

## Information for Unitary Councillors

Sheet Number:

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<b>From:</b>	<b>David Carter</b>
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<b>Relevant ELT Director and sign-off date:</b>	<b>David Carter 24/10/23</b>
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<b>Date:</b>	<b>24/10/23</b>
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<b>To:</b>	<b>All Unitary Councillors</b>
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## Notification of new highways maintenance contract with Kier Transportation Ltd

### Introduction

Somerset Council has signed a new eight-year contract with Kier Transportation Ltd to deliver core maintenance across its 4,172-mile road network.

The £225m agreement covers key maintenance works – including road repairs, drainage, verge cutting and winter service, such as gritting and other emergency functions in adverse weather.

The current contract with Milestone Infrastructure comes to a natural conclusion on 31 March 2024.

There has been a rigorous tendering process to get this stage and a decision was taken at the outset to divide the existing contract into four separate contracts covering different areas of service delivery.

The aim is to increase efficiency, cost effectiveness and innovation, whilst being more resilient to climate change with a reduced carbon output.

The Executive Committee approved the award of the contract on 4 October 2023.

The term service contract with Kier Transportation Ltd will commence the service from 1 April 2024.

There was a 'standstill' period until today, 24 October 2023, before the award could be made public. This was to allow for any potential challenge to the process and decision from other bidders.

## **Key points**

- The Council is changing the way it delivers these key services. It's an opportunity to be more cost effective, more innovative and greener.
- Somerset Council will continue to deliver its statutory duties to the highest possible standard and will work collaboratively with the Council's new partners to ensure highway services continue to be delivered safely and effectively
- The contract awarded to Kier Transportation Ltd is one of four new maintenance contracts. These cover term maintenance (Kier Transportation Ltd), surfacing, surface treatments and new assets.
- The remaining four contracts are expected to be awarded later in the autumn - further details will follow.
- Many of the Milestone Infrastructure staff will be transferring to the new contractor under the TUPE transfer process.
- Staff across both organisations have been briefed today (Tuesday, 24 October) and a press release is being issued to accompany this information sheet.

## **The strategic aims of Somerset Council underpinned the tendering process:**

- A network that is adapted and resilient to climate change with a reduced carbon output, both in usage and maintenance, to contribute to the commitment for Somerset to be carbon neutral by 2030.
- A safe, serviceable and sustainable network that is fit for purpose for all users under all conditions and supports the development of the local economy.
- A service based on the intelligent client model that develops and sustains collaborative partnerships that deliver the objectives of all partners.
- A flexible and agile service that attracts and retains the best people and embraces best practice and new technologies to enable innovation.
- Sustain a financially resilient service that adopts robust asset management principles and delivers best value with the resources available.

- Optimise service efficiency and maximise income from commercialisation and external funding.
- A service that maximises social value and provides valuable local opportunities for individuals and businesses.
- An informed community that has high public satisfaction and is engaged and enabled to do more for themselves.

We will update you further on the progress of the other contracts in due course. If you have further questions regarding this announcement, please get in contact via the details below.

For more information please contact:	Email: <a href="mailto:david.peake@somerset.gov.uk">david.peake@somerset.gov.uk</a>
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