



Oldham
Council

Report to CABINET

Renewal of Framework of Contractors for Tree Surgery works.

Portfolio Holder:

Cllr Jean Stretton, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods.

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17TH June 2022

Reason for Decision

This paper provides information about Oldham's framework of approved contractors for undertaking tree surgery works across Oldham.

Cabinet is requested to note the revised framework and agree that the award of the new framework be taken as a delegated decision.

Recommendations

The recommendation is for Cabinet to note that a proper and thorough assessment and selection process has been conducted in respect of creating a professional and resilient framework of approved tree surgery contractors to undertake tree works across Oldham. **It is recommended that Cabinet allows for the delegated award of the framework to the Executive Director of Place & Economic Growth.**

Renewal of Framework of Contractors for Tree Surgery Works

1 Background

- 1.1 Oldham Council operates a commissioning model for tree surgery work; the current framework of contractors is up for renewal expiring on 30th April 2022.
- 1.2 The current framework comprises 5 companies on it (one of which no longer operates on our behalf due to performance issues) attending to both emergency and planned work supporting the arboriculture team.

2.0 Current Situation

- 2.1 The current framework has the ability to direct award work to contractors or if above £10000 a mini competition is to be undertaken. When using the direct award option availability, suitability, and price are taken into consideration.
- 2.2 Works are issued on a priority basis and only within the constraints of existing budgets.
- 2.3 Contractors undertake a range of routine works as well as emergency works and stand-by cover during periods of storms/damaging winds.

3.0 Development of new framework

- 3.1 A new framework is required to continue to support the Council's arboricultural team. This framework would seek to increase the number of framework contractors from 4 to 6 in order to improve resilience (Storm Arwen in November 2021 stretched the resources in existing framework)
- 3.2 The evaluation criteria used to assess bidders is to be split between quality, environmental considerations, social value, and cost. Only those bidders demonstrating a combination of high quality, competitive costs and social value considerations will be offered a place on the framework.

4.0 Benefits

- 4.1 The benefits of continuing with the framework approach are:
 - Resilience
 - Value for money guaranteed through competition
 - Encouraging local companies who employ locally
 - Quick response times
 - Good customer care
 - Professionalism

5.0 Risks and mitigations

- 5.1 Many risks and liabilities are removed from the Council by outsourcing this service as all contractors will be insured independently. Risk assessments are currently and will continue to do so completed by the Contractors and submitted to the Council.
- 5.3 Works are only issued to the value of the existing budget

4.5 Delegation of decision to award

- 4.5.1 Standard protocol would be for Cabinet to approve the award of the framework. However, it is recommended that Cabinet agrees to delegate authority for the award to the Executive Director of Place & Economic Growth.

5.0 Options/Alternatives

- 5.1 Option 1 (recommended): To approve the commencement of the procurement to establish a tree surgery services framework and allow for delegated authority for the award. This will allow for a thorough and robust tendering exercise to be undertaken and award completed in time for 1st July 2022.

Option 2: To not approve and not allow for delegated authority for the award of the framework. This will constrict the timeframe for the renewal of the framework which may affect service provision and continuity.

6 Preferred Option

- 6.1 Option 1 (recommended): To approve the commencement of the procurement to establish a tree surgery services framework and allow for delegated authority for the award. This will allow for a thorough and robust tendering exercise to be undertaken and award completed in time for 1st July 2022.

7 Consultation

- 7.1 It is not deemed necessary to do any targeted consultation

8 Financial Implications

- 8.1 The cost of awarding contracts through the proposed framework for tree surgery works will depend on the scope, type and urgency of the works required.

- 8.2 Tree surgery and related works are funded from an existing revenue budget of £0.250m for arboriculture within Environmental Services. Paragraph 2.2 of the report confirms that works will only be undertaken on a priority basis within the constraints of existing budgets.

(John Edisbury)

9 Legal Services Comments

- 9.1 The existing framework agreements expire on 30th April 2022 and are not capable of being extended. Legal Services supports the recommendations outlined in the report and would support Environmental Services and Procurement to develop and execute new framework agreements in line with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and the Contract Procedure Rules. (Sukie Kaur).

10. Co-operative Agenda

- 10.1 The structure of this framework is designed to be mutually beneficial to the Council and the successful framework contractors.

11 Human Resources Comments

11.1 No HR implications.

(Catherine Pearson, Strategic HR Lead)

12 **Risk Assessments**

12.1 All framework contractors will be expected to have a comprehensive health and safety policy along with a full set of Risk assessments as well as site/job specific risk assessments.

13 **IT Implications**

13.1 None

14 **Property Implications**

14.1 None

15 **Procurement Implications**

15.1 The Commercial Procurement Unit supports the recommendations outlined in the report. Procurement will work alongside Environmental Services to ensure the process is undertaken in line with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and completed in time for the 1st July 2022. (Emily Molden).

16 **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**

16.1 None

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

17.1 None

18 **Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**

18.1 There is no requirement to carry out an EIA.

19 **Key Decision**

19.1 Yes

20 **Key Decision Reference**

20.1 NC-04-22

21 **Background Papers**

21.1 None

22 **Appendices**

22.1 None