

Decision Report

Meeting Decision Date – 16 December 2024

Key Decision – yes



Approval for a contract extension of one year for the use of One.Network

Chair of Committee: N/A

Executive Member(s): Cllr Richard Wilkins, Lead Member for Transport & Waste

Local Member(s) and Division(s) affected: N/A

Executive Director: Mickey Green, Executive Director, Climate and Place

Executive Summary

We need approval so to secure the continued use of the One.Network system (<https://one.network/public>) to ensure the efficient management of the highway network and road closures. The system crucially also provides the public with a self-service portal to find information on roadworks, so to assist with planning journeys and finding out information on works that could impact them.

The system will be paid for by income from the Somerset Council Streetworks Permit Scheme as part of operating costs.

Recommendations

The Executive Lead Member approves:

- a. A 12 Month extension of the current GCloud Contract for the One.Network Communication suite and One.Network Traffic insight Suite at the previous renewal price as permitted through the Gov.UK Digital Marketplace G Cloud Framework for 2024/2025.
- b. During 2024/2025 to undertake market analysis to identify other alternative systems or providers that can deliver efficient and cost-effective management of the highway network and road closures.
- c. The use of the 2nd GCloud extension for an additional 12 months for 2025/26 at the original 2022 cost so avoiding any Year-on-Year cost increase, subject to the 2024/2025 market analysis failing to identify any suitable and cost-effective alternative

The system will be paid for by income from the Somerset Council Streetworks Permit Scheme, so covered within existing budgets.

Reasons for Proposals

The efficient management of the highway network is a high priority for all who use the Somerset road network, especially the public, businesses, and emergency services.

It provides a forward-facing portal for the public to self-serve and find out information on roadworks, it assists the streetworks team and road closures team in fulfilling statutory functions as well as essential collection of travel and delay data.

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Background and purpose of report

1. The efficient management of the highway network is a high priority for all who use the Somerset road network, especially the public, businesses, and emergency services. One.Network enables Somerset Council to better manage the highway by:
 - Improving visibility and advance warning when issues occur on the network whilst improving traffic flow, by updating closures/openings in real-time to satellite navigation equipment and Google data
 - Providing a range of data that enables better commissioning decisions
 - Enabling better travel choices and reducing unnecessary mileage that contributes to the climate change agenda
 - Improved communication to the public on all works carried out by Somerset Council, and other bodies which has improved customer engagement by allowing more self-service functionality
 - Providing the functionality to close/open roads on the system in real time

With the increasing demands on our highway network, it is important to understand the impact of roadworks, incidents, and events on travel times and journey planning.

The current contract for a system that supports this work expired on the 24 August 2024, and there is currently no other alternative best value replacement.

The system is also used as a planning tool by internal and external organisations for coordination purposes enabling better management of works and road closures which helps fulfil our duties under the Traffic Management Act 2004.

It also:

- Provides a mechanism to view the Streetworks Register
- Allows us to plan, and coordinate works and events, streamlining regulatory processes and minimising disruption to make best use of the network.
- Provides historic data collection that enables us to understand the impacts of works that have previously taken place, to help inform the planning for future works on the highway and enable ongoing monitoring.
- Provides a mechanism for the production and recording of Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (TTROs) and Temporary Traffic Regulation Notices (TTRN's), and generates associated e-mails as part of the consultation requirements.
- Allows the output of travel/traffic flow data to inform/update, via an API, to the authority's Urban Traffic Management Control system. This enables the transmitting of real-time travel information on the authority's highway VMS (Vehicle Message Signs).

- Provides the public with a self-service portal to find information on roadworks, so to assist with planning journeys and finding out information on works that could impact them.
- Enables a range of data including that of vehicle-based information which can be available across our entire road network from in-vehicle devices. This means we can gather travel time/delay data when and where we need it and respond to immediate queries about delays and issues as and when they happen.
- Supports and enables us to further develop the work of TravelSomerset allowing us to extract journey time and average speed data from floating vehicle data sources.
- Allows us to monitor and optimise traffic while reducing costs through replacement of physical sensor infrastructure with smart floating vehicle data solutions
- Enables communication to road users via real-time sat-nav updates, reducing congestion and associated environmental impacts

Links to Council Plan and Medium-Term Financial Plan

2. Not applicable in this instance

Other options considered

3. A separate contract could have been investigated however the supplier only offered a 5-year term @6.9% YOY increase so the option to extend offers better value.

Procurement was discussed prior and in terms of an alternative route there are no other suppliers that can offer this software as an individual package, so there is currently no option for wider procurement. While individual packages may be able to be procured for some of the functions such as the collection of traffic data, and the processing of road closures, this would affect and restrict service delivery. These costs would also not be directly covered by the Somerset Streetworks permit scheme.

Key considerations for the Council

Scrutiny comments / recommendations:

4. The proposed decision has not been considered by a Scrutiny Committee.

Consultation and feedback

7. There are no associated consultation requirements or feedback implications

Financial and Risk Implications

8. The risk has been assessed as being so low that ongoing monitoring is not required. This software is funded by service income from the Somerset Council

Streetworks Permit Scheme. Permit fees are adjusted on each statutory review to ensure there is no shortfall.

This GCloud extension will take the total contract value to £505,791.

£337,194 has already been paid via a Non-Key Decision Paper that was made in August 2022. The additional one-year extension cost is £168,597. The additional second-year extension cost will also be £168,597 if this option is taken forward.

This approach offers better value as the alternative offer from the software supplier is to undertake a new 5-year term @6.9% Year on Year increase and so this option gives us time to try to negotiate a better deal.

9. The additional cost incurred can be covered within existing budgets and there will be no additional pressure as a result of this contract.

Current Risk Score:

Likelihood	1	Impact	1	Risk Score	1
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Projected risk score if recommended actions are agreed and delivered:

Likelihood	1	Impact	1	Risk Score	1
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Legal and Procurement Implications

10. Procurement advice has been sought and the proposal is in accordance with relevant rules and procedures

HR / Workforce Implications

11. There are no associated HR implications

Equalities Implications

12. The software provides a web-based portal that allows for and creates interaction between the Council, Members, residents and the travelling public. It displays information on roadworks that allow users to make informed decisions in terms of individual potential impacts from works and travel plans.

Accessibility – As the software is web based, the use of individual web portals will be able to assist with accessibility requirements.

Positive Impacts – The software will help highlight physical barriers such as road closures or road works that may create delays or affect journey times.

Future recommissioning – We recognise that due regard will need be given to the future recommissioning of a new contract beyond this extension.

Link to software website: <https://one.network/public>

Community Safety Implications

13. There are no associated community safety implications

Climate Change and Sustainability Implications

14. There are no associated climate change or sustainability implications

Health and Safety Implications

15. There are no associated health or safety implications

Health and Wellbeing Implications

16. The use of the software provides information on road works, road closures and highway works which could indirectly reduce anxiety and worry as provides useful information and points of contact.

17. There are no other associated health or wellbeing implications.

Social Value

18. There are no associated social value impacts.

Background Papers

19. None

Report assurance

	Officer Name	Date Completed
Legal & Governance Implications	David Clark	15/10/24
Finance & Procurement	Nicola Hix	07/11/24
Workforce (*)	Dawn Bettridge	11/10/24
Asset Management (*)		
Executive Director	Mickey Green	08/10/24
Executive Lead Member	Councillor Richard Wilkins	15/10/24
Consulted:	Councillor Name	
Local Division Members	List local members	
Opposition Spokesperson(s)	Councillor Andy Dingwall	05/12/24
Relevant Scrutiny Chair(s)	Councillor Martin Dimery	14/11/24