

Report to the Chief Officer (Highways & Transportation)

Date: 28 July 2020

Subject: Approval to Extend the Ground Investigation Contract to 2021

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Has consultation been carried out?	<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

- This report seeks approval from the Chief Officer (Highways & Transportation) to extend the Ground Investigation Contract for a period of 12 months, in accordance with Contract Procedure Rule 21 and utilising Clause 5.2.1 incorporated within the Contract.
- This includes an Annual Price Change Mechanism: Appointed contractors have been given the opportunity to review their rates. On this occasion, some of the contractors have expressed an interest to decrease their rates rather than increase them in hope to be awarded more work. They have submitted new schedule of rates which will result in the best possible prices for the local authority.
- The Ground Investigation Contract is utilised by the Geotechnical Section to procure ground investigations which it carries out for Highways & Transportation, other Directorates in Leeds and several local authorities in the Yorkshire Highway Alliance.

1. Best Council Plan Implications (click [here](#) for the latest version of the Best Council Plan)

The proposed extension of this contract will provide an efficient method of procuring these essential Geotechnics works and the approach is consistent with the aims contained within the Council's Spending Money Wisely Policy.

Although this contract is primarily to meet the needs of the Leeds City Council Geotechnical Section, it is also used to undertake collaborative work on behalf of Yorkshire Highway Alliance Members.

The Geotechnics section generate income from the work they carry out using the contract for such as Wakefield Council and other external clients.

Resource Implications

The extension of this framework contract does not commit the Authority to any expenditure as orders are raised on an as and when required basis.

Recommendations

- The Chief Officer (Highways & Transportation) is requested to approve the extension of the Ground Investigation 2018 Contract for a further 12 months to 05/09/2021 in accordance with its' terms and conditions.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to obtain the Chief Officer (Highways & Transportation) approval to extend the Ground Investigation Contract to 2021 with the eight incumbent providers who have confirmed their continued interest.

2 Background information

- 2.1 The Ground Investigation Contract is utilised by the Geotechnical Section to procure ground investigations which it carries out for Highways & Transportation, other Directorates in Leeds and several local authorities in the Yorkshire Highway Alliance.
- 2.2 It has proved over the years to be an efficient and cost effective way of procuring ground investigation works. Works orders are issued on an individual basis from the priced schedule of rates in the framework contract.
- 2.3 Suppliers: Allied Exploration and Geotechnics Ltd. CC Geotechnical Ltd. Concept Engineering Consultants Ltd. Dunelm Geotechnical and Environmental Ltd. Geotechnics Ltd. Soil Engineering Geoservices Ltd. Structural Soils Ltd. Strata Geotechnics (Division of Van Elle Ltd.)

3 Main issues

- 3.1 The contract was awarded to eight contractors in September 2018 for an initial period of 2 years with a facility to be able to extend the contract up to a total contract period of 4 years.
- 3.2 The current contract expires on the 05th September 2020 and this will be the first extension possible on this contract.
- 3.3 If the contract is not extended, we have no compliant alternative in place and would therefore be unable to carry out ground investigation works.

- 3.4 The extension will allow us to keep using the compliant contractors we procured at the first time of tendering. There are eight accredited contractors on the framework which ensures the availability of alternative specialist resource should the preferred contractor be unable to carry out the works.
- 3.5 The eight incumbent contractors have agreed to extend the contract for a further 12 month period.
- 3.6 The incumbent contractors are: Allied Exploration and Geotechnics Ltd. CC Geotechnical Ltd. Concept Engineering Consultants Ltd. Dunelm Geotechnical and Environmental Ltd. Geotechnics Ltd. Soil Engineering Geoservices Ltd. Structural Soils Ltd. Strata Geotechnics (Division of Van Elle Ltd.)

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 Consultation has taken place with the Finance Section who confirmed that the funding is available from both capital and revenue budgets as and when the works are required.
- 4.1.2 Consultation has taken place with the Highways Geotechnical Team who have confirmed their need for this contract to be able to deliver the service.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 Due consideration to equality has already taken place as part of the Corporate Procurement Process. An Equality screening has been completed and indicated that an Equality Impact Assessment is not required for what is being proposed.

4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

- 4.3.1 The proposed extension of this contract will provide an efficient method of procuring these essential works and the approach is consistent with the aims contained within the Council's Spending Money Wisely Policy.
- 4.3.2 Although this contract is primarily to meet the needs of the Leeds City Council the Geotechnical Section, it is also used to undertake collaborative work on behalf of Yorkshire Highway Alliance Members.
- 4.3.3 The Geotechnics section generate income from the work they carry out using the contract for Wakefield Council and other external clients.

Climate Emergency

- 4.3.4 At Full Council on 27th March 2019 Leeds City Council passed a motion declaring a Climate Emergency. In addition, the Leeds Climate Commission have proposed a series of science based carbon reduction targets for the City so that Leeds can play its part in keeping global average surface temperature increase to no more than 1.5c.

- 4.3.5 The incumbent contractors are aware of Leeds City Council's Climate Emergency agenda and any emission savings that can be made during the contract period will be actively encouraged.

4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money

- 4.4.1 The extension of this Contract is an efficient use of council resources and is judged to be value for money in comparison to retendering or preparing tenders for each individual order
- 4.4.2 This is a schedule of rates contract with an estimated value of £450,000.00 per annum.
- 4.4.3 There is an option to extend annually for a further 12 months to 05/09/2022 subject to satisfactory performance and depending on consultation with the Geotechnical Section.

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 proposed contract have been executed strictly in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

4.6 Risk Management

- 4.6.1 To maintain continuity on the ability to purchase these works for service delivery, it is essential that this contract is extended before the existing arrangement expires.
- 4.6.2 The incumbent contractors have already submitted competitive rates and a new tender exercise is not expected to bring any further savings and would incur costs associated with a new tender process.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 The extension of this Contract is an efficient use of Council resources and offers best value for money in comparison to tendering individual work packages.

6 Recommendations

- The Chief Officer (Highways & Transportation) is requested to approve the extension of the Ground Investigation 2018 Contract for a further 12 months to 05/09/2021 in accordance with its' terms and conditions.

7. Background documents

- 7.1 None.