

Report to CABINET

Tree Surgery Framework of Contractors

Portfolio Holder:

Cllr Barbara Brownridge – Neighbourhoods and Co-operative

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Reason for Decision

To create a robust and comprehensive framework of tree surgery contractors to undertake all of Oldham's tree surgery and urban forestry needs.

Recommendations

To select **Option 1**; to appoint a framework of contractors comprising 6 Tree Surgery Contractors to undertake all of Oldham's Tree Surgery and Urban Forestry work.

Tree Surgery Framework of Contractors

1 Background

- 1.1 Oldham has 466,000 trees many of which are situated in the urban setting. Trees and woodlands need active management in order to be safe and to maximize their ecosystem, social and economic benefits.
- 1.2 Prior to approximately 2004/5 all of Oldham's tree and woodland work was carried out by in-house tree teams, but since then as the tree team decreased (through natural wastage) in size to 30% of its original size and as a result more and more reliance was placed on well vetted local contractors to undertake the shortfall in capacity.
- 1.3 From about 2007/8 we have had a procured framework of contractors which has been renewed and refreshed on several occasions.
- 1.4 The purpose of this report is to present the results of the latest procurement exercise to appoint a new and resilient framework of tree surgery contractors.

2 Current Position

- 2.1 A large proportion of Oldham's tree work is undertaken by a framework of private contractors with the intention of increasing this going forward. This will require the framework of contractors to have greater capacity and be more resilient in order to undertake the volumes of work that will be required.
- 2.2 A budget has been identified to cover the cost of procured tree surgery and urban forestry work within the existing resources and work will be prioritized so as to stay within designated budget.

3 Options/Alternatives

- 3.1 **Option 1** – to appoint a framework of 6 contractors listed below to a framework to undertake Oldham's tree surgery and woodland management needs, which could result in a much improved service to Oldham's residents.
- 3.2 **Option 2** – do not appoint the framework of tree surgery contractors resulting in Oldham not having any capacity to undertake essential tree surgery and woodland works across the borough.

4 Preferred Option

- 4.1 **Option 1** – to appoint a framework of 6 contractors to a framework to undertake Oldham's tree surgery and woodland management needs, which could result in a much improved service to Oldham's residents.

Cabinet grants the Director of Neighbourhoods Skills and Economy in consultation with the relevant portfolio holder authority to award framework contracts to each of the successful bidders selected as a result of the tender process for the delivery of professional tree surgery services and authorizes the Director of Legal Services to seal the framework agreement and any incidental and ancillary documentation.

5 Consultation

- 5.1 All departments and Trade Unions
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6 Legal Services Comments

- 6.1 Legal Services have assisted with the drafting of the terms and conditions for the framework agreement with a provision for direct awards for services with a value of less than five thousand pounds and a provision for a mini competition for larger projects with a value of more than five thousand pounds.
- 6.2 The opportunity to tender has been openly advertised in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules via the Council's procurement portal The Chest and resultant bids will be evaluated using the published criteria to select the most economically advantageous tenders. (Elizabeth Cunningham-Doyle)

8. Co-operative Agenda

- 8.1 The creation/renewal of a resilient framework of professional tree surgery contractors will ensure that residents of Oldham get the best delivery of service possible to deliver service excellence.
- 8.2 It is anticipated that the greater capacity will see waiting lists for work reduced and programmed work being carried out to the highest standard and in a more timely manner.
- 8.3 **# Our Bit** – We provide the expertise, knowledge and contractors to manage the trees of Oldham to the highest standard.
Your Bit – Take an active role in tree management in your area and bring your ideas and concerns to the Council.
Result – Oldham has a safe and healthy urban forest that works hard providing ecosystem benefits for the residents of Oldham.

9 Human Resources Comments

- 9.1 There are no staffing implications as the service is no longer provided by Council employees. (Stewart Hindley)

10 Risk Assessments

- 10.1 N/A (Mark Stenson)

11 IT Implications

- 11.1 None

12 Property Implications

- 12.1 None

13 Procurement Implications

- 13.1 The procurement has been carried out in line with EU Regulations and Oldham Council's Contract Procedure Rules. The open procedure was used and the contract was advertised via The Chest.

As part of their tender submission, bidders were asked to demonstrate how they would ensure social value in operation of the contract.

14 **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**

14.1 With over 466,000 trees across Oldham many of which situated in high occupancy areas such as town centres, schools, highways, and parks, we have a duty of care to manage and maintain these trees in a safe and healthy condition.

14.2 This means not only regular inspection, but the requirement to undertake works such as the removal of dead diseased and dying trees. The removal of obstructions over highways and footpaths, reduction of trees from properties that may cause damage, along with a variety of other necessary works

14.3 Trees are high functioning assets providing many eco system benefits to Oldham. These eco system benefits are maximized with a healthy well maintained urban tree stock. (Nik Anderson)

14.4 Health and Safety

There have been no prosecutions or notices recorded on the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) enforcement website against the tenderers within the past three years.

Health and Safety critical documentation such as risk assessments, safe systems of work etc. have not been assessed by the health and safety service as these checks must be undertaken by the relevant project manager as should relevant supervisory checks of any contractors/works. (Matthew Hill)

15 **Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**

15.1 None

16 **Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**

16.1 N/A

17 **Key Decision**

17.1 Yes

18 **Key Decision Reference**

18.1 NEICO-13-17.

19 **Background Papers**

19.1 N/A

20 **Appendices**

20.1 N/A
