

Report of Parks Technical Officer

Report to Chief Officer Parks and Countryside

Date: 30th March 2020

Subject: Waiver of Contract Procedure Rules (CPRs) 8.1 and 8.2 and approval to award a contract directly to a provider for the supply of play equipment without seeking competition.

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s): Roundhay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Has consultation been carried out?	<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
Will the decision be open 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

1. Main issues

- One item of play equipment is required to increase the play value of the current fixed play area on Soldiers Field at Roundhay Park.
- The Dynamic Purchasing System for the procurement of Fixed Play Equipment has currently expired and awaiting renewal. The item of play equipment has been chosen to fit in with the style and quality of the play equipment already present in the existing playground. The preferred supplier provides quality play equipment and the item of equipment chosen will greatly increase the play value of the existing play area. It is therefore requested that the Chief Parks and Countryside Officer, waive contract procedure rules to enable the purchase of this specific product.

2. Best Council Plan Implications (see the [latest version of the Best Council Plan](#))

The priorities identified in the Best Council Plan 2019/20 – 2020/21 of most relevance to this project are;

- Enhancing the image of Leeds through major events and attractions
- Supporting healthy, physically active lifestyles
- Improving educational attainment and closing achievement gaps for children and young people vulnerable to poor learning outcomes

- Improving social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing

3. Resource Implications

- The item to be purchased is sustainable, complies with the appropriate British Standards and can be delivered within the time constraints and user requirements.
- Visits to these attractions also encourages secondary spends in café's and shops where they are located, not to mention the potential for secondary spend throughout the city.

Recommendations

The Chief Parks and Countryside Officer is requested to:-

- a) waive contract procedure rules 8.1 and 8.2 (in accordance with CPR27) in respect of the requirement to approach suppliers who can provide the product as necessary due to the style of the play equipment, play value and quality of the product; and
- b) approve the placing of an order to Sutcliffe Play for £58,197.48 for the supply and installation, including safety surfacing of one item of play equipment, an SMB Dufourspitze Variant 4.

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report requests authorisation to waive contract procedure rules 8.1 and 8.2 (under the authority set out in CPR 1.3) and award a contract directly to the provider referred to in section 3 below, for the supply and installation of one item of play equipment without seeking competition. No internal service providers exist

2. Background information

- 2.1 Roundhay Park is one of our most popular major parks within the City covering over 700 acres of parkland, lakes, woodland and gardens. The park generates nearly one million visits per annum. 50% of visitors to the attraction are likely to have children, with the majority aged between 0 – 11.
- 2.2 The proposal to improve the play area at Roundhay Park has been developed to increase the play value of the site. It is anticipated that this will subsequently lead to a further increase in visitors numbers. Development of the visitor experience to the site is essential in order to ensure the attraction remains viable financially and accessible to the public.
- 2.3 We aim to design our play facilities to include access for all users. The process ensures the equipment encourages role play, is interactive, helps children use their imagination, is inclusive and has a varied play value. The safety aspects of designing a play facility and the budget available are taken into consideration and therefore this restricts the items permitted. The item is to be purchased using funding that has been raised by the active community group on site, The Friends of Roundhay Park.

3. Main issues

- 3.1 The development of the play area is essential to the site to ensure that we increase the play value and variety of equipment available for its visitors. Furthermore to increase the visitor experience to the attraction.
- 3.2 It is therefore proposed to place a specific order directly with Sutcliffe Play for £58,197.48 for the supply and installation, including safety surfacing of one item of play equipment, an SMB Dufourspitze Variant 4.
- 3.3 The advantage of working with this specific supplier in this circumstance is that it helps us to design the equipment around existing items, to suit the location, aesthetics and achieve British Standard BS1177 and 1176. It is therefore requested that the Chief Parks and Countryside Officer, waive contract procedure rules to enable the purchase of this specific product.

4. Corporate considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

- 4.1.1 Consultation was not undertaken on the proposal to waiver contract procedure rules given that the decision being taken does not materially affect the general public.

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

- 4.2.1 A screening document was completed in respect of the decision proposed to be taken within this report and that process established that a full equality impact assessment was not required.
- 4.2.2 In support of the above statement, it is felt that the proposal does not adversely affect how services and/or procurement activities are organised, provided, or located. The service is seeking to improve the way in which a service is delivered to the public through better access to the existing resource. Furthermore, the changes made will have no discernible negative effects on service users, and will provide only benefits to those using the site.

4.3 Council policies and the 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.

Climate Emergency

- 4.3.2 The Parks & Countryside service are pro-actively adapting to climate change in all aspects of management practises. Climate change will form an integral part of the new Parks and Green Space strategy which is currently being prepared.
- 4.3.3 Further information on adaptation to climate change can be found in the Executive Board report from April 2017 'Leeds Quality Park Assessments (Adaptation to Climate Change).

4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money

- 4.4.1 The item to be purchased is sustainable, complies with the appropriate British Standards and can be delivered within the time constraints and user requirements.

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

- 4.5.1 This report is not eligible for call in due to the proposed award value, and nor is the marginal impact considered to be significant meaning this therefore represents a 'Significant Operational' decision. No sections of this report are restricted under the access to information rules. A waiver of the council's contract procedure rules is required to allow the purchase of a particular product without competition for the reasons outlined in this report.

4.6 Risk management

- 4.6.1 Should this proposed approach not be approved, it would be necessary to seek further competition, risking the reduction in quality of the play units and providing equipment that may not fit in with the style of the playground.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 It is therefore proposed to approach Sutcliffe Play to supply the play equipment described in this report.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 The Chief Parks and Countryside officer is requested to –
- (i) waive contract procedure rules, 8.1 and 8.2 (in accordance with CPR27) in respect of the requirement to approach a supplier who can provide the product as necessary; and
 - (ii) approve the placing of an order with Sutcliffe Play for £58,197.48 for the supply and installation of one item of play equipment.

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.