

**Report of Head of Museums and Galleries**

**Report to Chief Officer Culture and Sport**

**Date: 25<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

**Subject: Purchase of new lighting equipment Leeds Art Gallery**

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 type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" 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. A time limited externally funded refurbishment project is in progress at Leeds Art Gallery for which light fittings need to be purchased.
2. LED light fittings need to be purchased which are both suitable for a major art gallery hosting world class artwork and which are compatible with existing fittings in use at the gallery and the lighting track installed by Leeds City Council.

**Recommendations**

3. The Chief Officer Culture and Sport is recommended to approve the waiver of Contract procedure rule no 8.1 and 8.2 – Intermediate Value Procurements (Quotations) to allow for the purchase of new lighting equipment for Leeds Art Gallery.

## **1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 To provide information on the proposed purchase of new lighting equipment for Leeds Art Gallery from suppliers without undergoing a full tendering process.
- 1.2 To seek approval to waive CPR 8.1 and 8.2 in order to invite a single tender to deliver these works and gain approval for proceeding as outlined below.

## **2 Background information**

- 2.1 Leeds Art Gallery is undergoing a partial refurbishment of several upper display areas supported by the Arts Council's Major Partner Museum grand scheme.
- 2.2 A scheme has been developed by Civic Enterprise Leeds (CEL) which includes refurbishment of walls, and significant electrical improvements including a new lighting track. All installation work is being undertaken via CEL the Council's ISP in line with CPR 3.1.4.
- 2.3 These galleries have not been refurbished since the early 1980s and lighting is a particular problem where both lighting tracks and fittings are obsolete and failing completely in some areas. As both track and fittings needed replacement an opportunity was sought to ensure that tracks are compatible across the main display spaces and that the latest low energy LED fittings are included instead of tungsten halogen fittings. LED lights also have the advantage of reduced frequency of re-lamping which is a factor in difficult to access locations such as high gallery ceilings over landings and will deliver a resulting saving in terms of maintenance costs.
- 2.4 The introduction of LED lighting into museum and art galleries is relatively recent and the main professional concerns are that the light output is of museum quality and appropriate for artworks, that the colour rendering is as accurate as practical and in the case of the galleries in Leeds that the range and type of fittings is appropriate for galleries with both high and low ceilings. Most standard 'off the shelf' office / shop type LED fittings are therefore not suitable for this application.

## **3 Main issues**

- 3.1 To maintain compatibility with existing light fittings in use in other painting galleries within the Leeds Art Gallery building (for example for colour rendition and adaptability / utility / effectiveness of dimming ) Concord lighting ( by Havells Sylvania) have been approached as the sole supplier to quote for these fittings to the value of £14,250 . This supplier has extensive experience of supplying the galleries and other world class art institutions.
- 3.2 Gallery specialists have determined that these are the only products on the market which have the full flexibility we need for this location ( in terms of being locally dimmable having integral lenses which give the full flexibility of spot angles etc we need for large and small paintings at different heights from the track without the need for additional lenses and reflectors).They are proven museum standard fittings with the correct colour balance needed to give the best colour rendition for artworks. They fit the track which has been installed (both the new

track and that installed around the rest of the building). They are compatible with our existing spotlights on site used for framed works (mostly but not all from this supplier). The supplier is proven and reliable in terms of support and has offered a 5 year on site guarantee of the fittings. The LED fittings provide the energy efficiency we need and which our funders require (they replace tungsten halogen fittings).

- 3.2 Failure to place the order for these fittings now could compromise display opening since as track systems have been upgraded from single to three circuit rendering the old fittings useless in this area we do not have sufficient compatible fittings to reopen when the building work is completed at the end of April . Order times are around 3 weeks.

## **4 Corporate Considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

- 4.1.1 Internal consultation has taken place with curatorial colleagues and LCC procurement staff.

### **4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

- 4.2.1 Due regard has been given to equality and diversity. LED lighting does not have any adverse impacts on aspects of equality, i.e. provision for visitors with a visual impairment. Accuracy of colour rendition is an important factor for all visitors including those with a visual impairment. The decision of whom to allocate the contract to has no equality relevance (see above).

### **4.3 Council policies and City Priorities**

- 4.3.1 The introduction of LED light fittings will produce energy savings which are consistent with the council's corporate policies for energy reduction.

### **4.4 Resources and value for money**

- 4.4.1 Funding for the lighting improvements is coming from the Arts Council. No council funding is involved. The use of low energy LED fittings will deliver long term energy savings and is part of our long term strategy to install lower cost light fittings.

### **4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

- 4.5.1 The Chief Procurement Officer advice is that it would be lawful for the Council to waive Contracts Procedure Rule 8 in these circumstances, providing that the relevant Chief Officer is satisfied that there are compelling reasons to do so.

### **4.6 Risk Management**

- 4.6.1 The major risk is of not taking a timely decision which will impact on the refurbishment schedule and could impact on existing exhibition schedules and commitments.

## **5 Conclusions**

- 5.7 This is a significant refurbishment project for Leeds Museums and Galleries, the timescale requires a prompt decision and the outcomes will be important as a visible improvement to facilities in advance of British Art Show 2015.
- 5.8 Concord lighting (by Havells Sylvania) are the one organisation which can provide equipment with the full range of quality and technical requirements needed at this location to reopen the display galleries in May 2015.

## **6 Recommendations**

- 6.1 The Chief Officer Culture and Sport is recommended to approve the waiver of Contract Procedure rule no 8.1 and 8.2 – Intermediate Value Procurements (Quotations) to allow for the purchase of new lighting equipment for Leeds Art Gallery.

## **7 Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

- 7.1 Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening Report

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<sup>1</sup> 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.