



DECISION OF COUNCILLOR ELFAN AP REES

THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING, STRATEGIC PLANNING, HIGHWAYS
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
WITH ADVICE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

DECISION NO: P & C 58 (2016/17)

SUBJECT: Award of Contract – Bathing Adaptations

Background

At their meeting on 7th February 2017 the Executive resolved that the decision on the award of the contract for the provision of bathing adaptations and associated works be delegated to the Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Housing, Strategic Planning, Highways and Economic Development, in consultation with the Director of People and Communities and Section 151 Officer, for a term of three years with provision to extend the contract by one year. The Executive also resolved that that officers be authorised to finalise the framework contract and the drawdown arrangements with Bristol City Council and the successful contractors (Minute: EXE 76 refers)

A comprehensive competitive process governed by the OJEU criteria was carried out jointly with Bristol City Council as lead authority. The decision to delegate the award of contract was to avoid any delay in commencement of the contract if the decision was postponed to the next meeting of the Executive in April. The contract has potential to provide better value for money from capital expenditure and contribute to income generation and any delay would have financial impact.

The Executive report referred to technical clarification being required from the contractors before confirming who will be invited to join the framework, this has now been concluded and the successful contractors are listed in the Appendix (Exempt); together with the evaluation information.

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and is supportive of the decision as set out in this report.

Reasons

The Council assists disabled people to continue to live in their own homes independently, through means tested Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) used to fund a variety of adaptations including the installation of level access showers, specialist baths and associated bathing adaptations. Undertaking a competitive process for the provision bathing adaptations and associated works, allows the council to offer an agency service to grant applicants.

The main benefit for the Council is obtaining a competitive price for bathing adaptations which will result in reduced capital expenditure together with further benefits as outlined in the Executive report.

Social Value

The Tender documents included specific North Somerset Council Social Value Commitment questions and all compliant bidders met a satisfactory return. There was a varied mix of offers from bidders with examples listed below:

- Employment of local labour
- Commitment to work with Westonworks and offer placements for NEETs (not in employment, education or training).
- Working with Schools and other education establishments
- Work with NSC to support vulnerable people, care leavers into employment
- Employment of apprentices linked value of contract
- Use of Local Supply Chains for materials
- Use of Local Supply Chains for Sub Contracting
- Commitment to work closely with the Council to enhance social value outcomes especially around training, work placements, skills and training.

Other alternatives Considered

Continue with the current system which requires applicants to submit two quotes but this is an inefficient way of meeting the needs of disabled people and does not always produce the most competitive price.

The “do nothing” option” was considered but the offer from Bristol City Council was a good opportunity to work in partnership to secure an improved service for customers i.e. DFG applicants and deliver improved value for money

Financial Implications

The value of this contract is in the region of £450,000 per annum which will be met from existing capital resources, subject to budget approval. The value over the lifetime of the contract would be approximately £1.35m.

This new contract should deliver improved value for money in delivering the DFG programme.

The tender price is **fixed for the first year** (or such longer period by agreement) of this framework contract. There is an inflationary clause in the framework contract, which provides for cost revision in line with the indices derived from ‘General Maintenance Cost’ of the Building Maintenance Indices (BMI) produced monthly by R.I.C.S.

Implications for future years

The contract will run for three years with the provision to extend the contract by one further year

Background Papers

Report to Executive 7th February 2017

Decision:

1. To award a place on the framework for the provision of bathing adaptations and associated works to the four most highly placed contractors identified on the list of bids in the Appendix (Exempt): To run for a term of three years with provision to extend the contract by one year.

Signed:
(Councillor Elfan Ap Rees, Executive Member for Housing,
Strategic Planning, Highways and Economic Development)

Dated:

Reviewed:
Mark Hughes, Head of Housing and Strategy

Dated:.....

Confirmation of Advice Given:

Signed:
Sheila Smith, Director of People and Communities

Dated: