

Report to: Chief Officer (Highways and Transportation)

Date: 14 October 2014

Subject: Watercourse Maintenance Contract – Approval to Tender

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. This report seeks the approval of the Chief Officer (Highways and Transportation) to tender the Watercourse Maintenance Contract 2015.
2. The Watercourse Maintenance contract has developed over many years and has proved to be an ideal method of meeting the routine maintenance needs for watercourses, preventing restrictions and blockages and most importantly providing an emergency response resource to deal with emergencies which has proved invaluable on numerous occasions.
3. The current Watercourse Maintenance Contract expires 31 January 2015.

Recommendations

4. The Chief Officer (Highways and Transportation) is requested to approve the request to tender the Watercourse Maintenance Contract 2015, with an initial contract period of two years, extendable for a further two years.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Chief Officer (Highways and Transportation) of the requirement to tender the Watercourse Maintenance Contract 2015.

2 Background information

- 2.1 Leeds City Council as the Leeds Local Flood Authority is required to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management.
- 2.2 As part of this strategy the Flood Risk Management Section, are required to maintain watercourses in Leeds ownership, support riparian owners, investigate flooding incidents and to provide a rapid response during and after a flooding incident.
- 2.3 Flood Risk Management have delivered this work and provided a rapid response during flooding incidents through the Watercourse Maintenance Contract.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 The existing Watercourse Maintenance Contract expires on 31st January 2015 and there is no further extension provision.
- 3.2 The Flood Risk Management Section has used the Watercourse Maintenance Contract for many years and this has proved to be an effective way of maintaining watercourses and preventing flooding of properties and highways.
- 3.3 The current contract was awarded to one Contractor who has successfully carried out both the routine maintenance work, together with responding to emergency call-outs within the prescribed 2 hour period.
- 3.4 It is proposed that the new contract be again awarded to one Contractor who is able to demonstrate he can both carry out the routine works and provide the emergency call out service required.
- 3.5 The total value of orders placed in the last 12 months was £450,000.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 Flood Risk Management has confirmed their need for this contract to be available to deliver their service.
- 4.1.2 Consultation has taken place with the Finance Section who confirmed that funding would be available through the Flood Risk Management budget.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 Due consideration to equality will take place as part of the Corporate Procurement Process and it is currently not applicable for an Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and

Integration screening/impact assessment to be undertaken at this time. However, equality screenings will be carried out on the individual schemes as appropriate once the contract is awarded.

4.3 Council policies and City Priorities

4.3.1 The proposed tender of this contract will provide an efficient method of procuring these essential works.

4.3.2 Although this contract is primarily to meet the needs of Flood Risk Management the contract will be available for the other West Yorkshire Districts for small flood alleviation schemes.

4.4 Resources and value for money

4.4.1 The tender of this Contract is an efficient use of Council resources and is judged to be value for money in comparison to issuing tenders or orders for each individual work instruction.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from this report. All activities relating to the procurement will be executed strictly in accordance with the Councils Contract Procedure Rules. In accordance with the CPR's, new contracts that may be used for expenditure exceeding £250,000, the decision is subject to Call-In.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 This Contract will ensure that the Flood Risk Management Section will be able to react to reports of watercourse problems immediately by using this contract. A Watercourse Maintenance Contract will maintain an efficient and cost effective method of procuring this type of work.

5 Conclusions

5.1 The tender of this Contract is an efficient method of providing the Flood Risk Management Section with the maintenance resource which is essential to their service.

6 Recommendations

6.1 The Chief Officer (Highways and Transportation) is requested to approve the request to tender the Watercourse Maintenance Contract 2015 for a period of two years, extendable for a further two years.

7 Background documents¹

7.1 None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.