

REPORT

SUBJECT: Future Provision of South Wales Trunk Road Agency (SWTRA)

MEETING: Individual Cabinet member – Cllr Bryan Jones

DATE: 11th May 2016

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: Not applicable

NOT FOR PUBLICATION (Appendix 1 only)

Not for publication pursuant to Regulation 5(2) & (5) of Statutory Instrument 2001 No. 2290 and Paragraph(s) 14 and 16 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. Pursuant also to Paragraph 21 of the Schedule, and in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption is considered to outweigh the public interest in disclosing the information.

1. PURPOSE

To receive an update on the new arrangements for the provision of the South Wales Trunk Road Agency and Monmouthshire's continuing involvement as a partner to the new agreement.

To confirm Chief Officer representation on the partnership Executive Board.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That members note the new partnership arrangements for the ongoing provision of SWTRA and Monmouthshire's involvement in the provision of SWTRA services in the Eastern region.
- 2.2 That members note the potential change in SWTRA budgets and the likely subsequent impact for MCC of the new form of partnership agreement.
- 2.3 That the Head of Operations be confirmed as the officer representative for MCC on the partnership Executive Board.

3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 Neath Port Talbot CBC secured the role of providing the South Wales Trunk Road Agency in 2009. Lead authorities providing routine maintenance for SWTRA are Camarthenshire (west region), Neath Port Talbot CBC (central region) and Monmouthshire CC (eastern region).
- 3.2 Negotiations between NPTCBC and Welsh Government have taken place about the future provision of SWTRA and in particular about how the budget might be reduced whilst at the same time offering greater transparency.

- 3.3 A new partnership agreement is being developed between WG and NPTCBC and in parallel between NPTCBC and the lead authorities. (the report to NPTCBC Cabinet is attached – Appendix 1 (not for publication). This provides greater background to the negotiations between WG and NPTCBC).

4. REASONS

- 4.1 Monmouthshire County Council is the lead authority in providing maintenance services on trunk roads and motorways in the Eastern region (Gwent and Cardiff) of the South Wales Trunk Road agency. As such the employment of around thirty MCC staff relies upon MCC continued provision of these services (albeit any transfer would be covered by TUPE arrangements for most staff).
- 4.2 Monmouthshire County Council includes SWTRA financial management and accountancy within the corporate accounting system and relevant support services (HR, accountancy, payroll etc.) are recovered through SWTRA activity. This offers benefits of scale to SWTRA and MCC alike by defraying support costs, overheads etc. over a greater turnover/budgets. Continuing with service provision, albeit under a new agreement, will continue to offer mutual financial and operational benefit.
- 4.3 The partnership agreement is being promoted to allow the service provision to remain within the public sector within EU regulations whilst at the same time delivering significant savings to Welsh Government outside of a full contractual relationship.
- 4.4 The Executive Board of the relevant chief officers is established to provide a forum whereby the three lead authorities can act jointly to support the new partnership agreement with WG. The partnership agreement between the authorities is documented and the board will work within those parameters to deliver the agreement to WG whilst at the same time seeking to protect the position of the member authorities.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

Overall WG is seeking to achieve a reduction in their budget through negotiation with the North and South Wales trunk road agencies (details of the negotiations are held within appendix 1).

6. FUTURE GENERATIONS & EQUALITY ASSESSMENT:

This report refers to services standards that are set by WG and SWTRA. MCC is not party to setting the service standards and will undertake the duties as specified by SWTRA. As such a Future Generations and Equality Assessment are considered unnecessary as MCC does not set the policies or standards relating to the provision of trunk roads and motorways in Wales.

SAFEGUARDING ASSESSMENT:

No risks arise in relation to safeguarding as a result of this report.

7. CONSULTEES:

SLT

Cabinet members

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

9. AUTHORS

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