



DECISION OF DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

DECISION NO.CSD29

SUBJECT: Direct award appointment of Mandy Bradley Consulting Ltd to assist in preparation of the Service and Assets Delivery Plan for One Public Estate

Background:

North Somerset Council has successfully submitted an expression of interest to join the One Public Estate Programme and has been awarded funding to prepare a full Service and Assets Delivery Plan in a very short time frame.

One Public Estate is a major government programme, led by the Cabinet Office and the Local Government Association, which supports public sector bodies to take a joint approach to their property assets in order to make efficiency savings, and generate jobs and new housing through unlocking development opportunities. It has an excellent strategic fit with the Council's strategic objectives, as set out in the Corporate Plan, and the North Somerset Partnership's aspiration to create a common platform for public services in North Somerset.

The North Somerset expression of interest focused on five projects, one of which is the Community Access Review, on which Mandy Bradley consulting has been employed.

The next gateway for the programme is to submit the Service and Asset Delivery Plan by 29 July. In order to complete this work, it is proposed to commission two types of consultancy support:

- Expert estate and property management advice from Cushamn Wakefield; and
- A consultant with good knowledge of relevant North Somerset Services and projects and established relationships with key stakeholders, to help co-ordinate the information for the plan.

It is proposed to commission Mandy Bradley for the second piece of work, working alongside Cushamn Wakefield who are being commissioned under the Crown Supplier framework.

Commission Cost £4,300 excluding VAT

Decision: To make a direct award of contract to assist in the preparation of the Service and Asset Delivery Plan to Mandy Bradley Consulting Ltd

Reasons:

The direct award route is recommended since the commission falls under exemption 5.2.8 of Contract Standing Orders (contracts wherein the subject of the contract is of such a specialist nature that there is effectively only one supplier of the goods, services or works involved and no advantage would be gained by the Council from a competitive process).

Mandy Bradley Consulting have established a detailed knowledge and understanding of the Community Access Review, its context and stakeholders. The Community Access Review is one of the key projects in the North Somerset One Public Estate proposal, and shares key stakeholders with the other projects.

The time between confirmation that the expression of interest was successful (14 June 2016) and submission of the plan (29 July) is not sufficient for any one not involved in the projects to date to gain the necessary knowledge of build relationships.

In addition, benchmarking of Mandy Bradley Consulting's fee rates in March 2015 indicated that they are lower than those for six other providers of similar services held on the Pro5 Consultancy Framework used by NSC.

Cushman Wakefield's day rates for their elements of the work between £1000 and £1200 per day, more than double the Mandy Bradley rate.

Other Alternatives Considered:

Consideration has been given to seeking alternative consultants but was discounted due to the very short time frame to the next gateway and the need for someone with substantial knowledge of North Somerset services and good relationships with stakeholders.

Risk Assessment:

The approach minimises risks of delay and the need for a new consultant to build up knowledge of the project objectives, the research to date and of the stakeholders for the review.

Financial Implications:

The work will be funded from the £35,000 of One Public Estate money awarded to the Council at the expression of interest stage.

As indicated above, benchmarking of Mandy Bradley Consulting's fee rates indicates that they are lower than other similar providers available to NSC, they are also significantly lower than the rates charged by Cushman Wakefield for the other elements of the work

Signed 
Director of Corporate Services

Dated 8/7/16