

### Record of operational decision

<b>Decision title:</b>	Procurement of a professional services supplier to support Highways and Infrastructure
<b>Date of decision:</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> December 2025
<b>Decision maker:</b>	Corporate Director Economy & Environment
<b>Authority for delegated decision:</b>	<p>The cabinet decision dated 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025 to procure a professional services partner to support the new public realm services model and the wider highways, transport, infrastructure, ecology, environment and economic development teams.</p> <p>b) Cabinet delegates authority to the Corporate Director Economy and Environment to undertake the procurement and award of contract of a professional services partner.</p> <p>Full details of the decision taken can be seen at the following link:</p>
<b>Ward:</b>	All wards
<b>Consultation:</b>	<p>Consultation for this decision has taken place with the Council's Finance, Commercial and Procurement teams and the Cabinet Member Economy and Environment.</p> <p>This procurement was conducted in line with the above threshold process as set out in the council's Contracts Procedure Rules.</p>
<b>Decision made:</b>	To award the professional services contract to AtkinsRéalis following the competitive open tender procedure.
<b>Reasons for decision:</b>	<p>Following confirmation of the evaluators' scores and completion of the due diligence checks, the evaluation panel recommend that AtkinsRéalis Limited is awarded a contract to deliver Professional Services Contractor to support Highways and Infrastructure.</p> <p>A full evaluation report has been completed and signed off by the Infrastructure Delivery Director.</p>
<b>Equality Considerations</b>	<p>Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:</p> <p>A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to –</p>

	<p>a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;</p> <p>b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;</p> <p>c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.</p> <p>The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying ‘due regard’ in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services.</p> <p>There are no specific equality implications of this decision however, the appointed provider will be made aware of their contractual requirements with regards to equality legislation so that equality concerns are considered during individual pieces of partnership work.</p>
<p><b>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</b></p>	<p>Due diligence checks were then undertaken on the highest ranked tenderer. This included a search on the government’s Companies House database, an assessment of the completed financial workbook, a recent credit report on the organisation, a recent assessment of fraud. The results of the due diligence checks did not identify any issues with the highest ranked tenderer.</p> <p><u>Financial Implications</u> Procurement of this contract does not commit the council to any spending. Spending on professional services through this contract will be on a case by case basis in support of a specific project or scheme development work and the source of funding from grant, approved revenue budget or capital programme will be confirmed before spend is committed.</p> <p>The contract term is 5 years (+ 5 years extension option) with estimated/ potential spend is between £2.5m to £5m per year, but this could increase if the bypass work is picked up through this contract bringing it to between £5m and £8m per year. With a 10-year potential term, this would put the value at over £80m excluding VAT (This value is not a guaranteed level of spend but this demonstrates the potential). The contract will be operated under the NEC4 Contract arrangements.</p> <p><u>Legal Implications</u> All aspects of contract, land and procurement processes have been supported by HC Legal.</p>
<p><b>Details of any alternative options</b></p>	<p>To reject this procurement result and to not secure a partner professional services. This is not recommended. To rely on one-off and spot tenders for</p>

<b>considered and rejected:</b>	professional services support could jeopardise the timely delivery of highway services as well as the development and delivery of key infrastructure projects. A framework with multiple suppliers is also not appropriate as the council already have access to frameworks, but these do not deliver the partnership relationship the council desires.
<b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b>	None

Signed.......... Date: