
SBc CONTRACTS FINAL QUARTER REPORT 2022/23

Report by Chief Officer Roads

EXTERNAL SERVICES/PROVIDERS MONITORING GROUP

30 May 2023

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report proposes a summary on the performance of SBc Contracts for the financial year 2022/23 up to 31st March 2023.**

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 I recommend that the External Services/Providers Monitoring Group notes the performance of SBc Contracts for the final quarter of 2022/23.**

3 WORKLOAD UPDATE

- 3.1 SBC Contracts delivers infrastructure improvements across the Council's roads and built estate. The work undertaken is funded by the Council's Capital budget, these works include:
- Road Surface Treatment including surface dressing and patching
 - Civil Engineering Works
 - Internal Building works to SBC Estate
 - Bond Coat Application
 - Traffic Management
 - Sign Manufacture
- 3.2 In regards to road surfacing activity to 31st March 2023. We have successfully completed 21 Surface Dressing Patching sites, 9 Carriageway Patching sites, 8 Screed sites, 12 Capital Resurfacing schemes, contracts for private clients and 3 number STTS site.
- 3.3 With specific regard to surface dressing, we applied treatment to 233,577m² across 50km of the network. At 6 sites, deemed as high stress, we have further applied treatment with a Secure Chip application.
- 3.4 In addition to the above, our specialist bond coat operation is having a good year to date. We have successfully completed several contracts for third party clients.
- 3.5 Moving to our Civil Engineering teams. We successfully completed works at Chirnside Bridge, Inspire Tweedbank and Eddleston Cycleway in addition to numerous Culvert and Cattlegrid replacements
- 3.6 We have some contracts, which will extend beyond financial years. Of note in 2022/23 we currently have 17 sites which remain active into 23/24 Since April 2022, we commenced works on 108 new sites, 8 of which remain active.
- 3.7 We have continued to meet demand by balancing the use of our own staff with that of external contractors, which in turn helps support and sustain the local economy when it comes to civil engineering/ground works and road surfacing.
- 3.8 Our programmes of delivery have progressed well this year. The good weather last summer particularly helped with our roads surfacing programmes and our performance on other contracts. We would like to highlight some of these successes below;-
- Completion and opening of the Inspire Academy Building at Tweedbank
 - Delivery of the 20MPH speed limit programme
 - Completion of three replacements culverts at Fernihurst, Billhope and Letham
 - New pedestrian crossings at Duns and Peebles
 - Repairs to 12 damaged bridges
 - Significant rural road relining across the Borders
 - 6 projects to repair flood damage across the Borders

- 3.9 We believe that the diversity, flexibility and proven record of accomplishment of delivery is a real asset for the Council. Our dedicated and hardworking staff and partners continue to support the Council to meet its needs in terms of roads maintenance and civil engineering whilst retaining the ability to help with emergencies should they occur.

Management Update

- 3.10 Our Pothole Pro continues to provide an alternative to traditional patching methods and that to 31st March 2023 we have completed repairs works using the Pot Hole Pro on 22 sites on the A Class network repairing 936 potholes amounting to 4089m² of asphalt. We also deployed the pot hole pro into our towns and villages over the winter months carrying out 358 repairs over 15 sites amounting to 2219m² of asphalt.
- 3.11 We believe that the deployment of the pothole pro has helped the Council meet its obligations to repair the roads in a timely manner, and whilst the pothole pro is only one technique and approach to what is an integrated management regime, which we deploy across our roads. It is important as the type, nature of the repair is permanent, and this will help make us more efficient, and improve the road user experience, whilst also allowing us to reduce our fleet.
- 3.12 Members also previously requested at the Major Contracts Governance Group, 21 June 2022 that we take steps to try to promote the career opportunities within our service through linking into known career promotion programmes with our education colleagues. We have made the initial enquiries with colleagues and HR and will continue to seek out and engage with any opportunities we identify to promote our services as a real career choice for our population including the younger people of the Borders.

We have provided work experience from the Earlston High School Campus for 2 pupils at the Hawick ATN operations and also within our design team department. We also managed a site visit for some interested pupils to our site operations on the new PS at Earlston. One of our Contract Managers and young Engineer also took part in session where 3rd, 4th year pupils had the opportunity to ask questions about working for SBC Contracts, the type of operations we got involved in and career opportunities to develop within the service.

- 3.13 We continue to develop our approach to succession and people management in line with Council programmes.

4 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial

There are no financial implication associated with the public section of this report.

4.2 Risk and Mitigations

There are risks and mitigations associated with the financial performance of SBc Contracts and these are discussed in the report to be considered in private.

4.3 Integrated Impact Assessment

An Integrated Impact assessment has been undertaken and there are no identified impacts, because of this report or the matters it refers to, identified at this time.

4.4 Sustainable Development Goals

Whilst not directly impacted by the recommendations in this report, SBc Contracts through its trading and project delivery employs where ever possible local suppliers and trades which in turn supports aspects of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, through use of local materials it reduces its impact on the environment because of the reduced miles the materials have to travel.

4.5 Climate Change

There are no significant carbon management implications arising from this Report.

4.6 Rural Proofing

There are no significant rural proofing implications arising from this Report.

4.7 Data Protection Impact Statement

There are no personal data implications arising from the proposals contained in this report.

4.8 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

No changes are required because of this Report.

5 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Director (Finance & Corporate Governance), the Monitoring Officer/Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Director (People Performance & Change), the Clerk to the Council and Corporate Communications have been consulted and any comments received have been incorporated into the final report.

Approved by

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Title
Director – Infrastructure & Environment

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Background Papers: nil

Previous Minute Reference: nil

Note – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. Mark Douglas can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

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