

# Portfolio Holder Decision

## AI Radar Monitoring Procurement

<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	<b>Leader of the Council</b>
<b>Date of decision</b>	<b>3 October 2022</b>
	<b>Signed</b> 

### 1. Decision taken

#### Recommendation

- 1.1 That the Leader confirms his authorisation for the undertaking of a procurement exercise for the purchase of Artificial Intelligence sensors as set out in this report; and
- 1.2 That the Leader delegates authority for the Strategic Director for Communities to award the contract on terms and conditions acceptable to the Strategic Director for Resources

### 2. Reasons for decisions

- 2.1 The Council needs to secure Artificial Intelligence Radar Monitoring Equipment to record, collect and analyse data accurately for developing schemes and strategies for all modes of transport and updating traffic modelling tools. These developments and schemes can include but are not limited to new housing developments, new or improved cycling and walking facilities and improvements to road layouts. The equipment will allow the Council to monitor active travel, inform highway scheme development, monitor Capital Programme Highway Scheme and section 278 Schemes, update the County's traffic models against a post Covid-19 pandemic baseline, and comply with a Department for Transport Active Travel grant.
- 2.2 Best value for money is likely to be achieved through awarding a framework contract to a rank 1 and a rank 2 supplier following the invitation to tender process.
- 2.3 The framework contract will have an initial term of 2 years with the option to extend at the Council's sole discretion for up to 24 months.

### 3. Reasons for Urgency

3.1 The Council's Transport Planning Survey Team urgently need the new framework agreement in place in order to call-off contracts for equipment and commence monitoring immediately. As such, this is an Urgent Decision, for the following reasons:

- There are limited windows of opportunity for undertaking surveys during neutral periods per year if we are unable to have the contract in place and equipment installed imminently (i.e. October, for collection in November, then the next survey window for major monitoring exercises will be March (January/February usually unsuitable due to inclement weather conditions.)
- The Council have been asked by Stratford District Council/Warwick District Council to prepare modelling to support the South Warwickshire Local Plan. Due to the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic, all County models require updating with post-Pandemic baseline, in accordance with Department for Transport guidance. Long lead in times for survey collection and model development mean that this process must start immediately. Models could not be updated before now due to travel behaviour changes and DfT guidance.
- Scheme models need to be updated to reflect post-Pandemic conditions to ensure the expected benefits and outcomes remain valid and are still returning value for money.
- The Council's Capital Programme Highway Schemes and section 278 schemes – all major schemes delivered over the last few years, and those currently in development, require pre and post scheme delivery surveys. In accordance with the Council's Design Guide, permanent monitoring equipment should be installed. We have a long list of overdue installations for monitoring capital schemes, some to determine whether further capital expenditure should be delayed.
- Combined surveying to meet capital funding monitoring requirements and Section 278 monitoring for Jaguar Land Rover is long overdue in Gaydon area and the Council has committed to share its monitoring data with Jaguar Land Rover.
- The Council has committed to spending its Department for Transport Active Travel Monitoring grant by the end of the financial year, and accordingly needs to monitor now before inclement winter weather conditions to get more accurate baseline.
- The Council has an urgent need to undertake active travel monitoring more widely to inform scheme development and strategies and to significantly increase activities in this area to meet Net Zero and active travel commitments.

This decision was not sought earlier due to a misunderstanding of the approvals process, with an email indicating the decision would be authorised having been mistaken for an approval decision.

## 4. Background information

- 4.1 The AI Radar procurement exercise commenced in January 2022 and the expectation was that a framework agreement would be in place for August 2022, in order to prepare for the new survey season. The exercise has taken significantly longer than expected due to issues raised by bidders and unfortunate oversights in the approvals process.
- 4.2 The procurement of this equipment is essential to meet the Council's transport monitoring requirements (permanent fixed site Artificial Intelligence monitoring) for the next four-year period. The funding for the procurement is linked to the CIF funded Evidence Led Decision Making project and through capital scheme/Section 278 scheme funding.
- 4.3 There are no other viable options for procuring the amount of equipment with specific capabilities to meet the Council's transport monitoring requirements whilst ensuring value for money.
- 4.4 Without this equipment being available in October/November 2022, there is a risk of not being able to install equipment this financial year and thus causing both delays to Capital Programme scheme delivery and issues with end of year forecasting.

## 5. Financial implications

- 5.1 The estimated contract value is £2,500,000 over the maximum 4 years of the framework agreement.
- 5.2 If no framework agreement is procured, the Council will face higher costs of direct awards without the value for money achieved by the competitive process.
- 5.3 The equipment will provide a revenue source through traded data and analytical services.
- 5.4 The equipment is intended to be used to determine whether major capital schemes should be delayed on the Capital Programme (e.g. A429 Coventry Rd, Warwick, CIF funded +£4m scheme).
- 5.5 The Council needs to meet the monitoring requirements linked to external funding and be able to secure funding through future bids.
- 5.6 Delaying monitoring to inform scheme development will inevitably impact on scheme delivery timescale which can increase their cost

## 6. Environmental implications

- 6.1 Delaying monitoring to inform scheme development will inevitably impact on scheme delivery timescale. This will clearly delay realising the environmental benefits enabled by the schemes, i.e. improved sustainable facilities to enable employment and housing growth.
- 6.2 Monitoring equipment can be established saving Council employees travelling to and from these sites of interest multiple times to deploy and recover surveying equipment.
- 6.3 Monitoring equipment can identify sustainable travel routes and how they can be improved to lower the number of cars using schemes/areas. This helps to inform strategies for dealing with Local Plan growth or directly informs scheme design to ensure they offer suitable sustainable travel options for the area.
- 6.4 The Council often uses mode split data to inform Air Quality assessments, without this highly granular data about people's travel choices it would not be possible to determine the Air Quality benefits associated with a scheme. Air Quality should be assessed for all schemes in detail.

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<b>Strategic Director</b>	Strategic Director for Communities
<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	Leader of the Council

<b>Urgent matter?</b>	Yes
<b>Confidential or exempt?</b>	Yes
<b>Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?</b>	No

### List of background papers

Evidence Led Decision Making for Tackling Climate Change (CIF funded Business Case)  
AI Radar Monitoring Procurement

### Members and officers consulted and informed

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Isobel Seccombe (Leader)

Corporate Board –

Legal – Jan Cumming Finance –

Equality –

Democratic Services – Helen Barnsley

Councillors – Councillor Jeff Clarke and Councillor Adrian Warwick (For consent to Urgency)

Local Member(s):