

NORTH EAST JOINT TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

RECORD OF DELEGATED DECISION BY OFFICER

1. Subject of Decision

Devolution Preparation – Professional Services

2. Delegation Reference (Refer to Meeting Minute Number or Delegation Scheme in the Constitution or Decision Notice)

Item 12: Devolution Preparation – Professional Services Decision Notice Joint Transport Committee 20th June 2023

This decision has been delegated to one or more officer(s) under:

(a) A specific express authorisation was given to the Managing Director Transport North East in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer by the Joint Transport Committee on 20.06.2023 to make and enter into appropriate contracts in relation to each project after specified consultation.

(b) a general authorisation to take such decisions **and**, the effect of the decision is to:

(i) grant a permission or licence;

(ii) affect the rights of an individual; or

(iii) award a contract or incur expenditure which, in either case, materially affects the Authority's financial position.

3. Name and Title of Decision Maker

Tobyn Hughes, Managing Director, Transport North East

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4. Details of any Conflict of Interest and any Dispensation granted in respect of such Interest

None

5. Executive Summary

The North East Joint Transport Committee agreed proposals to procure professional services and other support for devolution preparations at their meeting on the 20th June 2023. This Delegated Decision relates to the procurement of professional services to prepare a regional Transport Asset Management Plan to feed into the Business Case required to the unlock capital monies associated with the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS).

6. Decision(s)

6(a) As set out in the 'Recommendations' section of the appended Delegated Decision Report, to award the contact to support the preparation and production of the regional Transport Asset Management Plan (TAMP), to the successful tenderer Atkins.

6(b) If Exempt or Confidential, please provide a reason:

N/A

7. Alternative options considered

No alternative options exist which would enable the production of the Transport Asset Management Plan in the required timescales.

8. Reasons for the Decision(s)

The procurement award will ensure that there is available resource to enable the regional Transport Asset Management Plan to be produced in the required

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timescales and with the appropriate technical expertise, as per the actionable direction of the North East devolution agreement.

9. Contact Officer

Jonathan Bailes
Interim Assistant Director, Funding & Programmes, Transport North East
Jonathan.Bailes@transportnortheast.gov.uk

10. Date of Publication

19 October 2023

11. Date of Call-In Deadline

N/A

12. Implementation Date

18 October 2023

Signature of the Decision-Maker



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North East Combined Authority

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Please return the following to Emma Reynard in Democratic Services (emmareynard@gateshead.gov.uk) **within 2 working days of the decision having been taken.**

- A Word version of the completed Delegated Decision report
- A Word version of the completed Delegated Decision Record
- A scanned PDF version of the completed and signed Delegated Decision Record

The Delegated Decision will be published by Democratic Services within three working days of it being taken, and it will then be open to call-in for a further five working days.

Decisions must not be implemented until the call-in process is completed.

Democratic Services officers will advise report authors and decision makers of the relevant deadlines for call-in.

Transport North East

Procurement Award:

Transport Asset Management Plan

Report by: Andrew Dorrian, Transport North East

Report to: Toby Hughes Managing Director, Transport North East

1. Purpose

- 1.1 TNE in collaboration with local authority partners must prepare for devolution ahead of the formation of that Mayoral Combined Authority through a series of workstreams which arise out of the text of the devolution deal. The North East devolution deal outlines the government's intention to place all local roads maintenance funding under the control of the newly formed Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA), these funds include-Regional Highways Maintenance, Pothole Funding and the Integrated Transport Block (ITB).
- 1.2 Historically, most capital highways maintenance funding, whether for structural or preventive maintenance, has stemmed from a Highways Maintenance grant from the Department for Transport (DfT) and has been paid directly to Local Authorities, with a small proportion of funds being passported to Local Authorities via the North East Combined Authority (NECA).
- 1.3 However, under the MCA model existing arrangements are intended to change, with local roads maintenance funding incorporated into the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS). The Devolution Deal is explicit that:

'CRSTS proposals should include the effective management and maintenance of existing assets and meet existing obligations which the ITB and other funds currently individually address'.

