

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE - 5 JULY 2011

Title:

PROPOSAL TO RE-TENDER OR EXTEND THE GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

[Portfolio Holder: Cllr Roger Steel]

[Wards Affected: All]

Note pursuant to Section 100B(5) of the Local Government Act 1972

Annexes to this report contain exempt information by virtue of which the public is likely to be excluded during the item to which the annexe relates, as specified in paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, namely:-

Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

Summary and purpose:

To highlight two potential options available to the Council with regard to re-tendering or negotiating an extension to the grounds maintenance contract.

How this report relates to the Council's Corporate Priorities:

The proposals contained within this report will make a contribution to a number of the Council's Corporate Priorities, as follows:

- Leisure – The provision of a high quality and well maintained sports and recreational areas that will improve and support opportunities for all people involved in recreation and sport.
- Improving Lives – The provision of a high quality and well maintained sports and recreational areas that will improve the quality of life for children, young people, adults and the more vulnerable in society.
- Value for Money – The proposal should bring significant financial savings to the Council whilst still maintaining a high quality provision of grounds maintenance services in the borough.
- Environment – The provision of a new re-specified grounds maintenance contract will protect and enhance Waverley's landscape and support and compliment the unique rural & urban communities within.

Equality and Diversity Implications:

The project detailed within this report will ensure compliance with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) and provide and promote equal opportunities for all.

Climate Change Implications:

This project will seek to improve the Council's carbon footprint through the provision of a new contract should re-tendering be chosen, and will look at the use of more energy efficient vehicles, reduced carbon emissions and close loop recycling of green waste produced from the contract.

Resource/Value for Money Implications:

The proposed implementation of this project, including consultation, procurement and project management, will be resourced within the existing Parks and Landscape team and will be supported by the employment of a grounds maintenance contract Consultant.

Legal Implications:

The support of our legal department will be required to assist in determining any legal implications of re-tendering and also writing the conditions of the new contract.

Background

1. The current grounds maintenance contract was awarded to Glendale Managed Services Ltd November 2005, to run for 7 years until November 2012; the value is approximately £1,000,000 per year. The contract gives an option to extend the contract by up to 7 years by mutual agreement between the Council and Glendale.
2. The existing contract entered its final 18 months as of April 2011 and as such the Council will need to make the decision on whether to re-tender the contract or re-negotiate with the existing provider, Glendale. The decision will need to be taken by the end of October 2011, in order to give a year's notice to our current contractor of the Council's intent and to prepare for either an extension or re-tender.
3. In order to facilitate the extension or re-tendering of the contract, Waverley's GIS contract map system and records will need to be updated in order that an accurate bill of quantities can be produced. The re-mapping process has already started, following the securing of an internal mapping specialist resource within the Council. It is anticipated that this area of work will be completed by late summer.

Introduction

Contract Performance

4. Over the course of the current grounds maintenance contract, performance from Glendale has been varied. From the start of the contract in November 2005 until January 2009, contract performance and standards of workmanship were very poor, and high numbers of complaints were received from members of the public, stakeholders and Councilors.
5. More recently, from 2009 performance has improved in response to the considerable efforts made by the Parks team to raise standards and by Glendale's appointment of a suitable contract manager; and also a period of stability in Glendale's management and supervisory structure that oversees the contract. Complaints have been at a very low level in the last two years. This demonstrates the importance of this service to our communities and good performance is vital to maintain this.

Contract Specification

6. In reviewing the contract specification, it became obvious that the existing contract contains some apparent duplication in provision of services. Reviewing the contract will provide an opportunity to remove unnecessary items that the Council no longer requires, and allow revision of other specification items to reflect updated standards and practices.
7. Discussion of the issues impacting on the specification, and consideration of the relative merits of re-negotiating with Glendale or re-tendering, are considered to be commercially sensitive, and are detailed in (Exempt) Annexes 1 – 5.

Recommendation

The Executive is asked to consider the recommendations set out in (Exempt) Annexe 1 to this report.

Background Papers

There are no background papers (as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) relating to this report.

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