



REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, HIGHWAYS

CONTRACT FOR THE DELIVERY OF KIRKBY-IN-ASHFIELD TOWN CENTRE IMPROVEMENTS

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Committee approval to enter into a formal contract with Ashfield District Council to deliver the Kirkby-in-Ashfield Town Centre Improvement Project.

Information and Advice

2. Highway Operations Group operates as a trading service, delivering highway construction and maintenance, and associated work for the County Council. Occasionally when surplus capacity exists, the Group also provides prices to, and if successful undertakes work for, other public bodies and private organisations.
3. Following an expression of interest, in January 2014, Highway Operations Group were invited by Ashfield District Council to submit a tender to undertake a highway / civil engineering project to improve the public environment around the Ellis Street area of the town centre.
4. Highway Operations Group assessed the work and on 28 May 2014 submitted both a competitive price and a qualitative submission for the delivery of the project in accordance with the specification provided.
5. In submitting this tender, Highway Operations Group has taken account of current workload, which at this time is lower than anticipated, and has priced the project at current operating rates, which will support the delivery of a balanced trading account over the 2014/15 financial year.
6. The project includes for the excavation, reconstruction and repaving of large parts of Ellis Street and the pedestrianised areas of Lowmoor Road, construction of an public arena area at Ellis Street, new street lighting and associated ramps and retaining walls. The overall value of the contract, based on the tender submitted, is £859,905.24 and the project is planned to start on site on 28 July 2014 and the contract duration is 26 weeks.
7. Ashfield District Council undertook an assessment of all tenders submitted for this contract and on 13 June informally notified Highway Operations Group that their

tender had been successful. This is now being confirmed by establishing a formal contract for the project.

8. In October 2013, Transport and Highways Committee delegated authority to the Corporate Director to enter into contracts for the delivery of external works up to a maximum contract value of £500,000. As this project exceeds this value, and in accordance with Financial Regulations, specific approval of Committee is required to proceed.
9. By securing this contract, Highway Operations Group can continue to demonstrate an understanding of the local construction the market, and is able to benchmark current costs, which in turn supports the objective of delivering value for money for both for external clients and the County Council.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

10. Generation of income to offset any short-term surplus capacity, with the ability to cover fixed overheads and costs, will have a positive financial benefit to the Highway Operations Group's trading account.

Statutory and Policy Implications

11. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

12. Work carried out under this contract will be managed in order to meet financial targets and the returns identified within the prices submitted for the works. The requirements of the financial regulations with regard to external works will be complied with to reduce risk to the County Council.

RECOMMENDATION/S

13. It is recommended that Committee approves entering into the contract with Ashfield District Council for the delivery of the Kirkby-in-Ashfield Town Centre Improvement Contract,

Andrew Warrington
Service Director (Highways)

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (SLB 20/06/2014)

14. Transport and Highways Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report. The Council's Financial Regulations specify that The Group Manager for Legal Services and the Section 151 Officer must be informed of all contracts to supply services to external bodies, and that all new contracts must be in a form approved by the Group Manager for Legal Services.

Financial Comments (TMR 17/06/2014)

15. The financial implications are set out in paragraphs 6 and 12.

Background Papers and Published Documents

None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All