

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Development and Growth (Introduced by the Executive Member for Economic Development and Public Service Reform.)	Exec Member Decision	27 th March 2019

CONTRACT AWARD FOR LANDSCAPE AND ECOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENTS AT THE WILLOWS, CHORLEY

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. This report sets out the procurement process and recommendations to award a contract for landscape and ecological improvements at The Willows, Eaves Green, Chorley.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. To award the contract for landscape and ecological improvements at The Willows to Conservation Contracts North West (CCNW).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

3. A procurement exercise has been undertaken for the supply and delivery of landscape and ecological improvements at The Willows, Eaves Green, Chorley. This includes the construction of a new entrance gateway feature into Yarrow Valley Country Park from The Willows. Owing to the number of new houses that have been built on Eaves Green over the last 5 years, the number of people visiting Yarrow Valley Country Park has increased. Improvements to encourage people to walk from their homes and not rely on the cars are essential not only for health and wellbeing but also from an environmental perspective. The installation of new surfaced paths through the land linking to Lower Burgh Meadows and Birkacre, the construction of a new pond and habitat enhancement through the site along with the creation of a new grassed amenity open space to be used for informal play will improve the recreational use of this land for hundreds of people who live nearby.
4. A report to Exec Cabinet in January 2019 approved the design for the site, proposed planned works, procurement approach and budget for delivery of the works. The contract was allocated a budget of £56,117. £45,816.98 of which was allocated for the project from existing s106 receipts and supplemented by a further £10,300 from the capital receipt generated by the garden extensions at The Cedars
5. It is proposed to award a contract to the sum of £56,117 to CCNW to carry out the works as outlined above.
6. This report sets out the procurement process which has been followed, together with the evaluation method and scoring, and makes a recommendation to award the contract.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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Key Decision? Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

(If the recommendations are accepted)

7. The recommendations are based on a competitive procurement process. Seven companies all with specialist knowledge of landscape and environmental works were invited to tender and given one month to quote. Four companies provided a quotation which were evaluated against the cost and quality criteria. CCNW provided the strongest bid, they have carried out numerous projects on behalf of Chorley Council to a very high standard and have excellent experience of similar types of work.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

8. Four bids were received by the deadline in response to the ITQ. On tender evaluation of the criteria, it was decided that CCNW scored highest and therefore, the work could be awarded. The option to award to an alternative company was rejected owing to either being probative due to cost or lack of experience in ecological works.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

9. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all	✓	A strong local economy	
Clean, safe and healthy homes and communities	✓	An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area	✓

BACKGROUND

10. An Invitation to Quote (ITQ) document for Landscape and Ecological Improvements at The Willows and Lower Burgh Meadows was prepared and issued on the North West Procurement Chest to seven selected companies on the 18th February 2019 for a period of four weeks. The tender contained a variety of specifications for various environmental and landscape enhancement works across the project area at The Willows. The ITQ also required a quotation for footpath resurfacing works of existing paths at Lower Burgh Meadows.
11. A report to Exec Cabinet in January 2019 approved a budget of £56,117 for delivery of the works.
12. Four responses were received on time meeting the essential evaluation criteria and were considered. The total cost quoted for all the works at The Willows was in the region of £60,000 though one bid was far higher.
13. The additional footpath resurfacing works at Lower Burgh Meadows was quoted to cost in the region of £20,000, this work is unfortunately outside the scope of the budget allocated. It is proposed to carry out these works with our Ranger and Volunteer team throughout 2019.
14. The tender responses were considered for all elements quoted using the criteria of 80% Cost and 20% Quality. The cost and quality criteria which the tenders have been evaluated against and subsequent scores are set out in Table 1.

15. The evaluation was carried out by a team consisting of Open Space Strategy Officers. This provided a range of knowledge backgrounds and skills in order to make an informed decision.

Table 1

Bidder Name	Bid Price Score	Quality Score a. Understanding of the contract and approach to the project	Quality Score b. Examples of similar work	Total Score /100%
CCNW	78%	8	10	96%
Groundwork Landscapes Ltd	80%	8	6	94%
Contract Ecology Ltd	49%	10	10	69%
Lowther Forestry Group Ltd	63%	4	4	71%

16. Based on the evaluation it is recommended that the contract is awarded to CCNW. Owing to the available budget, the value of contract award is £56,117. CCNW will be carrying out specialist works using specialist machinery and skills. It was been agreed with CCNW that some minor costs associated with the number of aquatic plants and the creation of hibernacula will be revised to reline the budget.
17. The shortlisted contractor has also passed the Suitability Assessment Questionnaire and has successfully provided more detailed information such as risk assessments, method statement, programme of works and insurance prior to Contract Award.
18. If this recommendation is approved, the contract will start on site on 8 April 2019 (subject to the call in period) and be complete by end of May 2019. The timely execution of this contract is critical owing to a licence for the works from Natural England due to Great Crested Newts living on site. During this period the contractor will provide regular reports to the client who will keep Ward Members updated and external ecologists will monitor the works in line with the licence conditions.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

19. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance	✓	Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal	✓	Integrated Impact Assessment required?	
No significant implications in this area		Policy and Communications	

COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

20. The contract award value reflects the budget agreed at Executive Cabinet in January 2019. Legal are currently progressing the land sale for the garden extensions at The Cedars.

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

21. It is proposed to award the contract in accordance with the scoring matrix and therefore I have no further comments.

MARK LESTER
DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION AND GROWTH

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
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_____ Dated 27/03/19 _____

Councillor Alistair Bradley
Leader of the Council
Executive Member for Economic Development and Public Service Reform