

**Report of Maria Akers**

**Report to: Chief Officer Parks and Countryside**

**Date: 03.11.17**

**Subject: P Home Farm Temple Newsam**

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s): <b>Temple Newsam</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input 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**

- Home Farm has entered into a Higher Level Stewardship agreement (HLS) with Natural England. Part of this agreement is to reinstate the landscape in five fields of historic significance. Seventy parkland trees need planting in specific locations and protected to an agreed standard.
- The five year capital agreement must now be achieved in one year. The dead line is April 2018. If the deadline is met a grant of £20,000 is payable.
- Four quotes have been sought. However due to the number of guards and the specialised nature of the order only two have been received. Of these only one company has been able to accept a council order and make a full delivery in the time frame required.
- This quote is for the sum of £14 000 (+VAT and delivery) from **CD Ironworkers, Marsh Lane, Stourton, Warwickshire, CV36 5HG.**

**Recommendations**

- The Chief Officer is requested to approve expenditure and provide authority to spend for the sum of £14 000 (+VAT and delivery) from **CD Ironworkers, Marsh Lane, Stourton, Warwickshire, CV36 5HG.**

## **1. Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 To show that these guards are necessary to fulfil the Council's obligations as outlined in the agreement with Natural England and that wherever possible best value has been sought. The report then seeks the approval of the Chief Officer of Parks and Countryside to spend funds from the Home Farm revenue budget 22 144, where there is financial provision.

## **2. Background information**

- 2.1 Home Farm is a key element of the Temple Newsam visitor attraction, with an admissions income of over £233,000 in 2016/17. In addition the farming operation manages approximately 150 hectares of land. The land forms part of the historic setting of Temple Newsam Estate and includes two scheduled ancient monuments; most of the land is managed under the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme providing habitat for wildlife.
- 2.2 In 2013, the council entered into a Higher Level Stewardship Agreement with Natural England. The objectives of this were to restore lost landscape features such as hedgerows and trees, to safeguard species rich and rare habitats and to permit sensitive farming practices to be undertaken cost effectively.
- 2.3 Home Farm has sufficient funds within the equipment budget of £25,500, in 22 144 203.

## **3. Main issues**

- 3.1 Part of this Higher Level Stewardship agreement (HLS) is to reinstate the landscape in five fields of historic significance. Seventy parkland trees need planting in specific locations and be protected to an agreed standard.
- 3.2 The five year capital agreement must now be achieved in one year. The deadline is April 2018. If the deadline is met a grant of £20,000 is payable.
- 3.3 To meet the deadline and satisfy the necessary legal and contractual requirements it is recommended that we purchase ready-made guards. These will be quick to install and do the least damage to the Ancient Monument located in one of the fields.
- 3.4 Four quotes have been sought. However due to the number of guards and the specialised nature of the order only two have been received, one contractor emailed to say he could not supply, the other did not reply.
- 3.5 Of the two quotes received, one will supply within the council's ordering procedure. The other supplier wishes to be paid in advance of the order.

## **4. Corporate considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and engagement**

- 4.1.1 No consultation required.

## **4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration**

4.2.1 There are no diversity considerations for this purchase.

## **4.3 Council policies and best council plan**

4.3.1 The Vision for Leeds 2011 to 2030 is to be the best city in the UK by 2030. It has specific aims that the economy will be prosperous and sustainable and that all Leeds' communities will be successful, where there are high quality buildings, places and green spaces, which are clean, looked after and respect the City's heritage.

4.3.2 There is no internal provider for this product. However, the trees and guards will be installed by the local community supported by Parks Staff.

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

4.4.1 The major farming review of 2011/2012 led to an overall reduction in the size of the farming operation. The review recommended the use of in-house staff and equipment was judged as the most economical way to manage the land of Temple Newsam Estate.

4.4.2 If the project is completed before April 2018 then a capital grant of £16,000 will be payable with a further £4,000 available to complete the project. Once the capital works have been completed an annual maintenance grant will also be re-instated consisting of £1,500 payable for a further 5 years.

4.4.3 A search for all the suitable suppliers on mainland Britain found only four suppliers that could make the guards to the required standard. Of these four suppliers, two supplied quotes, one declined (as the order was too large) and the last failed to reply (despite numerous attempts to contact the supplier).

## **4.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in**

4.5.1 The decisions taken within this report constitute a significant operational decision and as such the decision is not eligible for call in.

## **4.6 Risk management**

4.6.1 This purchase will be managed directly by the Parks and Countryside service. The quotes have been assessed. Of the two quotes received only one can supply the goods operating within the council's financial guidelines. The cheaper quote, requires the council to pay the supplier in advance of supply. This represents a much greater financial risk to the authority. There has been no financial assessment of the business.

## **5. Conclusions**

5.1 Of the two quotes received, the cheaper represents an unknown financial risk. The other from CD ironworkers, is from a proven company, used by the council in the past and endorsed by Natural England on other HLS capital Schemes.

- 5.2 It would be best value to purchase ready-made steel guards from CD ironworkers and install them using the community in order to achieve the April 2018 deadline.

## **6. Recommendations**

- 6.1 The Chief Officer is requested to approve expenditure and provide authority to spend for the sum of £14000 (+ VAT and delivery) with CD Ironworkers, Marsh Lane, Stourton, Warwickshire, CV36 5HG

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

- 7.1 Quotes from Tree Guard suppliers.

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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.