

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 28 January 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Community and Resources

PORTFOLIO: Transportation

SUBJECT: NEC Short Form Contract authorisation for Balvac Works.

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek authorisation to enter into an NEC Short Form contract with Balvac, following a procurement exercise utilising the SCAPE Civil Engineering Framework, for the completion of Footway reconstruction works at Moore Lane, Moore and the re-decking of the South West Footbridge at Halton Lea.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That approval is given the entering into of a contract with Balvac, through the SCAPE Framework, for the procurement of footway reconstruction works at Moore Lane, Moore and the re-decking of the south west footbridge at Halton Lea.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 SCAPE is a public sector owned built environment specialist which have a suite of OJEU compliant frameworks for multiple areas of works. Each of these frameworks have been competitively tendered and awarded to a single winning tenderer respectively. One of the Frameworks is titled 'Civil Engineering Infrastructure' and was awarded in January 2015 to Balfour Beatty which is the parent company of Balvac.

3.2 The Council has an Access Agreement to the Framework. It is intended to utilise this Framework for the procurement of Bridge and Structures Maintenance works this year and for the Silver Jubilee Bridge Major Maintenance works which are anticipated to start this year and will continue for a 5 year period.

3.3 This year's work consists of 2 parts, Moore Lane footway reconstruction, Moore and Halton Lea SW footbridge re-decking, Halton Lea, Runcorn.

3.4 Moore Lane footway in Moore is a long standing issue which needs

to be addressed and was closed for safety reasons due to the apparent landslip of the embankment on which it resides. Following intensive geotechnical investigation, it has been established that the slip is not deep within the embankment but is actually the topsoil layer sliding down the embankment because it is too steep. Unfortunately, this movement is allowing the footway to slide gradually. A design has therefore been devised that will create a foundation within the solid core of the embankment for the footway to be founded on.

- 3.5 The four footbridges which cross the road network and provide access into Halton Lea were originally constructed with two parallel steel beams with concrete reinforced slabs spanning between them to create the walkway. Over time these concrete slabs have been subjected to weather and de-icing salts and much of the reinforcement has now corroded to the point where they need to be replaced. One of these footbridges (North West) was completed last year by Balvac and it is proposed that a second in the South West corner adjacent to McDonalds is completed this year.
- 3.6 Pre-construction consultation and estimates have been completed which indicate the combined cost of the works will be ~£384k for the Moore Lane works and ~£185k for the re-decking of the SW Footbridge giving a total of ~£600k which will be funded from the 2015/16 Bridge Maintenance budget available and allocated to pay for. The works are programmed to commence in February 2016.
- 3.7 We are now in a position within the SCAPE Framework to sign a contract with Balvac for the works to be carried out.
- 3.8 As the works are for a value greater than £172,514 but less than £1M and the Framework only has one contractor rather than a minimum of five, we cannot meet the Constitutional requirements which would allow the Operational Director to sign this contract and hence we are seeking Executive Board approval.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 None

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The combined cost of the two schemes is circa £600k. This can be met from the 2015/16 Bridge Maintenance Budget. There is a risk of underspend on this year's Bridge Maintenance Budget if the proposed works do not go ahead.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

The Highway network is utilised and relied upon by Children and Young people in similar ways to any other demographic of the population.

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

It is recognised that a good transport network is essential for a successful economy and for the efficient and effective movement of people and goods in and through Halton.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

Provision of safe, reliable and accessible routes to all destinations by walking and cycling is vital to the future of Halton's residents and the quality of its environment.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

Our highways provide safe and reliable access to jobs, services, schools, to get goods to the shops and allow us to make the most of our free time

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

Not applicable

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 If the approval is not given then the works will not go ahead. This will lead to the footway remaining closed at Moore and a Risk Assessment carried out into the potential closure of the SW Footbridge on safety grounds.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 There aren't any equality and diversity issues in relation to this report.

9.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None.