

CABINET**30 SEPTEMBER 2019****CIVIL ENGINEERING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES – CONTRACT
AWARD AND APPOINTMENT OF SPECIALIST ADVISORS TO PROVIDE
CIVIL ENGINEERING SUPPORT**

Councillor Janette Williamson, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, said:

“It is crucial we are able to press ahead with delivering a robust and reliable transport network. The Council's highway design team is currently delivering design services for the Transport Plan for Growth (TfG) Capital programme. Now we have been successful in securing significant capital grant funding through the City Region Combined Authority for major transport infrastructure in 2019/20 and beyond it is appropriate to commission local specialist civil engineering services of high quality to deliver stand-alone project work.

This contractual arrangement gives the Council complete control and flexibility to change the level of allocated resources to meet demand.”

REPORT SUMMARY

In accordance with the Council's updated Executive Decision Making process, this report seeks approval to appoint external resource to provide technical support in the Commercial Management Service to support the delivery of the Council's Highways and Transport Capital Programme and overall regeneration/growth objectives.

This report is not a Key Decision.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that Cabinet:

Approve the appointment of a specialist civil engineering services supplier via the Merseytravel Consultancy Services Multi Party Framework Agreement 2019, subject to completion of Contract Procedure Rules, to provide ad-hoc support services in highways-related civil engineering services up to a value of £400,000 as set out in section 4.0.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 Specialist technical support is required to provide ad-hoc services in highways-related civil engineering, supporting the Council's in-house Commercial Management design team resources in delivering the highways capital programme and key major infrastructure projects. Approval has already been granted by virtue the Executive Member Decision dated 12 August 2019 to use this contract for up to £200,000 of specialist commercial management support through this contract on the recently awarded LED Street Lighting Phase 2 Works Contract.
- 1.2 The Council's updated Executive Decision Making process approved by Cabinet on 24th June 2019 (Minute 7 refers) requires the appointment of consultants over £50,000 to be approved by Cabinet.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Do Nothing: this option has been rejected as failing to progress and establish a professional services civil engineering services support contract would compromise Wirral Council's ability to meet its statutory obligations, to deliver Capital programmes, to support the Council Plan, the City Region network development plans and the aspirations of the Wirral Growth Company.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The in-house Commercial Management highway design team is generally fully engaged in delivering design services for the Transport Plan for Growth (TfG) Capital programme.
- 3.2 In addition to the TfG programme, the Council has been successful in securing significant capital grant funding through the City Region Combined Authority for major transport infrastructure in 2019/20 and beyond and is actively bidding for further financial resources in order to improve the Wirral transport network in line with the Council's 2020 Plan. The Council also has significant regeneration plans which are being driven by the newly formed Wirral Growth Company, some of which will require highway design input.
- 3.3 The recruitment of staff within civil engineering disciplines has been challenging. Although a revised structure has been implemented in Commercial Management and new posts advertised, there is still a requirement for external ad-hoc support to supplement internal resources in delivering the important capital programmes described above.
- 3.4 Appointing specialist advisors through the established Merseytravel Consultancy Services Multi-Party Framework Agreement enables the Council to commission local specialist civil engineering services of high quality to deliver stand-alone project work. This contractual arrangement gives the Council complete control and flexibility to change the level of allocated resources to address peaks and troughs in our workload.

- 3.5 Using established specialist service suppliers, engineering consultancy practices, rather than traditional employment agency staffing, reduces the risk of agency staff moving on at short notice, potentially leaving the Council under-resourced at critical times.

4.0 PROPOSAL

- 4.1 Procurement of a specialist Civil Engineering services provider is proposed via the Merseytravel Consultancy Services Multi-Party Framework Lot 4. The hourly rates offered through this framework are considered to represent very good value for money in the present market. The framework has already been successfully used by the Council's Commercial Management Service for civil engineering services over the past 14 months, and it is likely to offer better value than any alternative procurement routes. At this stage it is envisaged that the services may be required up to a maximum total fee value of £400,000 between October 2019 and October 2020, extendable by a further 12 months, subject to performance and at the Council's sole discretion, but there will be no guarantee of the type, timing, quantity or value of work that will be issued through the contract.

- 4.2 A mini-competition between interested specialist advisors within the relevant framework lot has already been conducted, administered by the Council's Commercial Management Service through the Merseytravel Framework and the Due North electronic tendering portal, The Chest. The mini-competition has been evaluated on a 50/35/15 price/quality/social value basis, and was based on a hypothetical schedule of hours for each staff grade in the framework, generating an indicative total price offer, with optional discount provision, together with quality statements and social value submission, all of which have been assessed in accordance with the instructions provided at the time of tender invitation, which were agreed with Procurement in advance. The evaluation scores will be checked and moderated by the Council's Procurement and Finance support prior to contract award.

- 4.3 The services will be delivered from the successful supplier's own office premises. There are no proposals for the secondment of any staff into the Council under this particular contract. However, the supplier's staff will be required to work closely with Council staff and to regularly attend meetings at Council offices.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 All works ordered through this commission will be funded from the applicable capital project budgets and only where the necessary provision exists. There are no revenue implications arising from this report. Under the contract, there is no guarantee to the successful supplier of the quantity or value of work that will be issued.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The procurement exercise for the contract award has been carried out in accordance with the Council's Constitution (Contract Procedure Rules) and European Procurement Regulations where applicable.

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

7.1 ICT: As part of this commission, access to the Council's mapping data will be required by the successful supplier. This will be arranged through the necessary licencing approvals processes.

7.2 Staffing: additional ad hoc transport professional services support as outlined in section 4.0 will be required to supplement existing staffing resource to ensure the successful delivery of various work streams.

7.3 Assets: No implications.

8.0 RELEVANT RISKS

8.1 Individual commercial contract and project delivery risks will be managed by the appointed specialist supplier outlined in section 4.0.

9.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

9.1 Engagement has been undertaken with the Procurement team. There is no statutory consultation required as part of this commission.

10.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no equality implications.

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APPENDICES

None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
None	