The means by which government expect this requirement to be fulfilled is through the development and delivery of a single asset management plan for the North East road network in its entirety, known as a Transport Asset Management Plan (TAMP).
- 1.4 The overarching objective of this commission will be to: produce a regional TAMP collaboratively with Local Authorities, building upon the seven Local Authorities, which make up the perspective North East Mayoral Combined Authority, existing individual asset management plans. Consolidating these existing plans into a single integrated plan for asset management, demonstrating how the region will utilise the circa £332m of highways maintenance funding included within the CRSTS settlement to March 2027, for integration within the CRSTS Business Case, ahead of the Mayor coming into office in May 2024
- 1.5 This is a significant undertaking and requires additional capacity with appropriate levels of professional and technical expertise to deliver a consolidated single integrated regional plan for Asset Management building on existing constituent local authorities individual plans. This is required to meet the timescales associated with the CRSTS Business Case.
- 1.6 The tasks associated with the production of the TAMP include:

- Setting out a detailed programme of engagement with local authorities.
- Reviewing constituent authorities existing asset management plans and strategies.
- Advising on and consulting with authorities on the best means of achieving a level of consistency in the TAMP narrative.
- Agreeing the level of detail that will be included in the regional TAMP.
- Producing an indicative profile of financial expenditure to be integrated into CRSTS Business Case.
- Consulting extensively and working collaboratively throughout with identified constituent authority leads, making any amends as fit and producing timely and regular briefing documents for key stakeholders.
- Collaboratively producing a draft of a regional TAMP that aggregates existing plans and strategies into a single codified document ready for submission with the CRSTS Business Case by May 2024.
- Identifying longer term potential issues, constraints and opportunities, and facilitating discussion ahead of a competitive regional bid for the next round of CRSTS funding.

1.7 A procurement process has been carried out on behalf of Transport North East by Durham County Council using their procurement contractor Bloom. A competition was undertaken with three returns from suppliers.

1.8 Following tender evaluation and moderation this report seeks approval to award the contract to Atkins, who will undertake to develop the regional TAMP with support from Transport North East.

2. Recommendations

2.1 To grant approval to appoint Atkins to lead on this commission. The value of the contract is £148,000.

3. Background

3.1 Transport North East (TNE) on behalf of the North East Joint Transport Committee (JTC) is working with local authorities to prepare for Devolution which includes the development of a Business Case to access CRSTS funding.

3.2 This commission seeks consultancy support to prepare and deliver a regional Transport Asset Management Plan (TAMP), inclusive of the tasks outlined within the 'purpose' section.

3.5 A budget of £230,000 from TNE resources is available for this activity. A full procurement exercise has been carried out in order to procure a supplier.

3.6 The specification was sent to suppliers via Bloom's NEPRO 3 framework. The tender returns were reviewed on a 70% quality and 30% price basis and eight bids were submitted.

3.7 Following guidance supplied by Durham Procurement evaluation took a two-stage process with independent marking by three evaluators followed by a collective moderation session facilitated by an independent moderator. The tender price of the successful supplier (£148,000), falls within the available budget of £230,000 and offers good value for money.

4. Considerations

- 4.1 Bloom's Procurement Team has carried out this procurement exercise in line with the terms and conditions of their procurement contract with Durham County Council. There are no further considerations to consider.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Officers from Transport North East and delivery partners were involved in the development of both the tender specification and assessing the tender responses. A workshop will be held with partners following the appointment of contractor and liaison thereafter.

6. What happens next

- 6.1 With the approval of the Managing Director, Transport North East, Atkins will be notified of our intention to award the contract and enter into the agreement. A contract will then be prepared and sent to them for signature.

7. Contact Officers and Background Papers

- 7.1 Andrew Dorrian Transport North East Strategy Unit
Andrew.Dorrian@transportnortheast.gov.uk

Approved to proceed to contract:



Managing Director, Transport North East

Date: 18 October 2023