

TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE****12 JUNE 2020****SPACES FOR PEOPLE – REGIONAL MONITORING PROJECT****REPORT BY STRATEGY OFFICER – STRATEGIC CONNECTIVITY**

This report seeks the Partnership Executive Committee's approval of the appointment, via the Scotland Excel Framework, of Transport Consultants Systra Ltd to deliver the core services required for the Spaces for People Regional Monitoring Project.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the Executive Committee approves the appointment of Systra Ltd via a direct call off from the Scotland Excel framework contract to deliver the core services required for the Spaces for People Regional Monitoring Project.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 On 28 April 2020 the Scottish Government announced £10 million fund (later increased to £30 million) to support local authorities in providing temporary walking and cycling infrastructure that helps to protect public health during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2.2 The "[Spaces for People](#)" fund, managed by Sustrans, aims to enable safe physical distancing for essential journeys and exercise for everyone, in particular where there are space constraints or user safety concerns.
- 2.3 As noted in the Active Travel Capital Grants report to the 16 June 2020 Partnership Board ([report RTP/20/23 refers](#)), the four Local Authorities within the Tactran region are all developing significant Spaces for People funding bids, some of which are already approved.
- 2.4 Tactran have held discussions with our partner authorities and have agreed a need to coordinate the monitoring and evaluation of the interventions across the region to assess both the direct and indirect impacts of the initiatives. This has now been developed and a bid for £250,000 was submitted to Sustrans on 3 June 2020 which was subsequently approved on 9 June 2020.

3 DISCUSSION

The project

- 3.1 This project will build on previous data collection and monitoring programmes that Tactran have undertaken which, where possible, will be used as the baseline.
- 3.2 The data and survey information will largely consist of camera-based surveys to monitor traffic, cyclist and pedestrian flows, desire lines, volumes and speeds – depending on the requirements for each site. This will be repeated at regular intervals (typically 2-3 months) during the period that the interventions and the requirements for social distancing are in place.
- 3.3 Mode share cordon counts will also be undertaken across the three cities and key towns to provide general trend information of how people are travelling.
- 3.4 The data collection programme is proposed to run for 12 months; however, this will be reviewed as rules and guidance issued by the Scottish Government around travel are amended.
- 3.5 In addition, an attitudinal survey will be developed to capture people's views and perceptions of the interventions that have been implemented and barriers/issues relating to active travel during the requirement to remain socially distant.
- 3.6 Along with direct monitoring of the sites where interventions have been implemented, it is also proposed to undertake monitoring at sites where no interventions are currently proposed but may be required depending on the evidence collected.

Procurement

- 3.7 Due to the significant pressures around timescales to support the local authorities in developing their proposals, and with the requirement to collect suitable baseline data and information prior to their implementation, a full open tendering exercise was not possible due to the time taken to tender and award a new contract of this value.
- 3.8 It is therefore proposed to use an existing framework contract, administered by Scotland Excel, that Tactran has access to. This allows for purchasing authorities to directly call off the contract (Contract 06/16 Engineering and Technical Consultancy) which has a specific Lot (Lot 2) for Traffic and Transportation.
- 3.9 The Scotland Excel contract was awarded following a full tendering exercise with suppliers scored on price and quality and all other standard contractual pre-requisites covered. The quality element has already been scored within the contract and the staff rates are fixed within the framework.

- 3.10 Due to their extensive experience with similar and directly related work across the region, Sytra Ltd were deemed to be the most suitable of the available consultants within the framework. Systra also have existing relationships with all major survey companies which will allow them to select the most economically advantageous supplier available to undertake the actual survey work.
- 3.11 Having a specialist consultancy manage all data collection and survey activity removes significant risk to the project compared to Tactran engaging survey companies directly.
- 3.12 Utilising a direct call off from Scotland Excel is the only practical method of delivering the project within the timescales required to address the specific issues relating to travel during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 3.13 It is therefore proposed to appoint Systra Ltd via the standard Scotland Excel call off procedure.

4 CONSULTATIONS

- 4.1 Tactran officers have consulted with Perth & Kinross Council's procurement team who provided professional advice to Tactran during the preparation of the Contract Strategy.
- 4.2 Perth & Kinross Council's Procurement Manager has reviewed and approved the Contract Strategy outlined above.

5 RESOURCE & EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 All costs of the project will be funded through the Sustrans "Spaces for People" fund.

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NOTE

The following background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (and not containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing this Report:

Report to Partnership 16 June 2020, 'Active Travel Capital Grants', RTP/20/23