



Title of report: Procurement of a professional services supplier to support Highways & Infrastructure

Meeting: Cabinet

Meeting date: Thursday 1 May 2025

Cabinet member: Councillor Price, transport and infrastructure

Report by: Corporate director, economy and environment

Report author: Infrastructure Deliver Director

Supplement to report to include PGC comments

Consultees

Political Groups Consultation 7th April 2025

The consultation was attended by 16 councillors from across the Conservative Party, Green Party, Independents for Herefordshire and Liberal Democrats groups. The following discussion/feedback was noted:

- Positive support for the proposal.
 - Members sought assurance on how the contract would be managed and how we stop staff from relying on professional services support too much and forgetting to look at what can be done in-house
 - It was suggested that the cabinet paper should also include a reference to the importance of the professional services provider being independent from the public realm contract provider which would give a better check and balance approach.
 - There was support for having a governance board that would ensure quality of delivery from the professional services provider
 - Members felt that the Cabinet Paper should also highlight the new arrangement would be flexible with no guarantee of spend through the contract, but leaving officers open to using other providers.
 - Members also wanted to know if there had been engagement with neighbouring authorities to see if there were any economies of scale for joined up procurement or working arrangements. Officers commented that this had been explored with Gloucestershire and Shropshire but both are currently in long term professional services contracts and there would unlikely be any reduction in rates as rates are fairly standard across the industry.
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