

Agenda Item No. 7(s)

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

20 September 2016

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Communities

DRIVERS FOR WINTER MAINTENANCE (HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE)

(1) **Purpose of Report** To seek Cabinet approval to establish a Council framework for the engagement of agency drivers to assist in the provision of a winter maintenance service across Derbyshire.

(2) **Information and Analysis** The Council currently operates 27 Primary precautionary salting routes and 22 Secondary precautionary salting routes countywide, in accordance with the Winter Service Plan. The routes are operated from six locations within the County by 'ALLRoads' drivers, generally working a weekend plus the afternoons of the following week and morning standby rotas. In line with both Driver Regulations and the Working Time Directive, there is a three person system in place to ensure adequate rest breaks for all winter maintenance drivers.

The Department is actively seeking sufficient volunteers to assist in the implementation of precautionary salting and is conscious of the existing contractual requirement for employees to participate in out of hours activities, an issue which is being addressed with employees and the Trade Unions. However, it is anticipated that up to a further 20 drivers may be needed to meet requirements, including some to cover in times of absences. This figure as it is an increase on the additional 12 additional drivers needed last year.

A framework agreement is now proposed to enable agency drivers to be engaged when required. Appointments would be made from the framework on the basis that the agency drivers, who are engaged via these arrangements, would be available to undertake winter maintenance duties outside normal working hours.

A procurement exercise has been undertaken to establish the proposed framework. This was advertised on the Source Derbyshire website and in the Official Journal of the European Journal (OJEU) on 22 June 2016. The OJEU notice stated that the framework agreement would be awarded to up to a maximum of six bidders.

The procurement exercise split the County into six Lot areas:-

- Lot 1 – Chapel Depot
- Lot 2 – Stonegravels Depot
- Lot 3 – Ryder Point
- Lot 4 – Willington Depot
- Lot 5 – Cotes Park
- Lot 6 – Risley

Ten expressions of interest in the framework led to the submission of four tenders.

Following evaluation of the bids, all four bidders met the Council's criteria. The table below shows the recommended award of the lots. The framework will be in place for a period of five months to commence 1 November 2016.

Company	No. of Drivers	Lots Awarded
Joule Brady Ltd	7	1, 2, 3
Peter Byard Plant Hire Ltd	2	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Wheelplant Ltd	10	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Barry Wood Plant Hire	3	1, 3

(3) **Financial Considerations** It is not possible to provide an exact figure for the amount of expenditure against this framework as the cost is entirely dependent on the weather which dictates the number of times the Council undertakes precautionary salting. However, based on an average winter, it could be in the region of £155,000. This figure would be higher if the winter was particularly bad and if snow clearing operations were also required. These costs will be met from the Winter Maintenance budget.

(4) **Social Value Considerations** The four acceptable bidders will be supplying drivers if required, sourcing their employment from the local area in line with the depots identified in the six Lot areas. This takes into account the importance and ability to respond rapidly to action for precautionary salting or snow event.

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health, property, and transport considerations.

(5) **Key Decision** No.

(6) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(7) **Background Papers** Held on file within the Economy, Transport and Communities Department. Officer Contact details – Chris Allwood, extension 38582.

(8) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION** That Cabinet approves the award of a framework for the engagement of agency drivers/drivers mates to provide a winter maintenance service, as detailed in the report, for a period of five months to commence 1 November 2016.

Mike Ashworth
Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Communities