

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Date:	22 January 2013
Title:	Geotechnical Services Framework 2013-2017
Reference:	4486
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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1. The decision:

- (a) That approval be given to procure a framework to facilitate supply of geotechnical and geoenvironmental services for site investigation works to sites in and around Hampshire for the period 2013-17, with an estimated value of £3 million in total, of which £2 million relates to Hampshire County Council and £1 million to East Sussex County Council.
- (b) That approval be given to work with East Sussex County Council during the tender process and allow access by that Council to the geotechnical framework.
- (c) That the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment be given delegated authority to agree any variations in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment and Transport.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. The County Council's Contract Standing Orders (CSO 3) requires that '*The commencement of a procurement process for a Contract is subject to the prior approval of the relevant decision maker who has the authority to give such approval under the Constitution.*' Approval to procure in respect of framework agreements and dynamic purchasing systems and approval to procure and spend in respect of contracts is required by the Executive Member where they have a value, or estimated value, in excess of £1 million.
- 2.2. The County Council has a duty to maintain and improve highway infrastructure within Hampshire in a safe and efficient manner. Part execution of this duty involves the design of infrastructure improvement and this relies upon accurate site investigation of existing ground conditions in order to provide effective solutions.

- 2.3. The County Council also has a duty to maintain and improve its estate asset base including schools and other public buildings. Appropriate geotechnical site information is necessary so that design solutions can match site conditions.
- 2.4. The existing framework contract for geotechnical services expires on 31 March 2013.
- 2.5. The decision will allow a number of specialist companies to be engaged for the provision of geotechnical and geoenvironmental services.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. Option 1: 'In house' delivery of geotechnical site investigation services.

The amount of site investigation is quite volatile and depends upon capital and revenue programmes and the nature of projects required. The current anticipated levels of expenditure do not support capital investment for purchase of specialist testing equipment or full time engagement of operatives for site investigation.

Inclusion of a number of selected external geotechnical specialists within a framework allows the Council to obtain resources at short notice without any guarantee or commitment to future workload.

- 3.2. Option 2: Single source supplier

The wide extent of site investigation services can vary in scope. Use of a multi-supplier framework will allow the whole range to be covered. It is doubtful if one supplier could deliver all of the services without recourse to sub-contracting, incurring additional management costs.

4. Conflicts of interest:

- 4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None
- 4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:

Date:

22 January 2013

**Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Councillor M J Kendal**

Decn/4486/KG