

Report of the Strategic Director of Place to the Meeting of Regeneration & Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee to be held on 25 November 2020.

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SUBJECT:

Bradford Clean Air Plan – Clean Air Zone Infrastructure Procurement

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the intention to undertake a procurement in excess of £2m to supply Automatic Number Plate Cameras and associated network connection infrastructure required for the implementation of a Clean Air Zone in accordance with the requirements of Contract Standing Order 4.7.4.

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PORTFOLIO:
Regeneration, Planning and Transport

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY AREA:
Regeneration & Environment

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Government first advised the Council for the need to tackle roadside Nitrogen Dioxide concentrations at the beginning of 2017, however, the Council were the informed by the Government in July 2017 that further action would not be supported. Following subsequent High Court rulings, the Council received a Ministerial Direction in 2018 to produce a Clean Air Plan to achieve compliance with the EU Limit Value for Nitrogen Dioxide in the shortest possible time possible. The Council prepared a Strategic Outline Business Case in January 2019 and the Outline Business Case for preferred measures at the end of October 2019 with the Full Business Case submission being made by 30 September 2020.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the intention to undertake a procurement in excess of £2m to supply Automatic Number Plate Cameras and associated network connection infrastructure required for the implementation of a Clean Air Zone in accordance with the requirements of Contract Standing Order 4.7.4.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The UK has in place legislation passed down from the European Union to ensure that certain standards of air quality are met, by setting Limit Values on the concentrations of specific air pollutants. In common with many EU member states, the EU limit value for annual mean nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) is breached in the UK and there are on-going breaches of the NO₂ limit value in the Bradford District. The UK government is taking steps to remedy this breach in as short a time as possible with the aim of reducing the harmful impacts on public health. Within this objective, the government published a UK Air Quality Plan and a Clean Air Zone Framework. The latter document provides the expected approach for local authorities when implementing and operating a Clean Air Zone (CAZ).
- 2.2 Due to on-going forecast air quality exceedances, Bradford Council has received Ministerial Direction from the Government to produce a business case for an Air Quality Plan to achieve air quality compliance in the shortest possible time. In line with Government guidance, and as part of the development of its Plan, the Council has concluded that it is necessary to implementation a Clean Air Zone (CAZ) in order to achieve sufficient improvement in air quality and public health.
- 2.3 Air pollution is a national public health priority. Of all environmental factors, it has the largest impact on health in the UK attributable to over 40,000 deaths nationally and has health effects across the life course; from the underdevelopment of the unborn baby through to dementia in the later years of life. The strongest evidence of health impact is worsening symptoms of respiratory diseases and cardio-vascular disease and cancer causation. Furthermore, the health impact is greatest for those at higher risk; people living in areas of highest deprivation are more likely to suffer these health problems than people living in more affluent areas.
- 2.4 The Council's Full Business Case submission was made to Government on 30 September 2020 setting out its plans for delivery of the Clean Air Plan

measures. This plan commits the Council to implementing a Category 'C' Clean Air Zone by the start of January 2022, which is a challenging timescale. To ensure that the Council can achieve this deadline it is necessary to start procurement of the Clean Air Zone infrastructure comprising 300+ automatic number plate (ANPR) cameras and their associated communications network infrastructure in order that deployment of these can commence early in 2021. The elements of the Clean Air Plan which has been developed with government based on Air Quality Modelling including the need for a Clean Air Zone was the subject of a public consultation exercise at the start of 2020 (prior to national lock down). Geographically, the Clean Air Zone will comprise an area comprising Bradford city centre (from the outer ring road), extending up Canal Road corridor / Manningham Lane into Shipley / Saltaire.

- 2.5 Based on the detailed design of the CAZ infrastructure and its detailed estimated cost (based on the Council's CCTV contract rates) it has been identified that the total of this procurement is potentially liable to exceed the £2m threshold set out in Contract Standing Order 4.7.4 for reporting procurements to the appropriate Overview & Scrutiny committee. Therefore, whilst there is a potential that the tender returns will not exceed this threshold it is considered prudent to nevertheless advise the committee of this activity given the possibility of tender values being above this threshold exists.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Council remains under Government direction to achieve Nitrogen Dioxide compliance in the shortest possible time and the procurement of this contract is now a critical activity towards achieving this critical success factor. Final confirmation of the Full Business Case for the Clean Air Plan will not be forthcoming from Government until such time as cost certainty is achieved through the completion of this procurement exercise.

4. FINANCIAL IMPACT & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

- 4.1 Funding for the procurement of the CAZ infrastructure is provided through central government's Implementation Fund. An initial capital funding allocation has been provided to the Council for the delivery of some intervention measures. However, the final value of funding to be awarded to the Council will, in accordance with HM Treasury Green Book guidance, be based on the tendered rates returned from this procurement exercise.
- 4.2 Installation and configuration of the equipment purchased through this procurement will be undertaken by the Council's own internal resources over the 2021 calendar year.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

- 5.1 A robust risk management approach has been adopted in the development of the Bradford Clean Air Plan through its development stages. A comprehensive risk log has been maintained throughout with risks being effectively identified, categorised and mitigation plans developed where possible to minimise these. The Council's approach to risk and the associated risk logs for the Clean Air Plan have been independently verified by Local Partnerships on behalf of

Government and judged as “fit for purpose”.

- 5.2 As part of the Full Business Case submission to Government a detailed Management Case document was prepared which establishes the governance arrangements for this project both through the implementation and operational phase. A dedicated Project Board has been established within the Council comprising representatives from both internal and external parties including Public Health, Highways, Born in Bradford and government to oversee delivery of this project.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

- 6.1 All procurement activity will be carried out in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the Council’s Contract Standing Orders. All social value activity shall be carried out in accordance with the requirements set out in the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Equality & Diversity

Due consideration has been given in writing this report to the Council’s duties under Section 149 of the Equalities Act 2011. There are no issues at this stage for discussion.

7.2 Sustainability Implications

None arising as a consequence of this report

7.3 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Impacts

None arising as a consequence of this report

7.4 Community Safety Implications

None arising as a consequence of this report

7.5 Human Rights Act

There are no Human Rights Act implications arising as a consequence of this report.

7.6 Trade Union

There are no trade union implications associated with the contents and strategy outlined in this report.

7.7 Ward Implications

A stakeholder management plan has been developed for this project which will be used throughout the delivery stages of the Clean Air Plan to ensure effective engagement and consultation is maintained.

7.8 Area Committee Action Plan Implications (for reports to Area Committees only)

Not applicable.

7.9 Implications For Corporate Parenting

There are no implications for corporate parenting associated with the contents of this report.

7.10 Issues Arising From Privacy Impact Assessment

An Initial Privacy Impact assessment has been undertaken on the proposals relating to the TCF Programme. No issues of any Data Protection or information security were identified.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None.

9. OPTIONS

9.1 None.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 That the Committee note the contents of this report and the proposed timing of the procurement of Clean Air Zone infrastructure.

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Not applicable