

**NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL
DECISION**

**DECISION OF: DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES
IN CONSULTATION WITH: S151 OFFICER AND HEAD OF STRATEGIC
PROCUREMENT**



DIRECTORATE: PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

DECISION NO: PC100 (2019/20 SCHEME)

SUBJECT: CONTRACT AWARD - BATHING ADAPTATIONS FRAMEWORK

KEY DECISION: YES

REASON: Contract value over £500,000

BACKGROUND:

The Corporate Plan sets out the Council's vision and priorities, of which supporting health and wellbeing is a key objective. The Housing Strategy 2016 – 2021 made a commitment to transform the delivery of adaptations for disabled people by improving service quality and value for money.

DECISION:

Further to the evaluation of tenders received, it is recommended that the following contractors be included on the framework agreement for bathing adaptations:

- A G Neads T/As A G Neads Building – Sole Trader
- Ashcroft Services Ltd – Company Reg: 3627299
- Brunel Electrical Ltd – Company Reg: 9466891
- D R Jones Yeovil Ltd – Company Reg: 2877463
- Hudson Plumbing & Heating Services Ltd – Company Reg: 4802304
- John West (Contractors) Limited – Company Reg: 00672256
- Keran Mellor Services Ltd – Company Reg: 03571599
- Westside Contracting Ltd – Company Reg: 4264277

The framework will be for a 4-year period, with an annual value of approximately £480,000 per annum.

REASONS:

Through the delivery of the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) programme, the council assists elderly and disabled residents to remain living safely and independently in their own homes. The grant can be used to fund a range of adaptations including the provision of bathing adaptations. The use of procured contractors to deliver adaptations is a key recommendation of the good practice guidance, and has considerable operational advantage in providing good value, quality adaptations, within defined contract timescales.

In March 2019 the Executive agreed a Commissioning Plan (Minute ref: EXE80) to procure a framework to deliver bathing adaptations as part of the Disabled Facilities Grant. The Procurement Plan was agreed by the elected member for housing in September 2019 (Ref: PC56 2019/20) and the opportunity advertised on the procurement portal, with a closing date of 20/01/2020.

The aim was to establish a rotational framework of up to 8 contractors, and it is recommended that following the evaluation process the top 8 contractors be awarded a place.

Tenders were evaluated 100% on price. Quality was assessed via method statement questions including: customer service, works programming, safeguarding and conflict resolution. Contractors who scored 3 or above (out of 5) for all questions passed the minimum quality requirement.

We received 15 tenders, 9 of which passed the minimum quality threshold. The highest scoring on price was disqualified and the remaining 8 will have their prices averaged (defined schedule of works) as the new framework rates.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

Other options were fully considered;

- To do nothing and continue to work with the client to obtain 2 quotes for each job. This approach is more cumbersome for the client and subject to variations in pricing and timescales dictated by the market.
- To procure a framework with adjacent authorities. Conversations were had with adjacent authorities but there was no interest in collaboration at this point in time.
- Contract with a single supplier. The previous contract (that was terminated) was with a single contractor who failed to deliver. The use of a framework gives a more resilient solution to service delivery; if one contractor fails. A framework also acts to stimulate the local contractor supply market, supporting local, SME contractors.

Having considered all options, the rotational framework was found to have the most operational advantages for service delivery.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Costs

The values of the contract will be in the region of £480,000 per annum. The value over the contract lifetime will be in the region of £1,920,000 (demand led).

Each call-off will be on the basis of a fixed price quotation and the adaptations will be delivered through our in-house agency (where the council arranges and manages the delivery of the work on the applicant's behalf).

Funding

The cost of the works is fully funded through the Disabled Facilities Grant allocation of the Better Care Fund.

LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS

The Housing (Grants, Construction and Regeneration) Act 1996 lays down the legislation under which the Disabled Facilities Grant is delivered. It is a mandatory grant, subject to a financial means test.

Good practice guidance encourages Local Authorities to deliver the grant through tendered contracts to achieve a streamlined service and the use of the price schedule of rates ensures value for money.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

All contractors were asked to consider social value and climate emergency considerations as part of their submission. We received a positive response from the contractors - many of them use local labour and supply chains as well as working towards reducing carbon emissions from transport.

CONSULTATION

Initial market research was carried out with local contractors and the response for this style of framework (rotational framework) was positively received.

Internal consultations with occupational therapy colleagues have taken place throughout the procurement process. The framework was designed in consultation with Procurement and Legal services.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The contract is designed to overcome the challenges of the previous contract. Relying on a framework of 8 contractors, combined with close contract monitoring will ensure that any problems with underperformance can be promptly addressed, and service delivery can continue even if it should be necessary to remove a contractor from the framework.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment? Yes.

No negative impacts were identified from proceeding with this procurement. The framework will support elderly and disabled people to live safely and independently in their own homes therefore the impacts are positive.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

As referenced in the introduction, the Corporate Plan sets out the Council’s vision and priorities, of which supporting health and wellbeing is a key objective. The Housing Strategy 2016 – 2021 made a commitment to transform the delivery of adaptations for disabled people by improving service quality and value for money. The framework will support these commitments.

APPENDICES

N/A.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Commissioning Plan for Bathing Adaptations approved by the Executive on 19/03/2019 (Minute ref: EXE80).

Procurement Plan for Bathing Adaptations approved in September 2019 (Ref: PC56 2019/20).

SIGNATORIES:

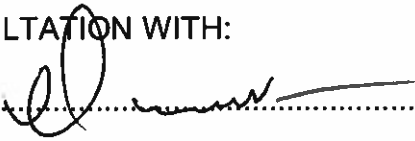
DECISION MAKER(S):

Signed: 

Title: Director of People and Communities

Date: 3.3.20

IN CONSULTATION WITH:

Signed: 

Title: Head of Strategic Procurement

Date: 3.3.20

Signed: 

Title: Interim Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer)

Date: 3.3.20

Footnote: Details of changes made and agreed by the decision taker since publication of the proposed (pre-signed) decision notice, if applicable: