



## **DECISION OF DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT**

**DECISION NO. 16/17 DE 228**

### **AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF CONSULTANT SUPPORT**

#### **Background:**

North Somerset Council (NSC) are currently in the process of procuring a new joint highways term contract in conjunction with Bath and North East Somerset Council (B&NES).

During the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2016 Joint Steering Group meeting it was recognised that there was going to be insufficient internal resource within both Councils to prepare the Service Information schedules in-line with the project programme. As the Service Information schedules form part of the core tender documentation it was decided to look at engaging external consultant support resource i.e. extending Mouchel's current commission.

Mouchel's current commission covers the preparation of the Price List, Method of Measurement, Specification and Standard Details components of the core tender documentation along with the Tender Evaluation Model. Furthermore, Mouchel provided both Councils with specialist asset management training in accordance with Highways Maintenance Efficiency Programme (HMEP) principles.

#### **Decision:**

To award Mouchel the provision of consultant support associated with the preparation of the Service Information schedules as an addition to their current commission. Mouchel's quotation for preparing the Service Information schedules is £25,575, which will be subject to a 50/50 NSC/B&NES cost share. Their quotation is made up of £20,475 of consultant Andrew McKie's time, £4,100 of input by others and £1,000 for travel and other disbursements.

#### **Reasons:**

Contract Standing Orders requires the provision of three quotations for a contract of this size. The reasons for direct-awarding this work to Mouchel are:

- Insufficient level of internal resource to undertake this work-stream in the time available,

- The specialist nature of the work requires comprehensive knowledge and experience of using HMEP principles (which will be the basis of the new joint highways term contract),
- This additional work-stream will integrate well with Mouchel's current commission and the work currently being undertaken by the Work Package Teams on the Price List, Method of Measurement, Specification and Standard Details; thereby mitigating the cost and risk of re-starting and/or re-visiting work already done,
- To protect the procurement programme against slippage,
- Mouchel's track record of performing similar work.

The departure from Contract Standing Orders is supported by NSC's Strategic Procurement Manager and Head of Strategic Procurement.

The recommendation is to accept Mouchel's quotation of £25,575.

**Other alternatives considered:**


1. Use internal resource - as mentioned above there is insufficient internal resource within both Councils to undertake this work in-line with the current procurement programme,
2. To approach and obtain bids from three organisations - this is not practical given delivery programme timescale, cost (including bringing an alternative consultant up to speed) and due to the specialist nature of the work required necessitating comprehensive knowledge and experience of using HMEP principles.

**Financial implications:**

The recommendation is cost effective as this additional work-stream can be integrated within Mouchel's current commission. Even if this additional work-stream was undertaken internally there would still be a cost implication attached to this.

**Implication for future years:**

None.

Signed  .....

Director of Development and Environment

Dated 8/12/10 .....