken on this decision.
Decision made:	To direct award a contract to Bruton Knowles for the provision of all land access services in relation to the annual plan work undertaken by Balfour Beatty Living Places up to a value of £60k
Reasons for decision:	<p>Within the programme of capital investment works in the 2024/25 and will form part of the 2025/2026 annual plan there are a number of projects that require licence agreements and easements to deliver the construction works. There is currently insufficient internal resource available within Property Services department to support this programme of works and therefore external technical support is required.</p> <p>This is a direct award from the CSS Framework up to the value of £60k for the professional fees we would commission to support land negotiations / land access and easement preparation to ensure continuity of the annual plan delivery within this and the next financial year.</p> <p>Currently costs are being accounted for on a per job basis up to the value which is in accordance with the council procurement rules.</p> <p>A number of these projects include within specific time frames and it is therefore essential that an agent is commissioned to ensure works are delivered in line with programme.</p> <p>The direct award ensures continuity of service and the contract term coincides with the current BBLP contract that is due to end on 31st May 2026.</p>
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	<p>If no land access arrangements are in place, there is a risk that BBLP will not be able to deliver these elements of the annual plan within this financial year. This could result in up to £2m worth of schemes not being delivered in year and abortive costs for the preparatory work for delivery in this financial year.</p> <p>The cost of these fees will be funded from the capital budgets related to the highways asset management and the pothole and challenge funds. The project manager is supportive of this proposal.</p>
Details of any alternative options	Not to appoint an agent. This is not an option as there is no council in house resource available to deliver the requirements for the schemes.

considered and rejected:	BBLP appoint an agent. This was considered, but this still requires council resource to evaluate any compensation claims and would not resolve the internal resource pressure or expedite the delivery of these schemes.
Details of any declarations of interest made:	None

Signed..... Date: 8th August 2024

Name: Ross Cook

Job title: Corporate Director, Economy and Environment