

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEETING

6 May 2014

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

**URGENT REPAIRS TO ROADS AND FOOTWAYS (JOBS,
ECONOMY AND TRANSPORT)**

(1) **Purpose of the Report** To seek approval for extend the hire of specialist machinery to repair potholes.

(2) **Information and Analysis** Derbyshire County Council has been awarded almost £3 million from central Government under the Severe Weather Recovery Scheme. This funding provides an opportunity to continue the increased effort currently being carried out to repair potholes and other highway assets effected by the severe weather conditions.

At the meeting on 25 March 2014, the Cabinet Member – Jobs, Economy and Transport approved expenditure to increase resources to repair potholes (Minute No. 58/14 refers). As part of that approval, the hiring of specialist machinery, known as a Jetpatcher/Velocity Patcher, was agreed up to a maximum value of £100,000.

This is a specialist machine which uses a high velocity air stream to both clear any existing holes of debris and water if present and to both lay and compact material. The JetPatcher can work in all environments to produce a permanent first time repair. The JetPatcher machine has previously been used to good effect to deal with similar situations back in Spring 2013.

The Jetpatcher and similar machinery are highly effective in undertaking permanent repairs to potholes. The award of funding from the Government's Severe Weather Recovery Scheme provides an opportunity to continue with the hire of such machines to enable first time permanent repairs. Cabinet is therefore requested to approve the extension of the current hire of these machines to be funded from part of the award. It is estimated that the cost of the machine hire will not exceed £500,000. How the remaining funding will be utilised will be subject to a further report to the Cabinet Member Meeting – Jobs, Economy and Transport.

Public

Only two companies have been found which are able to provide the Jetpatcher/Velocity Patcher service and it is therefore not possible to seek competitive tenders for the supply of this machinery. Cabinet is therefore requested to waive Standing Orders in relation to contracts to enable the existing contracts to be extended for approximately 10 weeks.

(3) **Financial Considerations** As detailed in the report.

(4) **Legal Considerations** The Council's Standing Orders permit Cabinet to waive the requirement to seek competitive tenders in respect of a proposed contract where there are special circumstances justifying exemption.

The Director of Legal Services has advised that the circumstances set out in this report justify the waiving of Standing Orders to enable an order to be placed for the hire of the JetPatcher machine.

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

(5) **Key Decision** Yes.

(6) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? Yes.

It is considered that the use of external contractors and the use of the Jetpatcher machine is essential and should be effected as soon as possible. In order to achieve this it has been necessary to request Councillor Kath Lauro, Chairman of the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee, Places, to consider waiving the call-in period in respect of this report. Councillor Lauro has agreed that it is reasonable to agree to the request and it to be treated as a matter of urgency in order to ensure that additional repair works to highways can commence as soon as possible.

(7) **Background Papers** Report to the Cabinet Member Meeting – Jobs, Economy and Transport dated 25 March 2014 (Minute No. 58/14 refers). Officer contact details – Neil Hickman, extension 38550.

(8) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That Cabinet:

8.1 Approves the expenditure to be incurred for the continued hire of the Jetpatcher/Velocity Patcher specialist highway repairs machinery to a value of £500,000.

Public

- 8.2 Approves the waiving of Standing Orders in relation to contracts to enable the Jetpatcher/Velocity Patcher machinery to be hired from specialist suppliers for a further 10 weeks.
- 8.3 Notes that the cost of the hire of the machines will be funded from the £2,946,577 allocation under the Severe Weather Recovery Scheme.
- 8.4 Approves that Call-in in respect of the decisions in this report be waived.

Mike Ashworth
Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment