

## ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet
2.	Date:	18 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
3.	Title:	Yorkshire Highway Alliance Framework Agreement All Wards
4.	Directorate:	Environment and Development Services

### 5. Summary

The report seeks Cabinet approval for the Council to join the Yorkshire Highway Alliance.

The YHA will enable highway authorities in the Yorkshire and Humberside region to work together to improve the delivery of several aspects of highways services in our respective areas and regionally.

### 6. Recommendations

**That Cabinet is requested to resolve that:**

**The Council join the Yorkshire Highway Alliance (YHA) and appropriate officers be appointed to represent the Borough on its Boards and Working Groups.**

## **7. Proposals and Details**

### **Background**

The Yorkshire Highway Alliance will be introduced by local authorities in the Yorkshire and Humberside region with the common interests of improving performance and making efficiency savings in the delivery of highway services working in collaboration, through a series of framework agreements. The Alliance will have 13 founding members including Sheffield City Council, Barnsley MBC and Doncaster MBC.

Highway authorities in the YHA will work together to improve procurement of highway supplies and services, so that users recognize that services are both efficient and improving.

### **The underlying ethos of the YHA will be:**

- A flexible approach to the Procurement of Highway Services and Goods based on an inter-authority strategy
- The further development of Best Value, VfM and Construction Best Practice using the partnering approach for the procurement of private sector partners involving the whole of the relevant supply chains
- The rationalisation of systems & procedures enabling duplication of effort and administrative and support costs to be reduced for the YHA Members
- The opportunity to foster innovation within the YHA and to make financial savings
- The creation of more open processes & performance benchmarking partnerships through regional initiatives and with other highway authorities
- The development of skills to help implement and deliver Best Practices across the YHA.

### **Aim and Objectives**

#### ***Aim***

To help authorities improve highway services in Yorkshire and to deliver efficiency savings and improved Value for Money (VfM) from them.

**Objectives:**

1. To develop and use a collaborative framework to deliver medium size civil engineering schemes for County, Unitary & District Councils and Passenger Transport Executives.
2. To develop, establish and implement a continuous improvement model for highway services to achieve convergence to Best Practices, initially concentrating on Term Maintenance.
3. To establish and develop other collaborations for highway activities, such as Professional services, “back office” services, delivery of skills development & training and benchmarking/VfM assessments as agreed by its Members.
4. To promote Collaborative Procurement, such as purchasing winter salt as agreed by its Members.
5. To embed partnering principles and construction Best Practice in all its work and throughout the supply chains.
6. To collaborate to minimise waste and the environmental impact of any interventions.
7. To encourage economic regeneration and help sustain local businesses.
8. To promote & publicise the work of the YHA and to act as a voice for Yorkshire.

Joint working will enhance what could be achieved from individual highway authorities’ service budgets and that the rationalisation of systems, processes and practices will improve the delivery of service provision. In turn, this will provide better value because the learning process will help all YHA Members individually and service users in the wider context.

The YHA will provide opportunities to monitor service delivery by each of its Members both for themselves & for each other and to compare with the private sector. Performance and processes of all YHA Members will be benchmarked.

**8. Finance**

The Annual subscription to be part of the alliance is payable and is currently £5,000 per annum. It is intended that these fees are funded from the LTP Maintenance funding Block. However, the YHA Board shall be at liberty to waive any Annual Subscription due from an YHA Member, in the reasonable opinion of the Board, if such an YHA Member provides a significant amount of staff time equivalent to or in excess of the relevant Annual Contribution and such staff time is specifically directed towards the achievement of the YHA’s aim & objectives.

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

Membership of the YHA will provide an opportunity to reduce the financial pressure on reduced highway maintenance budgets through collaborative working.

## **10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

Membership of the YHA will better enable Streetpride achieve the Corporate Plan commitment to make sure roads and footpaths meet at least national average standards with an outcome for safe and well maintained roads.

## **11. Background Papers and Consultation**

The Yorkshire Highway Alliance Agreement 2011

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