

<b>Report to:</b>	Cabinet	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	Thursday 2 February 2023
<b>Subject:</b>	Pre-Procurement Report for Land Based, Coastal Remote Sensing Services		
<b>Report of:</b>	Assistant Director of People (Operational In-House Services)	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	Ainsdale; Blundellsands; Cambridge; Church; Dukes; Harington; Linacre; Manor; Ravenmeols;
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Cabinet Member - Health and Wellbeing		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	Yes	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	Yes
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

**Summary:** To seek Cabinet approval of this pre-procurement report, as the total contract value (c£5m) exceeds the relevant threshold, to invite tenders through an open procurement procedure, for the provision of a land based coastal remote sensing services to collect a range of datasets to support sustainable coastal management decisions.

### **Recommendation(s):**

That Cabinet :

- (1) Approves the tender process to procure the provision of land based coastal remote sensing services, to be published on The Chest using an open tender procedure, as outlined in this report.
- (2) Authorises the awarding of a core contract period of 4 years from 1st May 2023 to 31st March 2027, with an option to extend by 3 x 12-month option periods available following the core period.
- (3) Gives delegated authority to the Assistant Director of People (Operational In-House Services), in consultation with the Cabinet Member – Health and Wellbeing to award the Contract resulting from the procurement and any extension.

### **Reasons for the Recommendation(s):**

There are a number of existing radar systems across the north west region under contract through the existing framework. To enable the continued use of these and establishing new deployments a framework supplier is required. As this technology is relatively new there are a limited number of suppliers who can provide this service as such national frameworks have yet to be established and an open tender is the most appropriate manner in which to establish a new framework.

**Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:** (including any Risk Implications)  
 Deployments could be considered on a case by case basis, but this would significantly increase the number of procurement exercises and associated officer time. It could also result in several different systems being introduced that would reduce the efficiencies and compatibility across the region.

**What will it cost and how will it be financed?**

**(A) Revenue Costs**

There are no direct revenue costs.

**(B) Capital Costs**

The Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme is within the approved Capital Programme, funded through an external grant from the Environmental Agency - a funding package of £5.6million from 2021-2027. A budget of £1.5million has been allocated in the programme 2021-2027 for this workstream.

**Implications of the Proposals:**

<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b>	
Funding for the system up to 2027 can be met out of the existing regional monitoring capital programme. Funding post 2027 will subject to grant being allocated, if funding is not secured a budget is available to decommission the existing systems. The contract will make more staff time available for data analysis rather than survey work. All other requirements are met with existing IT equipment.	
<b>Legal Implications:</b>	
The contract will be openly tendered through the Chest portal and as determined by the Council's Contract Procedure Rules, the contract will need to be sealed as its total value will be in excess of £100,000.	
<b>Equality Implications:</b>	
There are no equality implications.	
<b>Climate Emergency Implications:</b>	
The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	Y
Have a neutral impact	N
Have a negative impact	N
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Y
The installation of the radar masts has small impact through the construction of a concrete footing for a lighting column upon which the radar is fitted. In some instances, they can be fitted to existing lighting columns. However, once operational their power demand is very small – equivalent of a couple of desktop pcs. A version of the deployment can run of its own solar panel and/or wind turbine. It can also offset the need for other remote surveys or ground based surveys.	
The main value of the system is the information it provides regarding coastal dynamics which feeds directly into coastal risk management plans and future coastal protection schemes. The data will make future plans more sustainable and enable decisions to	

work with nature.  
On balance these systems have a positive impact on the climate emergency.

### **Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:**

Protect the most vulnerable: not applicable'
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: The information collected will improve decisions made in relation to coastal protection and erosion. Support those communities at risk in those areas enabling them to better understand and prepare for the risks.
Commission, broker and provide core services: not applicable'
Place – leadership and influencer: This cutting edge technology can put the authority at the forefront of coastal monitoring and decision making. This will enable us to confidently participate in discussions relating to the coast.
Drivers of change and reform: Improve our understanding of the coastal system enabling challenge of standard practice to maximise our budgets and assets and ability to adapt o climate change risks.
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: not applicable'
Greater income for social investment: not applicable'
Cleaner Greener not applicable'

### **What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?**

#### **(A) Internal Consultations**

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.7079/23) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.5279/23) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

#### **(B) External Consultations**

The North West and North Wales Coastal Group receive regular reports from the coastal monitoring programme and are supportive of the deployment of this survey method.

## **Implementation Date for the Decision**

Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting

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## **Appendices:**

There are no appendices to this report

## **Background Papers:**

There are no background papers available for inspection.

## **1. Introduction/Background**

- 1.1 Sefton Council has been the lead authority for the North West Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme since 2007, collecting and analysing data to inform decisions relating to coastal erosion and flood risk management issues and support the delivery of the Shoreline Management Plan.
- 1.2 A nationally coordinated grant application was made to the Environment Agency in November 2019, and an indicative grant allocation of £5.6million, for the period 2021-2027 has been allocated to the North West programme (with the amounts for 2021 and 2022 being confirmed as programmed). Sefton Council manages the grant on behalf of all the North West Maritime Authorities.
- 1.3 Several frameworks were set up nationally at the start of the programme in 2021. Sefton Council has been using these to procure services for: Topographic Surveys Hydrodynamic Surveys, Analytical Services, Aerial Photography Surveys, Ecological Mapping and Bathymetric Surveys. These frameworks do not include provision for land based remote sensing technology.
- 1.4 Sefton Council established a framework that covered the period 2019-2021 with the optional 2yr extension being utilised to take the current framework up to 31<sup>st</sup> April 2023. Four systems have been deployed by Sefton using this framework. To continue to operate these systems to the end of the monitoring programme (2027) and establish new ones a new framework needs to be established.
- 1.5 The existing framework has been used by the Environment Agency to install a number of systems in East Anglia to support beach management activities.

## **2 Procurement Process**

- 2.1 In consultation with the procurement team, it is proposed to establish a Framework Agreement, with individual pieces of work let on a 'call-off / direct award' basis and where the total value over the framework period would not exceed £5m. The programme's budget is £1.5m but other authorities would be able to use the framework (as set out in 2.6). The result of the procurement exercise would be the appointment of a single Framework provider.
- 2.2 A single framework provider will be procured via The Chest using an open tender process in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. The basis of evaluation will be MEAT (Most Economically Advantageous Tender) taking into consideration a balance between Quality and Cost, with costs based on an agreed set of service rates.
- 2.3 The performance of the provider will be reviewed annually, and the Council will include a provision to terminate the contract if the performance of the provider does not meet the agreed performance indicators.
- 2.4 The Framework Agreement is proposed to run for a three-year core period, from 1st May 2023 to 31st March 2027. Subject to the satisfactory performance of the provider and, if there are schemes in development where further work is required, it is proposed to include 3 x 12-month option periods available following the core period. On completion of the procurement process, it is proposed that the Assistant Director of People (Operational In-House Services), in consultation with

the relevant Cabinet Member – Health and Wellbeing, be delegated to award the Contract resulting from the procurement.

2.5 The range of data products that are expected to be included in the contract are as follows:

- topographical elevations in the intertidal region
- subtidal bathymetry
- surface current directions and magnitudes
- wave direction and period
- tidal elevations
- video camera data
- bird movements and congregations
- provision of bespoke training

2.6 The Framework would be available to Local Authority members of the North West and North Wales Coastal Group and the lead partners from the National Network of Regional Coastal monitoring Programmes as well as national organisations such as the Environment Agency.