

Highways Contract Re-Procurement Reference Group of the Place Scrutiny Committee

Comments to Cabinet on the Highway Services Re-procurement Project (HSRP) – Outline Business Case (OBC)

Membership: Councillors John Barnes, Bob Bowdler (Chair of the Reference Group), Godfrey Daniel and Andy Smith.

Background

The Scrutiny Member Reference Group was established by the Place Scrutiny Committee in March 2020 to work alongside officers on the Highways Services Re-procurement Project (HSRP). The role of the Reference Group is to act as a critical friend and to provide scrutiny input into the Project as part of re-procurement the Highways Infrastructure Services (HIS) maintenance contract.

The Reference Group has met on a number of occasions to provide input and comment on the development of the Outline Business Case (OBC). An Interim report outlining the Reference Group's work is contained in Appendix 2 of the Cabinet report. The Reference Group also met on 20 January 2021 to consider the final version of the OBC that is being presented to Cabinet.

Scrutiny Comments to Cabinet

The Reference Group has been involved in all the stages of the development of the OBC. It has heard evidence from independent external consultants, Proving Services, on the development of the OBC and their endorsement of the work carried out to date. The Reference Group has been well supported by the Officer Team who have taken a robust approach to the development of the OBC.

The Reference Group is unanimous in its support for the approach that has been taken and will continue to be involved in the Project. It has also identified a number of topics for further investigation in the next stages of the Project.

The Reference Group, on behalf of the Place Scrutiny Committee, endorses the OBC and supports its approval by Cabinet. Furthermore, it supports the selection of option 1 and option 2 for the service delivery model (SDM) to be taken forward into the Detailed Business Case.

Councillor Bob Bowdler
Chair of the Reference Group