

CABINET

DATE	10 th December 2025
REPORT OF	Councillor Stewart Swinburn – Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Carolina Borgstrom Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure
SUBJECT	Procurement of Professional Services Framework for Capital Works
STATUS	Open
FORWARD PLAN REF NO	CB 10/25/05

The procurement of a Professional Services Framework to support the delivery of capital schemes, will primarily contribute to the Council’s priority of ‘Stronger Economy’ by delivering value for money, engaging the local supply chain with the emphasis on delivering social value and reduction in carbon supporting sustainable communities.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council currently procures professional services for capital works on a project by project basis utilising various routes to market. This report seeks approval for the Council to procure its own a professionals services framework which will be used to call-off professional services for future capital schemes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Approves the procurement of a Professional Services Framework for capital works as set out in this report.
2. Delegates authority to the Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing Infrastructure and Transport to commence and conduct such exercise and thereafter to make such awards and carry out all ancillary matters reasonably arising.
3. Authorises the Assistant Director Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer) to complete all requisite legal documentation in relation to the matters outlined above.

REASONS FOR DECISION

The decision allows the Council to commence the procurement exercise for the Professional Services for Capital Works framework and allows the Council to award the framework.

1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

- 1.1 Currently professional services for capital works are procured on a project by project basis which increases overall project timelines. To address this the Council intends to procure a professional services framework for capital works with the intention that it will support efficiencies across projects as standardisation of quality and outcomes will be made.
- 1.2 The intention is that the framework will support timely identification and appointment of consultants to support various capital development and improvement projects, as well as providing cost efficiencies through competitive pricing.
- 1.3 Development of a Council owned framework will also be saving and cost avoidance from margin chargeable incurred when using regional or national frameworks, which increases overall project delivery cost, when appointment is made on project by project basis.
- 1.4 The intention is that the framework will cover the following professional services:
 - Transport Modelling,
 - Transport Engineering
 - General Consultancy Civils
 - Highways Maintenance Consultant
 - Drainage Consultants
 - SUD Design
 - Renewable Design- Support for bids
 - Structural Engineering
 - Mechanical Engineering
 - Electrical Engineering
 - Asbestos Analytical
 - Project Management JCT
 - Project Management NEC
 - NEC Quantity Surveying
 - JCT Quantity Surveying
 - Architectural Services
 - Building Surveying Services
 - Principal Designer
 - Principal Designer – (BSR)
 - Fire Design Consultant
- 1.5 Preliminary market engagement will be undertaken to engage with the market and inform the development of the invitation to tender and the framework.
- 1.6 A formal invitation to tender and award criteria will be developed, and the procurement will be undertaken in line with the requirements of the Procurement Act 2023, the Council's Contract Procedure Rules, and ensure the framework and resulting call-off contracts represent value for money for the Council.

- 1.7 A project team has been established in readiness to undertake the procurement which consists of officers from the Council's Professional Services team and Procurement. Advice will be sought from Legal Services in relation to development of the terms and conditions and formation of the framework.

2. RISKS, OPPORTUNITIES AND EQUALITY ISSUES

- 2.1 The key risk around failing to deliver a Professional Services Frameworks is that all capital works would need to be tendered on a case-by-case basis. This would be inefficient and potentially result in additional costs for projects through increased administration and also, the opportunity to develop ongoing commercial relationships is limited.
- 2.2 Opportunity - Management of capital project related costs.
- 2.3 Opportunity – Efficiencies across capital projects

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 3.1 Status Quo;
 - 3.1.1 A decision could be made not to implement additional contracting arrangements; however, this may limit opportunities to achieve better value for money through the aggregation of demand which combines purchasing requirements across various departments, resulting in competitive pricing, greater efficiency and stronger negotiating power.
- 3.2 e-Auctions ;
 - 3.2.1 e-Auctions are best suited to commodity contracts. They are also difficult to design for works requirements and therefore this option is not recommended.
- 3.3 Central Purchasing Bodies;
 - 3.3.1 The Council could access Government framework arrangements such as the YORcivils3 Highways and Civil Engineering Framework managed by ERYC for Yorkshire and Humber, YPO (Consultancy and specialist services framework). However, Government frameworks do not necessarily consider local supply chain development and there is an associated cost per project to access the call off arrangements. Therefore, this option is not recommended.

4. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS

Risk of Financial Loss: There is a risk of financial loss/increased costs if the framework agreements are not renewed. Without a formal arrangement the services are unable to manage the market effectively and would be required to undertake individual tenders for each piece of work required, which increases administrative costs.

5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1. Framework agreements are required to be renewed to ensure continued value for money is achieved.
- 5.2. The use of framework agreements has several benefits, including –
 - Reduced administrative burden from running a full procurement procedure each time specific works is required from external contractors.
 - Opportunity to identify suppliers and contractors that meet quality and deliverability criteria.
 - Able to expedite tendering process resulting in cost effective and efficient delivery of works.

6. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IMPLICATIONS

The framework will encourage all consultants that are admitted to become Foster Friendly in line with the Council's foster friendly business scheme .

7. CLIMATE CHANGE, NATURE RECOVERY AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

In accordance to the Public Procurement Note – Taking into account of Carbon reduction Plans in the procurement of major government contracts PPN006 - As part of assessing a supplier's technical and professional ability, contracting authority will have requirement for bidding suppliers to provide a carbon reduction plan, confirming the supplier's commitment to achieving Net Zero by 2050 in the UK, and setting out the environmental management measures that they have in place and which will be in effect and utilised during the performance of the contract. This is subject to each contract value meeting the required threshold as stipulated in the PPN 006.

Procurement Policy Note 006 (Feb 2025): Taking account of Carbon Reduction Plans in the procurement of major government contracts- GOV.UK <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/>

8. CONSULTATION WITH SCRUTINY

There has been no consultation with Scrutiny at this stage

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The procurement of the Professional Services Framework for capital works represents a sound financial approach that supports the Council's statutory duty to secure value for money. The framework will streamline procurement processes, reduce administrative costs, and enable the Council to access competitive pricing and high-quality suppliers. This approach mitigates the financial risks associated with ad hoc tendering and supports robust financial management across capital projects.

The procurement exercise will be conducted in accordance with the Procurement Act 2023 and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules, ensuring compliance and transparency. The framework's structure is designed to facilitate engagement with the local supply chain, supporting both economic and social value objectives. The financial implications have been considered, and the framework is expected to deliver ongoing efficiencies and cost savings for the Council.

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The preliminary market engagement and the procurement exercise are governed by the Procurement Act 2023. The preliminary market engagement activity will enable the specification to be developed, in line with the appropriate contractual documentation. Such activity enables the seeking or accepting of advice from independent experts, authorities or from market participants, providing it does not distort competition nor breach the requirements for non-discrimination and transparency. The contract is the key governing document through which the resulting relationship will be governed and Legal Services will complete the contractual documentation on award.
- 10.2 The procurement of a professional services framework is consistent with the stated aims and objectives of the Council underpinning its strategic objectives of Stronger Economy, Stronger Communities and will drive efficiencies above the current approach.
- 10.3 The exercise will be conducted so as to comply with the Council's policy and legal obligations, specifically in compliance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and the Procurement Act 2023, and supported by relevant officers.
- 10.4 The delegations sought are consistent with an exercise of this nature.

11. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

There are no Human Resources Implications.

12. WARD IMPLICATIONS

This proposal affects all wards.

13. BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are no background papers at this time.

14. CONTACT OFFICER(S)

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